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यस्य सर्वे समारम्भाः कामसंकल्पवर्जिताः ।

ज्ञानाग्निदग्धकर्माणं तमाहुः पण्डितं बुधाः ॥

Even the wise call him a sage, whose undertakings are all free from desire and thoughts of the world, and whose actions are burnt up by the fire of wisdom.

Bhagavadgita, Chapter 4, Text 19

Editorial

Who's guilty for the Leak : Home Minister or Commission?

A fruitless effort that ends up generating a new controversy

For what reasons and under what circumstances has the Report of the Liberhan Commission been 'leaked' before being laid on the Table of Parliament as per the mandatory requirement remain well-known even though efforts are being made to make them appear not known. Only two persons are responsible for the offence - the Union Home Minister (HM) or the Commission itself. The HM says he didn't; Commission says it didn't. The question arises: Then who did it and for what purpose in view?

Liberhan Commission Report is not a simple piece of paper; it is the result of deliberations for 17 long years. Who's responsible? Who's guilty? When the Opposition raised a great hue and cry, the UPA Government reaction was: The Report will be laid. That is not the answer to the question. The intentions of the Government are suspect. A wrong precedent has been established. It also puts the two institutions of the Home Ministry and Liberhan Commission in the dock. In these circumstances would it be wrong to conclude that the ruling party did 'leak' it deliberately in view of the elections to Jharkhand assembly? The hunch gets strengthened by the past record of UPA. Before the Gujarat Vidhan Sabha elections, it had similarly leaked the Banerjee Committee Report on Godhira carnage.

Who was to benefit from the 'leak' of this report? Was the Commission to benefit from this leak in any way? The Opposition didn't have the report. Then who is responsible?

When the Opposition raised a great furore in Parliament over the 'leak' it was only then that the Report was laid on the table of the House the very next day. The Report was lying with the Government for quite some time. Why was this not laid earlier? The inference is clear. The intentions of the government were not honest.

People have the right to know as to what extent had the Liberhan Commission come to touch the bottom of the truth. Government does have

Editor

Prabhat Jha, MP

Editorial Team

Amba Charan Vashishth
Shiv Shakti Bakshi
Ram Prasad Tripathy
Vikash Anand

Design & Layout

Dharmendra Kaushal

Contact

Tel: +91(11) 23381428
Fax: +91(11) 23387887

For Subscription : +91(11) 23073858
e-mail address

kamalsandesh@yahoo.co.in

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a period of six months to lay the Report in Parliament. But why should it wait for all the time for the last day of the six month period and that too only to divert the attention of the people when felt cornered on the burning issues facing the country?

What has the country gained from the marathon proceedings of the Liberhan Commission which went on for 17 years? In the concluding part of the report, it has touched certain aspects of principles and given a long discourse on secularism.

It is worth recalling that the Liberhan Commission was constituted on December 16, 1992 and it was required to submit its report within three months. Had the report come at the right time within the stipulated period, people would have benefited from the reaction of the then Narasimha Rao government.

From a perusal of the Report it transpires that the Commission digressed from the task assigned to it and concentrated more on extraneous matters. The Report has lost its relevance and utility after 17 years. Yet, our legal experts say that the Report is a fact-finding document. But where are the facts in the Report? It is full of opinions, speculations and recommendations. Can anybody sift the facts in the Report?

Has the Commission gone through all the factual aspects in its quest to go to the bottom of the truth? Had it done so, it could not have afforded to ignore what appeared in the media at that time. In September 1997 late Shri K. R. Malkani had said that ISI agents



had infiltrated into the *kar sevaks* and pulled down the disputed structure. Did the Commission summon Shri Malkani to know his version?

In the terms of reference, the Commission had been asked to go into the circumstances that led to the demolition of the disputed structure. In the Report, the Commission has concentrated less on this aspect and whiled away its years in caring for other extraneous matters with which it was concerned the least. Instead of coming out with facts, the Commission has turned the Report into a treatise of sermons. That is why the conclusions drawn in the Report appear wrong and far from the truth.

Had the Report come out within three months, it would not have cost more than 5-7 lakhs. But in 17 years the cost to the country went up to eight crores. As a result the nation has been presented with a document that is partial, politically motivated and written with pre-meditated notions.

What was the role played by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee? If he

was involved in any way, why was he not called by the Commission to present his case? In the Commission of Inquiries Act 1952 (Part 8 P) it is clearly provided that the Commission cannot hold a person guilty who is not present. Then how did Atalji's name figure in the Report? On Atalji the Commission has commented 22 times in the report. Can it be called right?

On the other hand, persons like Shahabuddin, who were in the forefront of the Babri Masjid movement, have not been found guilty of vitiating the communal harmony in the country. It is worth recalling that they are the persons who had given a call for boycott of the Republic Day celebrations in 1987. Why is the Commission silent on the activities of such people? It is but natural that the Report should be charged with suffering from colour-blindness.

The Report gets exposed on its own when it exonerates the then Prime Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao of his involvement in any manner. It lets him off with just saying that he was used to day-dreaming. Not only that. No arm of the Central government at that time has been found guilty or charged with dereliction of duty. It is unbelievable that such a major incident, like demolition of the disputed structure, should take place and the Central government should not get even a smell of it. It is funny that the Commission does not stumble against involvement of the then Government at the Centre in any way.

Everybody knows, except the Liberhan Commission, that the Congress Party had held Shri

Narasimha Rao guilty in the matter and as a punishment he was denied the party nomination for fighting Lok Sabha elections in 1998. Further, the Congress Party has two times sought apology for the disputed structure having been brought down -- first the then Congress President Shri Sita Ram Kesri and later Smt. Sonia Gandhi. But, surprisingly, Liberhan Commission is fully silent on the role of Shri Narasimha Rao and the Congress Party.

The Report says that after the demolition of the disputed structure, the demonstrators let loose a reign of loot and murder. More than 20 persons belonging to a single community lost their life. But why were they cremated secretly and in haste? What was their identity and to which country did they belong? Were they not the terrorists who had come from abroad? Police arrested 35 persons on the suspicion of organizing a riot but were later released in the absence of any proof. Why was TADA not invoked in their case?

The whole country knows that on August 14, 1988 the High Court had declared as undisputed Plot No. 586 adjacent to the disputed land. After this verdict on August 17 an agreement was signed between the then Home Minister Shri Buta Singh and VHP leader Shri Vinay Katiyar. On November 7 the High Court stuck to its decision (but Kar Seva did take place in November). Next day the then Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi launched Congress Party's election campaign from Faizabad, the town adjoining Ayodhya and

declared ushering Ram Rajya as his goal. Yet the Commission has felt shy of mentioning the names of Shri Rajiv Gandhi, Shri Buta Singh and Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao in the Report. The interesting part is that although the Commission has given various epithets to describe the role of various individuals, yet it has failed to nail the evidence against them. What type of inquiry is it?

To understand the Report in two lines, it only says that politics and religion should never be mingled under any circumstances and a provision for deterrent punishment should be made for people doing so to get political power.

In the Report, the Commission has given some political parties the opportunity to realize their political objectives, instead of undertaking a fact-finding mission.

That is why the Report suffers from the absence of facts and is full of politicking only

How far has the Government been able to achieve the purpose for which the Liberhan Commission was established, can better be known only to the present Government. But the common man will only conclude that there can be no other instance of wastage of time and energy like this anywhere else. What was the result? The Report was 'leaked' before it was laid on the Table of Parliament. This deprived the element of seriousness from the Report. Ultimately, the Liberhan Commission Report has ended up giving rise to another controversy after a wait of 17 years, 400 sittings, 48 extensions and an expenditure of 8 crores. There has only been wastage and not a single gain to the country. ■

Advani attacks Union govt. for showing negligence towards Victims of 26/11

Leader of the Opposition Shri L K Advani has expressed grave concern over the relief to the victims of 26/11 Mumbai terror attack. Raising this issue in the Parliament Shri Advani said out of 403 persons eligible for relief, only 118 have received cheques so far and while 64 of them were eligible for railway jobs, only 32 have received offers till now.

He also suggested that a special cell be created in the Home Ministry with an officer on special duty as its head to look into the problems of coordination between 12 different agencies, including eight of the state government, involved in handling relief.

Shri Advani said 164 people were killed and 239 injured in the 26/11 incident, while about 1,000 were affected in the train blasts earlier. He said even in earlier occasions some relief could reach the train blast victims only after two years and that too, after he spoke to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and the victims moved the NHRC.

“A situation should not arise like a widow coming to Delhi and saying I have not received any compensation so far,” he said, adding, “Whenever such a tragedy occurs, we tend to forget about it after some time.” Several people were still suffering and “some of them carrying bullets inside their bodies yet to be operated upon”. In order to prevent delays in relief, a small cell should be created in the Union Home Ministry, he said. ■ (FOC)

Neither Fair, nor impartial, nor objective, only self-contradictory

The Commission was constituted with the following terms of reference to enquire into the following issues:-

1. Sequence of events leading to, and all the facts and circumstances relating to, the occurrence in the RJBM complex at Ayodhya on 6th December, 1992 involving the destruction of the RJBM structure.
2. The role played by the Chief Minister, Members of the Council of Ministers, Officials of the Government of Uttar Pradesh and by the individuals, concerned organizations and agencies in or in connection with the destruction of the Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid structure.
3. The deficiencies in the security measures and other arrangements as prescribed or operated in practice by the Government of Uttar Pradesh which might have contributed to the events that took place in the Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid complex, Ayodhya town and Faizabad on 6th December, 1992.
4. The sequence of events leading to, and all the facts and circumstances relating to, the assault on media persons at Ayodhya on 6th of December, 1992 and
5. Any other matter related to the subject of enquiry.

Preliminary observations:

At Page 931, Para 162.2 of its Report, the Commission says: "There is no requirement that the media must be unbiased or independent or that it must not take sides". It is for the media to decide whether to act according to this dictum of Justice Liberhan. But his Report certainly proves that he has acted according to it in letter and spirit. The honourable (retired) Justice has proved that for him there "is no requirement that (in this case, his Report) must be unbiased or independent or that it must not take sides".

The Commission took seventeen long years to present its final report. The Commission has cost the nation tens of crores of rupees (Rs. 8 crores his own wages). It has failed to come up to the expectations of the people. It has failed to dig out facts and serve the

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purpose for which it was constituted. The report appears to be the handiwork of a prejudiced mind was predetermined to give the report on a particular persons and or institutions. The Commission seems to have decided beforehand to give a report selectively nailing some individuals and organizations and to give a clean chit to others. In the process, the Commission has ended up exposing itself more than exposing the truth behind the episode. The report stands punctured with numerous contradictions and anomalies.

It is important to note that the Commission rarely made on the spot visits where the alleged incident took place. Its report is paralyzed with the absence of spot visit and the fact that it has been written only in office. Further, the office of the Commission was declared by the Government of India to be in Lucknow, but it never functioned from there but from Delhi.

Went beyond the terms of reference:

The Commission in its report in Chapter No. 14 (Conclusions) on Page 942,

Paragraph No. 166.8 says...."The much repeated and much denied remarks attributed to Govindacharya.....

Comments: *It is absolutely misplaced and irrelevant to the terms of reference. The alleged comments are also reported to have been made (and also denied) much after December, 1992.*

At Page No. 958, Para No. 171, the Commission has listed as culpable, among others, persons, viz., Deoraha Baba, A.B. Vajpayee, Badri Prasad Toshniwal, Moropant Pingle, Onkar Bhawe, Prof. Rajendra Singh, Gurjan Singh, G.M. Lodha, Champat Rai.

Comments: *But all these persons were never called to defend themselves by the Commission. If there was any evidence or proof against any individual, then it was a legal and moral duty of the Commission to have called them to present their case and defend themselves. As a judge of High Court he should have known that this was a primary requirement for justice under the law of jurisprudence and nobody could be held*

guilty unless given a chance to prove himself innocent.

In this list, Commission has mentioned the name of Shri Pravin Togadiya also. On or before December 06, 1992, the sphere of activities of Shri Togadiya was limited to Gujarat only. So he was neither on the dais nor amongst the speakers on that day.

At Page 931, Para 162.2 Commission says: "There is no requirement that the media must be unbiased or independent or that it must not take sides"

Comment: Everywhere in the world in any form of govt. has anybody so far said that the media should not be free, fair, impartial and objective. The above comment of the Commission ventures to promote a fourth state that is unethical, irresponsible and not honest to itself.

At Page No. 935, Para No. 163.2 the commission says

"For instance, the intransigent stance of the High Court of Uttar Pradesh, the obdurate attitude of the Governor, the inexplicable irresponsibility of the Supreme Court's observer and the shortsightedness of the Supreme Court itself are fascinating and complex stories, the depths of which I must not plumb."

Comment: This is a highly irresponsible comment by the Chairman of the Commission who himself was a judge of the High Court. This unbecoming comment amounts to contempt of the Supreme Court. Interestingly, the Commission did not call the then Governor of Uttar Pradesh to appear before it. Yet, he made these disparaging remarks against the Governor. The Commission also failed to understand that he was only a judge of the High Court and a judge of the High Court has no right to comment on the superior Court, that is the Supreme Court.

Conspiracy

At Page 917, Para 158.9 the Commission says ".....Prognosis of evidence leads to the conclusion that the mobilisation of the Karsevaks and their convergence to Ayodhya and Faizabad was neither spontaneous nor voluntary. It was well-orchestrated and planned....."

But, at Chapter No. 1, Page No. 15, Para No. 7.4, the Commission states

..."...no evidence was lead or information provided to the Commission with respect to the conspiracy or

pre-planning or the joint common enterprise by any of these counsels..." (of the Muslim organisations).

In the same chapter in Para 7.5, the Commission adds ".....there was no effective participation on behalf of Muslims as a community or otherwise. No alternative theory or any version was put forth on behalf of the Muslims before the Commission..."

In the same paragraph 7.5, it states "...responsible educated literate citizens claiming to be the leaders of a particular community or the ones who participated in negotiations preceding the demolition etc. never came forward to disclose any material or fact in any form....."

At Chapter 10, page 775, para 130.5, the Commission says: "No documentary or direct evidence is possible in a conspiracy of this nature, nor unimpeachable and firm evidence of some action of planning of demolition was obtainable"

At page 782 para 130.24 Commission says:

"....Home secretary Godbole stated that there was No information of planning and as such it could not be inferred that there was a conspiracy of the Congress & BJP for demolition,..."

Comment: Then, on what grounds, evidence and justification has the Commission come to the conclusion that it "was well-orchestrated and planned".

At the same time the fact needs to be taken note of that after demolition of the alleged structure on December 06, 1992 three organizations namely RSS, VHP and Bajrang Dal were banned through Government notifications under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 on 10th December, 1992. As per the requirement of this Act, a Tribunal headed by Justice P.K. Bahri, the sitting Judge of Delhi High Court, was constituted on 30th December, 1992. Being a constitutional body, after due trial, the Tribunal delivered its verdict on 18th June, 1993 which has been published by the Government in official gazette (The Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-3, Sub-section-II).

At Page 71 of this gazette, the Tribunal holds "...It is pertinent to mention that PW-7 has categorically admitted that there was no material evidence to show that these associations had pre-planned the destruction of the disputed structure. It is admitted by PW-7 again that a video recording of the events which took place on the fateful day on December 06, 1992 at Ayodhya was prepared by the IB..."

On page No. 72 in the same verdict Justice Bahri states "...even the white paper prepared by the Central

Government does not support this theory of pre-planning for destruction of the disputed structure by these associations or their workers..."

It is worth mentioning that PW-7 was Mr. Padhi, a very senior officer of the Intelligence Bureau, who was authorised by the Government of India to present the case before the Bahri Tribunal.

The above facts clearly establish the prejudiced mind of the Commission which has written its report in a pre-meditated manner. Justice Bahri was a sitting judge of the Delhi High Court and the Tribunal he was heading was a judicial body whose verdict was binding on the Government. On the other hand, the report of the Liberhan Commission has no legal binding on the Government and is just recommendatory in nature which the Government may or may not accept.

The Commission seems to have been suffering from the same ailments which it mentions on Page No. 1, Chapter No. 1 (Introduction), Para No. 1.1 "...For some, the temptation of power is supreme. The usual means for acquiring power is through politics.

There is always an urge and quest to use politics for acquiring power and for one's own purpose -- nothing matters beyond political desirable results, however achieved. In the process of acquisition of power the consequence of the process on the institution, the nation, individuals and society as a whole does not matter. Life itself becomes politicised.

Objectivity or intellectual honesty or logic is lost in the process..."

Comment: His words apply more aptly to the Commission itself. Despite government orders and wish, he never functioned from Lucknow. He stuck to Delhi with "an urge and quest to use politics for acquiring power and for one's own purpose".

Supports Ramjanambhoomi

By accident or design, the Commission seems to have made some inadvertent observations which cannot be contradicted or controverted. He has ended up supporting the Ramjanambhoomi case:

In Chapter No. 2 (Ayodhya & its Geography) page No. 23 Para 9.1, the Report says::

"Ayodhya is accepted in popular Hindu tradition as the birth place of the Hindu God Rama and is therefore regarded as a holy and historical city."

Para 9.2:

"Ancient Ayodhya was traditionally the epitome

of Hindu life, culture and a paradigm of coexistence of a multi-religious society. It was a peaceful place with a regular influx of visitors, pilgrims, Sadhus and Sants, monks, travellers, tourists."

Para 9.3::

"Ayodhya was also known variously as Vishala, khosla(sic) or Maha Khosla, Ikshvaku, Ram Puri, Ram Janam Bhoomi"

Para 9.4:

"Ayodhya is of special and specific importance for the sect of Ram believers or those loosely term as the Ramanandis in Hindu Religion. The place was the place of unequaled pilgrimage for Hindus, Monks, travelers, pilgrims, sadhus & sants irrespective of their region & faith."

Para 9.5:

..."This Place had become emotive issue owing to its position as the birth place of Ram, a theme present in every facet of the culture, connecting the past with the present & the future. this religious fervour had kept the town for centuries alive after successive rulers had gone by"

Page 25, Para-10.3

"On the East of Ayodhya is Faizabad town with a population of about 2,10,000. It has a large number of temples mostly dedicated to the Hindu God Vishnu."

Page-26, Para-10.10

"The town is currently inhibited (sic) (inhabited!) With a multi-religious population consisting of Muslims, Buddhist, Sikhs, Christians, Jains, etc., but the majority of the population is Hindu. The temples were open to public of all denominations."

Page 29, Para 12.1

"There are large numbers of temples, mosques, shrines, tombs, gardens and other religious monuments spread over a large area; rather, metaphorically it is said that in Ayodhya every house is a temple."

Page 29, Para 12.2

"Prominent temples were Sankat Mochan Mandir, Shakti Gopal Mandir, Shesh Avatar temple, Ved Mandir, Maniram Ki Chawni, Hanuman Garhi, Preethi Ke Thakur, Kanak Bhawan, Rang Mahal, Anand Bhawan, and Kasushalya Bhawan....."

Page 32, Para 12.12

"The topography and facts about Ram Katha Kunj, Ayodhya town or the Ram Janambhoomi complex or Ram Katha Kunj or the disputed structure are however

not disputed. The facts are corroborated by NC Padhi in his statement with no contradiction."

Chapter-4 (Sequence of Events)

Page 61, Para 18.6

"In the year 1528, the Mughal Emperor Babar ordered his commander Mir Baqi to erect a mosque at Ayodhya. Protagonists of the present movement claimed that after demolishing the temple at the birth place of Ram, Mir Baqi constructed the mosque i.e. the "disputed structure."

Page 61, Para 18.8

"Worship of idols installed on the Ram Chabutra by Hindu devotees in general was performed for a considerable period. There was no objection from the Muslims staking the counter claim prior to the shifting of idols into the disputed structure in 1949.

Page 62, Para 18.9

"It is, however, not the Commission's mandate to record a finding with respect to the exact question of history and a discourse on whether a mosque was constructed at the place of temple is outside the Commission's purview.

Comment: Suffice to say, the construction of the mosque by Mir Baqi in 1528 is now an admitted fact."

Page 63, Para 18.13

"Although, there was no order restraining the Muslims from going to the disputed structure or from offering Namaz therein either by the judiciary or from the administration, yet namaz was not offered at the disputed structure since 1934. No processions were taken out inside the disputed structure nor any grave dug there about."

Comment: This clearly shows that the Commission indirectly confirms that a mosque was constructed at the site of the temple. Ayodhya is in existence since times immemorial while Babur came much afterwards and the mosque was constructed in 1528 CE.

Page 88, para 26.2 say:

"...It is noteworthy that no member of the Muslim community from Ayodhya was a member of the Babri Masjid Action committee or other committee protesting the opening of locks at the disputed structure. Sultan Shahabuddin Owaisi, a Member of Parliament from Hyderabad challenged the opening of locks along with some others became a forerunner for taking on the

Hindu organisation"

Page 89 Para 26.4 says:

"Muslims variously protested between 1st of January to the 30th of March, 1987. Apart from giving calls for, boycotting Republic Day (which call was later withdrawn), Bandhs were observed and a public rally held at Boat Club in Delhi. Public threats of violence were made by personalities no less than the Shahi Imam of the Jama Masjid, Shahabuddin and Suleiman Sait, etc."

Comment: Yet the Commission fails to make any adverse comment on these individuals.

Commission contradicts itself

In Paragraph 158.3 the Commission says that it "...never became a movement..."

Whereas, in Para 158.9 & 159.10, it contradicted itself with the contention as to "...entire process of the movement" and "...leaders of the movement".

Chapter 1 (INTRODUCTION)

Page 15, Para 7.3

"Prominent members of the Muslim community claimed on behalf of their constituents, to be adversely affected by the demolition, in their sentiments and emotions. They claimed that their religious feelings were hurt. Initially various councils (sic) (counsels) representing the Babri Masjid Action Committee, Waqf Board, other Muslim organizations and individuals appeared and associated with the Commission before and during the framing of the Commission's rules."

Page 15, Para 7.4

"Thereafter, it was in the last stages, i.e., almost after a decade, that the counsel for the Muslim Law Board joined the proceedings. Mushtaq Ahmed started appearing before the Commission after half a decade of its existence; before the joining or associating of the Muslim Law Board before the Commission. Azad Makhmal representing Shahabuddin and another lawyer A. Haq showed up once or twice but made no worthwhile contribution to the inquiry. Mushtaq Ahmed did, however, cross-examine some witnesses intermittently. After a decade of the Commission's inquiry, one Baharul-Barki representing the AIMLB appeared along with senior Counsel, Yusuf Muchhala representing the Muslim Personal Law Board and cross-examined some key witnesses like L.K. Adjani in part. No evidence was led or information provided to the Commission with respect to the conspiracy or pre-planning or the joint common enterprise, by any of these counsels. O.P.

Sharma, advocate who also joined almost the fag end of the inquiry conducted himself equally ineffectually."

At Page 17 Para 8.3 the Commission says:

"The dispute with respect to disputed structure is proclaimed to be as ancient as history.

Innumerable writings in books and research papers, commission proceedings were placed on the record of the commission. The title of the property was never settled much less finally by any civil court which is still pending before the honourable high court till date.

From time to time rulers of the time permitted the people of their faith the possession."

Story of acquisition of 2.77 acres of land surrounding the structure:

The 2.77 acres land was acquired by the UP Government on Oct. 1991 for public purpose. This acquisition was challenged in the Lucknow bench of Allahabad High court by a local Muslim. The case was heard by full bench comprising of Hon'ble justice H.C. Mathur, Hon. Justice Brijesh Kumar & Hon. Justice S.H.A. Raza. The arguments were over by November.04, 1992. The date fixed for the pronouncement of the judgment was 4th December, 1992. Justice Mathur & Justice Brijesh Kumar had already written their opinion regarding this acquisition order. But Justice Raza delayed the pronouncement of its Judgement to the 11th of December 1992 which was after the 6th December, date

fixed for commencement of karsewa.

This deliberate delay in pronouncement of the order infused a sense of disappointment in the mind of the people to get justice and ultimately led to the incidents. The Kar sevaks broke loose and climbed up the disputed structure. The structure was made to collapse in five hours and a temporary canopy (makeshift structure) was erected on the debris of the disputed structure where the Pooja is going on.

A few words regarding the civil suits:

The first civil suit regarding the title of Ram Janambhoomi was filed in 1950 (presently Numbered as O.O.S No. 1/1989). The second suit was filed in 1959 (presently Numbered as O.O.S No. 3/1989). The third suit was filed in 1961 (presently Numbered as O.O.S No. 4/1989). The fourth suit was filed in 1989 (presently Numbered as O.O.S No. 5/1989).

For 40 years the cases remained hanging fire in district court of Faizabad.

After 40 years, in 1989 these cases were transferred to the Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court. Since then another twenty years have passed. Due to the retirement of one or the other judge, the bench had to be reconstituted eleven times and consequently, justice has not only been delayed but also derailed and denied. ■

It's surprising that Vajpayee was indicted

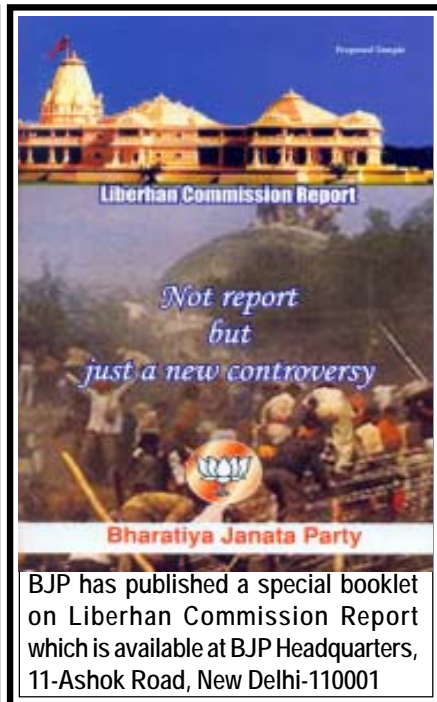
Shri Anupam Gupta, former counsel of the Liberhan Commission probing the RJBK said he was "astonished" at the reports linking former PM Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee to the 1992 Ayodhya incident.



Shri Gupta said Shri Vajpayee was not connected to the structure demolition during "Ayodhya movement". "Vajpayee was not among the top ranking leaders who were summoned and examined by the commission," he said.

According to a Mail Today report Shri Gupta served as the commission's counsel for nearly eight of its 16-year tenure and questioned most of the senior political leaders called to depose. He said a conscious decision was taken by the commission against summoning Shri Vajpayee since there was "nothing to connect Shri Vajpayee with the demolition or with the entire Ayodhya movement".

"I am surprised that Shri Vajpayee has been named as one of those 'indicted' for the demolition in the leaked portions of the report published on November 23" he said. Dragging the name of the former Prime Minister into the issue was an unfortunate attempt. ■



BJP has published a special booklet on Liberhan Commission Report which is available at BJP Headquarters, 11-Ashok Road, New Delhi-110001

Chidambaram must apologise : Rajnath Singh

BJP National President Shri Rajnath Singh spoke to Kallol Bhattacharjee of The WEEK on the Liberhan Commission report. Excerpts from the interview :



▶▶ **Your comments on the Liberhan Commission report.**

The report has talked about Vajpayeeji disparagingly. It says that the leaders of the BJP are controlled by the RSS. It has spent its precious pages on comments on the leaders of the BJP. Its job was to unearth the truth of the demolition of the Babri Masjid. This commission has failed to shed any new light on the demolition.

▶▶ **So has Justice Liberhan favoured the Congress?**

I am not saying it is a report that is favourable to the Congress. I would say it looks politically motivated. The content of the report makes me doubtful of the credibility of the commission. The time chosen for leaking the report to the media makes me question the intention of the government.

▶▶ **Who do you think leaked the report?**

One copy was with the commission and another copy was with the home ministry. I want the government to express regret. The minister of home affairs should take the moral responsibility and express regret before Parliament. Before the winter session ends, this issue should be investigated by a joint parliamentary committee.

▶▶ **Is the BJP looking to weaponise the corruption cases against Madhu Koda in Jharkhand?**

Madhu Koda alone could not have looted so much money. You will miss other players if you stay focused on Koda alone. Those political parties who supported the Madhu Koda government are also responsible for the loot of Rs 4,000 crore. The CBI should make a thorough inquiry of this case.

▶▶ **Kalyan Singh says he has no regrets about the demolition of the Babri Masjid. What about you?**

Demolition of the Babri Masjid was a spontaneous act by the karsevaks. There was a lot of anger among the karsevaks about the police firing on the karsevaks by the Samajwadi Party government.

▶▶ **Kalyan Singh and Uma Bharti are trying to get back into the BJP.**

It is for the party to decide whether to admit them back. As far as I am concerned neither of them has contacted the party.

▶▶ **Is the BJP's obsession with Ram temple sufficient to blunt the development of the Congress?**

Ram Mandir and development are complementary to each other. Development is necessary for the country. But we are also concerned about the culture, identity, heritage and faith of our people. For us the culture, development and faith have to move in unison.

▶▶ **Ram or development—which is dearer to you?**

Both are dear to us. I request the Muslims to let us build a temple at the place of birth of Shri Ram. We shall resist attempts to demolish mosques elsewhere.

▶▶ **Your Presidentship has seen the expulsion of stalwarts. Is that a setback for you?**

There was only one expulsion, that of Jaswant Singh. Media reports mistakenly said Uma Bharti was expelled during my Presidentship.

▶▶ **Does the BJP require younger leaders?**

The fact is there are more young faces in the BJP than in the Congress.

▶▶ **Can you pit a younger face against Rahul Gandhi in the next general election?**

The only way of fighting an equal election against him would be to find a dynastic candidate to take

him on. We shall not do that. The fact is the Congress has heirs of many old political dynasties. They look good on TV and people are swayed by their good looks. But in the BJP we have youth from lower and middle classes. Our politics is aimed at fulfilling aspirations of the lower and middle class youth of the country unlike the Congress.

» **Will the BJP find it difficult to go ahead with Hindutva after the Liberhan report?**

No force in the world can stand between the BJP

and its commitment to Article 370, uniform civil code and construction of Ram Mandir in Ayodhya. We started with this ideological position, we ruled with these ideals and still hold them dear.

» **Do people appreciate your Hindutva approach?**

People will realise the failure of the Congress soon. Terrorism is increasing, separatism is increasing. Unity is the need of the hour. People will appreciate our commitment to culture and development. ■

Name Congress beneficiaries in Koda case : Raghuwar Das



The BJP continued to grill the Congress over Madhu Koda issue and demanded names of Congress beneficiaries in Koda issue must be made public.

Addressing a Press conference on December 01, BJP Jharkhand State president Shri Raghuwar Das challenged the Congress-led Central Government to disclose the content of the Koda diary where the names of the prominent Congress and UPA leaders including Maharashtra Congress leader Kripashankar Singh and RJD chief Lalu Prasad are mentioned as beneficiaries.

Shri Das not only accused the Congress for destabilising the Arjun Munda-led BJP Government in Jharkhand but also said that the Congress promoted Koda in corruption while it supported Koda for 23 months.

Shri Das also blamed the Congress president and UPA chairperson Smt. Sonia Gandhi for supporting Koda regime. Ridiculing the Congress' stand over corruption he reminded the Assembly Speaker Alamgir Alam belonging to the Congress was instrumental in preventing the Opposition from raising the issues of corruption in Jharkhand. ■ (FOC)

NDA will emerge victorious in Jharkhand polls : Modi

Branding Congress and other UPA constituents as incompetent and responsible for price hike, unemployment problems, corruption and lawlessness including the poor developments in Jharkhand where economic and industrial developmental



projects have come to stand still within the last nine years, Gujarat Chief Minister Shri Narendra Modi, urged the people to utilise their voting power in support of BJP candidate. He also asserted that UPA was in a state of total disarray and was on the verge of a political collapse.

On November 30 Shri Narendra Modi campaigned in Bermo (Bokaro) in support of the BJP candidate where he expressed his confidence that NDA will emerge victorious in the ongoing Assembly polls in Jharkhand and would provide stable and corruption-free Government in the State. Despite its rich natural resources, Jharkhand still lags behind in development. "Once the NDA Government is voted to power, the development in the State will speed up," Shri Modi added.

Expressing deep concern over the huge corruption in the State, he added, "If BJP-led NDA Government comes into power; all the corrupt politicians along with their subordinates would be sent behind the bar". He said that without any feeling of caste, creed and community we all are committed for 'Job to each hand and water to each farm land' which is our motto. Good governance, development and security will be the three mantras of BJP.

Shri Modi expressed deep concern over the rising Naxal activities in the 16 districts of the State. He blamed that UPA Government is responsible for all these violence. Rising Naxal activities shows the incompetence of the Government, he added. ■ (FOC)

Stable government need of the hour

By Prabhat Jha

Jharkhand is awaiting a stable government. "Stable government" is the need of the hour. Jharkhand is not willing to repeat the disaster that it went through. In democracy, people are supreme and today the fate of Jharkhand is in the hands of its people. The two phases of the elections is complete. It was not misplaced to apprehend violence and not even unreasonable. But fortunately no life was lost. For this those responsible for conducting elections and maintaining law and order should be congratulated. We hope that in the remaining three phases there will be no violence and bloodshed.

I am a citizen of India. I am an Indian. Therefore I surely enjoy a relation with Jharkhand which is enjoyed by every Indian. As an Indian when I ponder over the plight of the people then I wonder why Jharkhand is so much removed from development even when there is a lot of scope to work upon the resources gifted to it by nature.

Why work is not done? When I tried to understand I could see that since the beginning there never was an era of stability. And, how can an unstable mind deliver the results? When man is unstable he remains insecure. And when he is insecure he always tries to secure his position.

If we take a look at all the governments that were formed since the formation of Jharkhand and all the chief ministers who were in office we can see that each one of them were insecure. When

Jharkhand came into existence then Shri Babulal Marandi became its first chief minister, he had no majority so he was insecure. He mustered the support of few MLAs and started functioning as chief minister. The new enthusiasm of the new government started waning away since then. Ill fated start is refusing

Madhu Koda was sworn in as chief minister with the support of Congress, JMM and RJD. Madhu Koda became chief minister without having his own support base. The fate of Jharkhand was sealed. An independent MLA was supported by UPA as puppet chief minister just to keep BJP out of power.

to subside even now. No one had imagined at that time that Babulal Marandi will come to such pass in nine years. It is interesting to note that those who were trying to remove Babulal Marandi at that time are now tying with him.

Shri Marandi was chief minister for 28 months, he had an image. He was associated with Jharkhand movement. He was a Vishwa Hindu Parishad full timer. The organization played an important role in making him a leader but Babulal Marandi neither understood it nor accepted it. What was there which the party did not bestow upon him - leadership, office of union minister,

post of chief minister and National vice president of the party.

After him Arjun Munda became the chief minister. BJP paid its respect to the sentiments of scheduled tribes. Mundaji took the oath. He tried to do much in the limited time. He also remained affected by the disruptive acts of some people who were in his government. He somehow managed to function from 2003 to 2005. Elections were declared. BJP got thirty seats. Congress could get only nine and RJD got six. BJP and JD(U) together had 36 seats. It was like a lottery for the independents. They started to aspire for the bed of silver and mattresses of gold. On the other side, the then governor created political instability even before the formation of the government. He did not call the largest party, the BJP, to form the government but instead JMM supremo Guruji was invited to take oath. BJP MLAs paraded before the Raj Bhawan. Courts had to intervene for assuming constitutional propriety. Guruji could not win the trust vote. Finally Arjun Munda became the chief minister. But, how long Congress would have allowed BJP in power? It was not able to tolerate the continuation of Arjun Munda government.

The central government led by Congress always tried to destabilize Arjun Munda government. On the other hand Arjun Munda had to remain alert owing to lack of majority in the house. What could have he done? When even the chair of the chief minister was insecure how could he have given security to the

people.

Finally, Arjun Munda government was made to fall. President rule was imposed and after a few days an independent MLA Madhu Koda was sworn in as chief minister with the support of Congress, JMM and RJD. Madhu Koda became chief minister without having his own support base. The fate of Jharkhand was sealed. An independent MLA was supported by UPA as puppet chief minister just to keep BJP out of power. The largest party was pushed to the opposition and an independent supported by few other independents became chief minister with the support of some political parties. In democracy change of power takes place between ruling and opposition parties but an independent becoming chief minister was a peculiar incident.

Congress could have allowed the elections to take place in the given situation. But they played politics over it. It preferred to serve its vested interests by making a weak person the chief minister of the state. So many stories started doing rounds as soon Madhu Koda became the chief minister such that he appeared less a chief minister and more a milch cattle. These people did not pay any attention to the interests of Jharkhand while keeping Madhu Koda in office. Everyone had their own agenda.

They had their own vested interests. Twenty three months passed away. Noises were made in this period. Not all but one newspaper continuously brought all the scandals, everything before the people. But Congress, JMM and RJD supporting Madhu Koda maintained studied silence. Who could have expected development from Koda?

He was completely engaged in keeping his office secure. He was a bachelor, he got married but left no

stone unturned in making Jharkhand divorced from development. Congress had nothing to worry. There were murmurs of opposition to Koda rule. Congress made Guruji the chief minister. Surrounded by controversies the ambition of Guruji was yet to be fulfilled. He was eager and looking for the opportunity. Here again Congress played its card tactically. The gun was placed on the shoulders of Guruji. Guruji knew that he could not do anything in one year but he could not ignore the enticing offer. In any case, he knew, he could have continued for at least six months. He had to contest election to get elected to the legislative assembly as per constitution so he had to go for the election. Guruji had to bite dust at the hands of an independent Raja Peter. Here it would be appropriate to say that only Guruji better knows whether he lost or was made to lose the election.

It was a disaster for Guruji. No one had imagined his fate in such terms. No one could have ever thought that a chief minister could be defeated by an independent. Congress wanted to show the JMM suprema his limits. Poor Guruji could not have done anything but to secure his own position. Congress took the governance in its own hands. President rule was imposed. Congress was successful in taking over the reins of the state. Whatever declaration they deemed fit in the context of the elections, they made. They also failed to give stability. President rule continued bulldozing all constitutional provisions. In the meanwhile Lok Sabha elections were held in the country. The table was turned. BJP was able to win eight seats (+one seat) and Congress could get only one. BJP increased its tally by extending support to an independent candidate Shri Namdhari. On the remaining seats, three former chief

ministers were elected. In the Lok Sabha Congress improved its overall national position. Instead of conducting elections immediately in Jharkhand, Congress again played politics. Maharashtra, Haryana and Arunachal assembly elections were declared. As soon the results of these three assembly elections started pouring in on October 22 and on seeing that Congress was going to form governments in these three states, the Election Commission declared Jharkhand elections on October 23. Not only this, the elections which could have well been conducted in two phases were declared in five phases in an attempt to keep Jharkhand politically unstable.

Jharkhand is passing through a phase of instability since its formation. It is for the first time that "Stable government" has become an issue in the elections. People now understand that if a coalition government is formed the independents will keep it unstable leading to disastrous consequences for Jharkhand. The primary goal of the Jharkhand is to get rid of the disastrous consequences of instability.

Now the question is that whom the people will vote for stability. If the people come to understand that instability is the main roadblock in the development and advancement of Jharkhand then results would be favourable. In the last 15-20 days we have been noticing that newspapers are continuously emphasizing that Jharkhand needs a stable government. People are looking for a stable government. People should keep the future of Jharkhand in mind. People have the opportunity to vote for stability. Now it remains to be seen if the people support stability or it is again the same musical chair in the offing. ■

(Writer is BJP National Secretary and MP Rajya Sabha)

Koda routed loot through Emaar MGF

Diverted money for tribal welfare to Dubai real estate giant

The money that was supposed to be used for the welfare of tribals of Jharkhand has been diverted to the Commonwealth Games projects by former State Chief Minister Madhu Koda. According to a *Pioneer* report the investigating agencies finally got a lead on the hawala transactions made by Koda, currently under arrest for scam of over Rs 4,000 crore. Koda aides are said to have siphoned huge money from the State coffers to Dubai, which has been channeled back ironically to propel a major Commonwealth Games project — the Games Village — through the Dubai-based real estate developer Emaar MGF, which started operations in India just about four years ago and has become one of the ‘leading’ real estate developers.

Well-placed sources in the Enforcement Directorate told *The Pioneer* that the directorate has clues about monetary transactions between Koda and Emaar MGF, which is building projects for the 2010 Games also besides several other investments. Emaar MGF is developing the residential complex for the participants of the Games on the banks of Yamuna. After a protracted and not-free-from-controversy tendering process, the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) awarded the project of Games Villages behind the Akshardham Temple to the Emaar MGF last year.

The ED on December 03 raided the offices of Emaar MGF and homes of several board members in and around Delhi in connection with the multi-crore money laundering scam involving the former Jharkhand Chief Minister. It might be noted

that the development of the Games Village had run into rough weather since the so-called world class developer Emaar MGF had cited lack of funds as the reason for not pushing the project at desired speed. The DDA, thereafter, announced a Rs 700-crore bailout package for ‘cash-drained’ Emaar MGF. The package envisages purchase of 333 flats in the Games Village project instead of a loan.

The price at which the flats will be bought is 13 per cent higher than what was recommended by an expert committee constituted by the Government to decide the modalities of bailing out the Indian unit of Dubai-based Emaar. The project is running behind schedule and is just about 60 per cent complete.

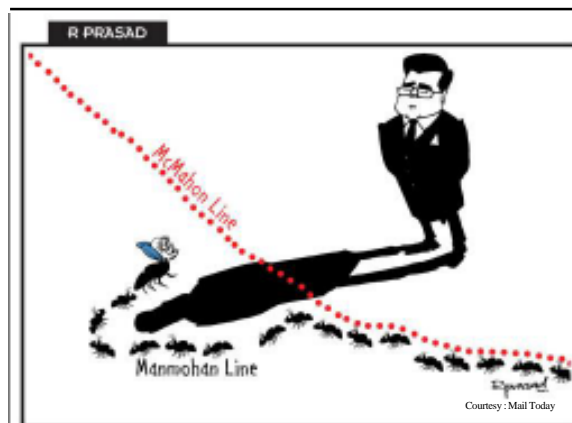
“We will try to connect all these events and if links are established then several other departments and officials will come under scanner. We have reports that Emaar had sought a Rs 1,000-crore (Rs 10 billion) bailout but the settlement was done at Rs 700 crore. So from where did Rs 300 crore come from needs to be verified,” said ED sources. Emaar MGF, under a private-public partnership with the DDA, had won the contract to develop 1,168 flats.

According to ED, Emaar has also been charged with alleged violation of foreign exchange rules and diverting money

abroad. “Ten offices of Emaar MGF have been raided in Delhi and Noida in connection with violation of Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) regulations and diverting money abroad. We are also searching the residences of some board members who have links with Madhu Koda,” a source at the directorate said. Koda was the Chief Minister from September 2006 to August 2008. An independent legislator, he was supported by the Congress, Jharkhand Mukti Morcha and Rashtriya Janata Dal.

According to sources, several Emaar MGF board members are directly linked to Koda’s alleged illegal transactions. Koda used these board members to send money out of the country in violation of FEMA regulations.

The company has also been accused of bringing money into the country in violation of foreign exchange rules, and using this fund to buy agricultural land. Emaar MGF, a joint venture between Emaar Properties of Dubai and MGF Development of India, brought the largest foreign investment in real estate in India in 2005. ■



Environment Minister got carried away by bandwagon effect : Jaitley

Statement issued by Shri Arun Jaitley, Leader of Opposition (Rajya Sabha) on December 04, 2009 on the unilateral decision of the Minister for Environment to reduce India's carbon emission intensity by 20 – 25 percent by 2020.

The Minister for Environment, Shri Jairam Ramesh, while replying to a debate in the Lok Sabha on 03.12.2009 on climate change has announced India's decision to unilaterally reduce its carbon emission intensity by 20 – 25 percent by 2020 as compared to the year 2005. The Bharatiya Janata Party has serious reservations about the approach of the Environment Minister. This is based amongst others on the following :-

- ▶ The Minister appears to be carried away by the bandwagon effect of some nations announcing unilateral cuts. The per capita pollution caused by China is far higher. The factual matrix of the two nations India and China is therefore not identical. It is bad strategy on the eve of any multilateral negotiations to announce unilateral stance without waiting for the approach of the developed countries. It is India's experience in various international negotiations including WTO that unilateral concessions announced before the multilateral dialogue become the starting point in India's negotiations. The announcement of unilateral cuts by Shri Jairam Ramesh has weakened India's negotiating position.
- ▶ The announcement by the Minister that "India would never

accept a legally binding commitment to reduce its emissions" marks a serious departure from its earlier stated position that we would not accept any "legally binding commitment to reduce overall emissions as also emission intensity". Is this omission deliberate to leave the doors open to the developed countries to bind India indirectly if not directly?

- ▶ By repeatedly referring to India's low per capita emission as "accident of history" or "due to India being unable to control its population" the Environment Minister has in fact repeated the arguments of developed countries against the "per capita principle". India was prevented from industrialization prior to Independence and also because of our faulty policy decisions since Independence. The Environment Minister is clearly wrong when he says that there is no difference between (i) India's per capita emissions will not exceed (that of developed countries) and (2) "be less than" the per capita emission of developed countries. Is India ever in a position to accept a legally binding limitation that our per capita emission will be



categorically lower than that of the developed countries? Does the Environment Minister acknowledge that the historical responsibility of the developed countries for climate change ought to be taken into

account while deciding their future per capita emission rights ? Has the Environment Minister by announcing unilateral cuts without a corresponding commitment from the developed countries not negated the "equal per capita principle" which India has in the past been propagating?

- ▶ The Environment Minister has referred to flexibility in the context of extent of international observation of our unsupported domestic actions. Earlier in an interview to the 'Mint' he had favoured international consultations on the lines of WTO trade review policy. Will India accept any regime of international consultations or verifications with respect to climate change either unilaterally or in the context of international legal requirements?
- ▶ The Environment Minister has referred to most of India's deposits of coal, iron ore deposits being located in forest areas and mining would result in forest loss.

Does he imply that India cannot industrialize merely because valuable resources are located in forest area? Is he willing to overlook that the Central Government since 1980 has in special cases given permission even to private parties to mine in forest areas while keeping in view the concerns for co-existence of ecology and environment ?

- ▶ The Bharatiya Janata Party strongly criticizes the Environment Minister for rubbishing India's earlier approach as "do-nothing" approach. The argument that our earlier approach was "that we are not responsible for climate change and we have a right to emit as much as developed countries have done" makes a mockery of the programmes undertaken by successive Governments in the past with regard to environment protection. The Minister ought not to rubbish a consistent stand taken by various Governments in India. The Minister obviously overlooked the fact that it is this "do-nothing" approach which has led to reduction in emission intensity by 17.6% during 1990-2005 . How many developed countries who had undertaken legally binding obligations to do so, have actually taken the steps to reduce their emissions and have accomplished close to what India has achieved during this period?
- ▶ The Minister has referred to the due diligence by the Planning Commission as well as inputs from "other sources" before formulating the changed position of India. Is he willing to share with the country the entire material available for this due diligence and also disclose as to

who 'other sources' are? Is he merely referring to reports prepared by international consultants who have an inherent interest in the economies of the developed countries?

- ▶ Is the Minister willing to clarify as to what would be the cost borne by the Government and citizens in implementing the specific measures cited by him which would lead to a reduction in our energy intensity. The Minister has referred to the "further measures by India beyond the announced targets in the context of equitable global agreement". What is the Government's view as to what would constitute "equitable global agreement". Is India's interest on reduction of at least 25-40 % by 2020 from the 1990 levels by developed countries going to be part of such agreement? Is India going to resist any attempt to dilute/undermine/replace the Kyoto Protocol and insist on continuance of legally binding emission reduction by the developed countries under the

Kyoto protocol ? Would mandatory transfer of finance & technology by the developed countries to the developing countries form a part of this proposition? Is the Minister going to ensure that there would be no constraints on the economic growth of developing countries on climate change considerations ? Would he resist any attempt to build in a permanent differential between the per capita emissions rights of developed and developing countries under any such "equitable global agreement"?.

- ▶ The recent media reports claiming that climate change data was manipulated by the scientific establishments in US is a matter of serious concern. It is all the more serious that these data formed the basis of all conclusions by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Has the Minister factored in possible misleading data creeping into the due diligence done by his team before making these premature unilateral commitments? ■

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### **BJP's 12-hour near total shutdown in West Bengal**

The Bharatiya Janata Party 12-hour shutdown to protest the rise in prices received tremendous support from the people of West Bengal on November 30. A large number of supporters came out stopping public transport and blocking important roads.

The dawn-to-dusk shutdown was near complete in Kolkata as well as adjoining Howrah district. People stopped public transport vehicles and demonstrated on Howrah Bridge. The movement of trains was also affected. At the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International (NSCBI) airport, pre-paid taxis kept off the roads. Fourteen BJP activists were arrested for staging a blockade near the busy Rabindra Sadan crossing in central Kolkata and some from Howrah district for staging a sit-in, police said.

"We've called the 12-hour shutdown in West Bengal protesting the price rise of essential commodities and electricity prices. The United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government is totally indifferent about these basic issues," BJP state vice president Shri Sabyasachi Bagchi told. ■(FOC)

# Don't yield to pressure on climate change : Dr. Joshi

*Synopsis of the speech on 'Impact of Climate Change' delivered by Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi MP in Lok Sabha on December 3.*

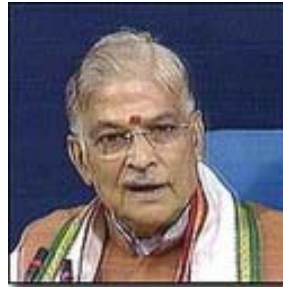
The whole world is warming up. This is feared that by the end of this century i.e. 2100, the temperature could rise by 5 degrees. Certain scientists feel that it could go up as much as by 9 degrees. The main cause of the steep rise in temperature is energy. Main contributors in flaring up the temperature are energy by 25 per cent, the alterations in the land use and forestry by 8 per cent, agriculture by 6 per cent, industrial process by 1.5 to 2 per cent and the waste by 1.5 per cent. The rich countries are main culprits in raising the temperature and volatile changes in the environment. In all, there are about 20 countries, small ones as well as large ones, which have in their possession the entire energy and all the sources. They have occupied all the natural sources and there is scarcity of energy in rest of the countries.

Now it is being stated that there are aberrations in terms of the use of energy and environment and they should be corrected. You should now grow more trees and produce more carbon so that carbon dioxide is absorbed and they should be allowed to produce carbon dioxide. They would give us more money to grow more trees. You should absorb the carbon dioxide. These days, the developed countries in the earlier conferences as well as in Copenhagen, factor in our concerns to the extent that they should be allowed to generate energy. We

should remain a market, they should continue to generate power and we buy it. You need not strive for development that they are doing. Their development and our destruction will go side by side. I warn the Minister and through the Minister, the Government that as long as you follow this model of development imitating the western model, the problems of environment would never be resolved. Only 16 per cent of the world population are in possession of 80 per cent of resources, production and consumption of the world.

There is acute shortage of water. If the temperature rises on the current pace, then the polar ice would melt and then what would happen to our Mumbai, Chennai, Goa, Andaman and Nicobar Islands can be well imagined. Various species of animals and birds are being extinct and new kind of diseases are breaking out. The Minister in his letter to MPs has stated about long term cooperative action including a long term goal. But, would America, the world power before whom we have bowed down, ever believe in long term goals? At least I do not believe.

When a Bill was being passed in America, a renowned person, Paul Krugman, in his article "Betraying the Climate" stated that they did not like the political and policy



implications of climate change so they had decided not to believe in it and that he would call this a crazy conspiracy theory. If this is their attitude then what could be expected from them.

In the developed and developing countries they have been committing the crime for the last 200 years and now they want to avoid the punishment. Therefore, we should put across our views with full force at our command in Copenhagen. If we succumb or bow down then we would be guilty of spoiling the lives of the coming generations. On the one hand, we talk of inclusive growth but the question is where is the inclusive growth.

I fear that this climatic change is going to destroy this inclusivity totally. The question that the whole world is faced with, does not relate to the climatic change only, it is much more than that. This is the question of developmental model. Would the market forces run the whole world? What happens is that the western countries first cause pollution, then they offer us the technology to control it for which they would charge a heavy cost.

Today's technology is highly energy consuming technology. We have to undertake some research in this regard. I am very hopeful of the





## Uttarakhand Govt. to set up climate change deptt : Nishank

**S**haring Uttarakhand's proactive initiatives on Environment, Chief Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank said that a separate Climate Change department would be set up in the State soon. He was speaking at the inaugural session of the Environment Summit at Dehradun on December 02. The Summit is being organised jointly by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Uttarakhand Council of Science & Technology and Uttarakhand Environment Protection & Pollution Control Board.

Elaborating on Uttarakhand's culture of conservation, Shri Nishank said that the State has 12,000 Van Panchayats, which nurture the forests of the State. He also emphasised on the need for setting up green industry in the State. Uttarakhand with its immense



hydel resources has the potential to become the leader in Green Energy, added the Chief Minister.

Shri Nishank said the Government is preparing an Action Plan on climate change and, if needed, establishment of a separate department for Climate Change may also be taken into consideration. The State is also planning for establishment of an Environmental Research Centre. In order to encourage the students towards environmental conservation in

general and plantation of saplings program in particular, necessary matter will be included in their syllabi and the students planting a certain number of plants be awarded additional marks in their examination. Industries based on local assets and resources would be encouraged.

He also emphasised on encouraging pollution-free industries and said that the people should also be taken care of, in addition to environmental conservation. There should be a perfect co-ordination between the people of Uttarakhand and water, forest and land of the state. If the people are forbidden to utilise the natural resources, they must also be provided with some proper options. The Indian traditions are completely scientific and in order to make them acceptable these have been linked with religion. India has been the leader of world — the "Vishva Guru", and today also India needs to lead from the front in finding a solution to problems, like, climate change, he added. ■ (FOC)



solar energy prospects, as it is a clean energy which can help us attain energy self-sufficiency. Ours is a country which receives the maximum per square kilometer solar energy. The country should tap this potential. If we take into account the future requirement of the coal based thermal plants, we would have to import 1400 MT coal to run them by the year 2030. Today, we need our development model to undergo a radical change. We need sustainable consumption in place of sustainable development.

Today, we require such a development model which can provide every person an opportunity to lead a reasonable dignified life. We have to reject the present model in the world that is causing such catastrophe. We have to assert our stand forcefully in Copenhagen and tell the world that the present development model has caused a great damage to the whole world, resulting into increased poverty and unemployment. It has to be changed. India has to take a lead on this front. This earth is a living planet like the human being. It cannot be treated as the inert object.

The western model has worked as the exploiting model which caused a great damage to the environment of the planet. We have to raise a strong voice to tell the western countries that they have to cut down their consumption level. I would be happy, if our Prime Minister goes to Copenhagen and tell the world that India is there to lead the helpless people. India would work towards bringing about equity in the world. India would show the path to the whole world to help the people lead a reasonable level of dignified existence. However, if we keep harping on the same old tune of development model, keep following them with effecting some changes it would not make any difference. Hence, the Hon'ble Minister is requested not to associate himself with them, rather he has to stand for India and not to follow them. ■

# Islamic politics targets Song

By S Gurumurthy

The story of Vande Mataram first shows how, citing religious text, a society, otherwise one, could be set on the boil and divided. It also shows how, once the process of division based on a religious text starts, it does not stop at dividing a society into this or that religion. And how after the division it enters the body of the divided religious society to tear it further apart as the Pakistan situation demonstrates.

See how the advent of the song Vande Mataram, as common to both Hindus and Muslims, is captured by a Muslim writer in an Islamic website: "In 1905 came Curzon's announcement of the partition of Bengal, and suddenly Vande Mataram turned into a national mantra, rending the skies with the protest against the partition of Bengal. Reacting quickly, the British government banned the song or even raising it as a slogan. Peasant leader Abdul Rasul, was presiding over the Bengal Congress provincial conference session of 1906 when hundreds were struck down and grievously injured for singing Vande Mataram. This brutality at Barisal popularised the song overnight. According to Bengalee of May 23, 1906, 'an unprecedented procession of Hindus and Muslims singing national songs and crying Vande Mataram and Allah-o-Akbar passed through all the principal streets of the town. Both Hindus and Mussalmans carried Vande Mataram flags. It is interesting to know that while Vande Mataram was banned in Bengal, the British government allowed the Bengali Regiment to

attack German trenches during the First World War with Vande Mataram on their lips."

The quote is not a century old, but is dated May 2004 ('The history and Politics of Vande Mataram' by Shasul Islam published in The Milli Gazette — Indian Muslims' leading English newspaper [www.milligazette.com](http://www.milligazette.com)).

The agitation against the partition of Bengal was not an accident or isolated event in respect of Muslim comfort with Vande Mataram.

The Calcutta session of the Congress in 1896, where Tagore first sang the song was presided over by Rahamatullah Sayani. The song became a regular feature in all later Congress conventions. It was again the lead hymn in Karachi in 1913 with Nawab Syed Mohammed Bahadur presiding. It was the inaugural song in the Bombay Congress in 1918 when the president was Syed Hasan Imam. Hakim Ali Khan, a founder of the Muslim League, left the League and joined the Congress in 1920 and became president of the Ahmedabad Congress at which again the song was sung as the invocation hymn. Abul Kalam Azad, who became president of the Congress in 1940, had presided over the special session of the Congress at Delhi in 1920 when the song was the inaugural hymn. In the Nagpur Congress in 1920, where, for the first time, a large number of Muslim delegates, as much as 1,050 out of 13,532, participated, Vande Mataram was as usual the lead song. M A Ansari was president of the Madras

Congress in 1927 where too it was the lead song. Again, when Frontier Gandhi Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan led his redshirt Pathan Muslim volunteers into the Karachi Congress chanting Vande Mataram (See — 'Vande Mataram and Islam' by Aurobindo Mazumdar pp 66-71).

The solitary objection was by Maulana Mohammed Ali (at the Kakinada Congress in 1923) who termed it as idolatry — a charge that remained unsupported by anyone till Jinnah, the political, not religious, Muslim, repeated it in October 1937. Surprisingly, three years earlier Maulana Ali was present at the Nagpur Congress in 1920 when the song was sung and did not raise any objection. (ibid.p67)

Why then the perceived Islamic objection to Vande Mataram which was acceptable to the Muslims till 1937? Answer, in a couple of words: divisive politics. It was not Islamic theology, but Islamic politics, the politics of partition that targeted Vande Mataram. Curzon lured the Muslims with the partition of Bengal, and result was the birth of the Muslim League. But it remained a marginal force for almost three decades. Jinnah, who led it, had almost given up, left India and almost settled in London in 1929. He was brought back to India in 1936 to resurrect the League. Despite his efforts, the League lost the 1937 elections even in Muslim majority provinces. But a hurt Jinnah then moved into top gear to separate Muslims from Hindus. He targeted Vande Mataram in 1937 and projected it as a Hindu religious and anti-Islamic song. Jinnah's idea was

to club Hindus and India, not just to divide Hindus and Muslims. Jinnah's aim was to show that the Congress represented only the Hindus and only the League represented Muslims.

In the next couple of years Jinnah succeeded in what he set out to do, namely, make large sections of Muslims feel they had nothing to do with Hindus, therefore with India, which Jinnah had successfully clubbed with the Hindus in the Muslim mind.

In pre-Partition India, Islamic politics smuggled itself as respectable Islamic theology. The sequence of theology-led politics divided the Darul Uloom Deoband chapter in Pakistan as Darul Uloom Karachi, and the Jamiat Ulema-i-Hind wing in Pakistan separated as Jamiat Uema-e-Islam in Pakistan.

The urge to seek text-defined purity in the faith and in the people has now made Darul Uloom Karachi and the Jamiat in Pakistan extremist in their views and part of the terrorist ideological infrastructure in Pakistan. And Pakistan, which was forged by the use of religious text for mass appeal, is now the springboard of global terrorism. So, divisive Islamic politics, which started with Vande Mataram and other icons that integrated India and Indians, did not stop at dividing Hindus and Muslims.

It has infected the body of Islamists and started dividing Muslims in Pakistan. The Muslim leaders who divided the pre-Partition Indians on the basis of their text as pure Muslims and impure Hindus now divide the Muslims in Pakistan as who, according to their text, are true Muslims and those who are not.

The Bhasmasur of Islamic separatism that Jinnah created and successfully employed against

India in 1937 is testing its powers on the Islamic society in Pakistan in 2009, threatening civil war and chaos.

But, on the Indian side, Jinnah's poison of Islamic separatism is now almost an integral part of India's secular politics. Will Indian Islamic leaders and writers who are

continuing the process of dividing Indians on the basis of what their religious texts say stop for a moment and look at what is happening inside Pakistan? ■

*(The author is a well-known commentator on political and economic issues)*

*Source: The Indian Express*

## Muslim clergy distorts Islam

By Mohd Shakaib

**T**he resolution passed by the Jamiat-Ulama-i-Hind against the singing of Vande Mataram is baseless in a multi-religious, multi-cultural country like India. The cherishers of Islam tend to forget that their religion approves of unity in diversity. Prophet Mohammad himself had set examples by emphasizing the peaceful co-habitation of believers and non-believers in Mecca. If the singing of Vande Mataram can bring Muslims and those belonging to other communities closer, it cannot be heresy.

If politicians really love this country and believe in the unity of the people, which is the need of the hour, they must refrain from turning the Vande Mataram issue into a controversy for the sake of gaining political mileage. The baseless decree which appeals to the Muslim community not to participate in the singing of the National Song is an effort by the ulema to remain in the limelight given that Muslims today are slowly turning towards modern education and are aware of Government institutions for their welfare.

I wonder why Muslim clerics do not hesitate to pass decrees on issues related to the unity of the country but fall silent on local issues

such as a panchayat's inhumane judgement wherein a married woman who was raped by her father-in-law was forced to marry him and accept her husband as her son. Instead of passing a decree against the panchayat and demanding police action against it, the clerics expressed their 'diverse' views through the media which further strengthened the popular myth that Islam does not treat women and men as equal.

Truth be told, the lack of vision of Muslim clerics is responsible for the backwardness of the community.

To start with, the ulema had dissuaded Muslim youth from joining the Indian Army after partition of the country because it believed this would mean fighting against their Muslim brethren in Pakistan. The small number of Muslims in the Army, as the Sachar Committee in its report has stated, is a consequence of this.

Even in matters related to Muslim women, the clergy's role has been shameful. The infamous Shah Bano case bears testimony to this. It strengthened Muslim Personal Law which itself is in need of reform in the interest of Muslim women and society. ■

*Courtesy: The Pioneer*

# Congress govt. cannot control rising prices : Dr. Joshi

*Our healthy agricultural tradition should be revived for better productivity*

The prices of essential commodities started rising sharply in the country since 2006 and in 2007 it was said that prices were rising due to international factors. There had been no mention of controlling price rise in the Presidential Address and in the Budget Speech after formation of the new Government.

The UPA Government could not control rising prices during first hundred days of its rule. During these 100 days, the

prices have doubled. Keeping in view the rising prices, the Union Cabinet asked the States to regulate the stocks of sugar, pulses, paddy, rice and edible oils that traders can keep till September, 2010. It means

to rise by 2010.

The Finance Minister has also said that the rise in prices was expected. But, the main reason of rising prices is not the gap between demand and supply but market expectations. But, price rise is not the primary concern of this Government. The Government says that prices are rising due to droughts faced by the country during the last two years. But, the



*Synopsis of the speech delivered by the former Union Minister and MP Shri Murli Manohar Joshi in Parliament on skyrocketing prices of essential commodities on December 26.*

the Government was aware of the fact as to what extent prices are likely

country faced severe drought during the regime of NDA Government in 2003. At that time, food price inflation was less than 3 to 4 per cent and the overall inflation was also low, insulating the poor from the impact of drought. My main concern is as to how this Government is going to control rising prices. The Government says that the prices will be controlled but we do not hope so because prices are still rising.

The Finance Minister and the Agriculture Minister are saying that they cannot control rising prices. The production of pulses is going down and there is a gap in their demand and supply. Pulses are an important source of protein for the poor people of our country. But it is becoming a scarce commodity in our food grains production kitty and we are resorting to import of pulses which indirectly help the exporting countries.

*Continued on page 30.....*

## Food inflation up at 17.47% Vegetable prices hit the roof

There is no respite for common man as food inflation surged to a whopping 17.47 per cent in the third week of November as against 15.58 per cent a week ago prompting experts to say that RBI may raise interest rates. High prices of primary articles have also become a major concern for the Government as it is arising out of a mismatch between demand and supply.



On a weekly basis, onions turned expensive by over 12 per cent, while it surged by 30.89 per cent on a yearly basis. Pulses rose over 37 per cent, while rice, wheat, fruits, milk turned expensive by over 10 per cent on yearly basis. The rise in prices of potatoes has surged by 94.17 per cent on yearly basis.

Altogether, inflation of primary articles (items found in raw form) rose to 12.53 per cent during the week ended November 21 against 11.04 per cent in the previous week. ■ (FOC)

# BJP to launch agitation for separate Telangana State



**T**he Andhra Pradesh unit of BJP on December 02 said it would soon launch a people's movement in support of a separate Telangana State. State BJP President and former Union Minister Shri Bandaru Dattatreya told a press conference in Hyderabad that "The party would soon launch a people's agitation to achieve separate statehood for Telangana region".

He said a meeting of intellectuals and pro-Telangana organisations would be held in

Hyderabad to formulate an action plan.

Alleging that the Congress, in power both in the state and the Centre, is the main hurdle in the creation of separate Telangana state, Shri Dattatreya stressed the need for mounting pressure on the ruling party to bring a bill in Parliament for granting statehood to the region.

Meanwhile, a five-member delegation of Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) led by BJP floor leader in the Legislative Assembly Shri E. Rajender met Shri Dattatreya and other senior leaders at the state BJP headquarters and sought support for their agitation. Former TRS MP Shri Vinod Kumar was also in the delegation.

Later, Shri Rajender told reporters that a TRS delegation would also meet Leader of the Opposition Shri L.K. Advani in Delhi to seek BJP's support for the Telangana cause. ■ (FOC)

## BJP pushes Centre to bring bill on Telangana

With the agitation for separate Telangana intensifying in Andhra Pradesh, the BJP on December 03 exerted pressure on the Centre to bring a bill for carving out a new state and accused Congress of betraying people of the region.

Raising the issue in the Rajya Sabha during Zero Hour, BJP National Spokesperson & MP Shri Prakash Javadekar said, "If the Union government brings a bill for separate Telangana, we will support it without any hesitation."

He further said while the demand for creation of Telangana has been there for last 50 years, the Congress in 2004 had assured its erstwhile ally TRS that the separate state would be formed. "They came into power. But they never brought the bill. TRS kept on hoping that Sonia Gandhi would do something but nothing happened," that has exposed the real face of Congress Party Shri Javadekar said.

He said Telugu Desam Party (TDP), which was earlier opposed to the division of Andhra Pradesh is also supporting the creation of a separate Telangana state now.

He said the people of the region, who feel betrayed, have come out in the streets. People of Telangana "are feeling betrayed continuously. This policy of betrayal should end at least now," he said. "Universities, colleges, schools are all closed. Agitating farmers and traders are up in arms," he added. ■ (FOC)

## Rajnath assures support to TRS

The BJP on December 03 offered its support to the demand for carving out a new state of Telangana from Andhra Pradesh, with BJP National President Shri Rajnath Singh assuring a TRS delegation that the main Opposition would raise the issue in Parliament.

A delegation of TRS leaders, led by former party MP Shri B Vinod Kumar and MLA in Andhra Pradesh Assembly Shri Ravindra Reddy, called on Shri Rajnath Singh to seek support of BJP for the cause.

Shri Singh wished for the good health of TRS Chief Shri K Chandrashekhar Rao, who is on a hunger strike for a separate state. He told the delegation that BJP had always supported their cause. Later in the day, BJP spokesperson Prakash Javadekar spoke on the issue in Rajya Sabha. Shri Rajnath Singh said he would discuss the issue with the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Shri LK Advani and Smt Sushma Swaraj to chalk out a strategy for fighting for this cause. ■(FOC)

## Odisha Govt. gifts thorium deposits to Vedanta

*6000 acres for varsity project contain rich nuclear material, admits Centre*

**T**he sprawling 6,000 acres of land allotted by the Odisha Government to set up a world class university near Puri contains large quantity of thorium. Pressure has mounted on the State Government to scrap allotment of the land to Vedanta group after the Centre last week made this startling admission in response to a question put up by BJP MP Shri Rudra Narayan Pany.

Shri Pany had specifically asked if there is any possibility of generating atomic energy from the material found in the sea sand of 6,000 acres of coastal land near Puri, which was allocated by the Government to Vedanta.

In response, Union Minister of Science & Technology and Earth Sciences told the Rajya Sabha that in Odisha, Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD) had identified 1.82 million tonnes of thorium bearing monazite resources. "Thorium is a fertile element and can be converted into fissile material to produce atomic energy in the third stage of Nuclear Power Programme of India," he said.

The revelation will force the Centre to act because under Article 297 of the Constitution all underground resources come under its control. "This is a serious matter. The Odisha Government must scrap the land allotment to Vedanta at once," Shri Pany told The Pioneer. "I'm going to write to the Prime Minister to take cognisance of the sensitivity of the matter and its implication for national security and direct the State to take back the land from Vedanta," he said.

He said cutting across party

lines several prominent leaders of Odisha have contacted him and expressed their concerns over the issue. "I hope to mobilise major public opinion and protest on this issue in the State," he said.

A BJP parliamentary committee team had recently visited the proposed Vedanta University site and slammed the State Government

for giving so much of prime land for setting up the proposed university. Even at that point of time, leader of the BJP legislative party in Orissa KV Singhdeo had alleged that providing land to Vedanta has become more controversial after it was found that it had rare mineral deposits which could be utilised for generating power. ■ (FOC)

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Congress Govt. turns Lottery Prohibition Bill into Lottery Regulation Bill : Vijay Goel

Congress-Lottery Mafia nexus exposed

BJP National General Secretary Shri Vijay Goel decried capitulation of the Central Government before Lottery Mafia and charged it of entering into liaison with Mafia to re-start gambling through lottery.

Reacting on the decision of the Central Government to withdraw the Lottery (Prohibition) Bill, 1999 that was moved in the Rajya Sabha by the Union Home Minister on December 23, 1999, Shri Goel alleged that by doing so the Central government has allowed lottery Mafia to commit open loot.

Shri Goel observed that all steps taken by the government following this Bill were in favour of the lottery mafia so that lottery could be somehow revived. Government's lottery agenda itself shows that lottery mafia has given hefty amount to revive lotteries.

Shri Goel said the govt. has altogether changed the agenda passed by the Parliament. No greater fraud can be made by the government upon public as the Lottery Prohibition Bill was turned into a Lottery Regulation. There is a ban on the lotteries in more than half states.

Tomorrow, the govt. can restart lotteries in these states also. Shri Goel demanded a probe into how much money was laundered for withdrawing the Bill.

Regretting the decision of the central govt. Shri Goel observed that open permission of the govt. for an evil like lottery would make poor and ordinary people its victims and thousands-lacs families would go to ruins as happened earlier. ■ (FOC)



BJP urges EC to cancel CM Ashok Chavan's election

The Maharashtra BJP on December 02, 2009 urged the Election Commission (EC) of India to "declare null and void" the election of Maharashtra chief minister Shri Ashok Chavan. It also asked Nanded district authorities and police to initiate criminal action against him for allegedly exceeding the expenditure limit of Rs 10 lakh and "cheating and misleading voters and the Election Commission."

In a memorandum submitted to Chief Electoral Officer of Maharashtra Debashish Chakrabarty, a BJP delegation led by the party's State vice-president and former MP Shri Kirit Somaiya and the party's Mumbai unit president Shri Gopal Shetty contested Shri Chavan's claim that he had spent a mere Rs 7 lakh on his entire election campaign, while it said it had every reason to believe that the chief minister must have spent over Rs 2 crore on newspaper advertisements and cable television ads alone.

Alluding to "full page newspaper advertisements, manipulated commercial news/advertisements" published in several news papers heaping praise on Shri Chavan - who contested and won the 2009 State Assembly polls as a Congress candidate from Bhokar constituency in Nanded district, the BJP delegation wondered as to how the Congress candidate could have spent mere Rs 5,379 spent on newspaper advertisements and Rs 6,000 on cable television ads. "We have a reason to believe that the expenditure incurred on advertisements published in

newspapers and commercials aired on cable television channels would have cost more than Rs 2 crore," the BJP delegates told the Chief Electoral Officer.

In substantiation of their contention that Shri Chavan had spent much beyond the prescribed expenditure limit of Rs 10 lakh for the State Assembly polls, the BJP delegation which apart from Shri Somaiya, Shri Shetty also comprised

The BJP functionaries also urged the State Chief Electoral Officer to declare null and void Shri Chavan's election on the ground that his poll expenditure (including the huge sums of money incurred on his newspaper advertisements and television commercials) had exceeded Rs 2 crore and to direct the DEO and local police to initiate criminal action against the chief minister for allegedly cheating and misleading the voters and Election Commission.

State party spokesperson Shri Madhav Bhandhari, senior party functionaries Shri Atul Shah and Shri Kanta Nalavade submitted 10 such copies of full-page advertisements "paid news items" along with their memorandum.

Besides, in its memorandum, the BJP referred to the fact that The Hindu newspaper, which had published a news report (on November 30, 2009) based on the information it had obtained from the election authorities through two RTI applications, had gathered 47 such full newspaper paper pages, many of them in colour, that focused exclusively on Shri Chavan, his leadership, his party and his Government.

In its memorandum, the BJP among other things urged the Election Commission to seek an

explanation from the district election officer as to why the expenditure incurred by Shri Chavan on the newspaper advertisements and television commercial ads in cable channels had not been included in the statement of poll accounts vis-à-vis Shri Chavan and to direct the Nanded District Election Officer (DEO) to include the additional expenditure in Shri Chavan's poll account.

The BJP functionaries also urged the State Chief Electoral Officer to declare null and void Shri Chavan's election on the ground that his poll expenditure (including the huge sums of money incurred on his newspaper advertisements and television commercials) had exceeded Rs 2 crore and to direct the DEO and local police to initiate criminal action against the chief minister for allegedly cheating and misleading the voters and Election Commission.

They also urged the Election Commission to initiate immediate action against Shri Ashok Chavan under section 77 of the Representation of People Act, 1951, section 420 of Indian Penal Code (cheating & fraud) and sections 171A, 171B, 171E, 171G of the IPC (bribery). BJP spokesperson Shri Madhav Bhandari said the State Chief Electoral Officer assured his party delegation that he would seek necessary explanation from the Nanded DEO. "Simultaneously, the Chief Electoral Officer has assured us he will also be seeking an advice from the Election Commission as to the nature of action that needs to be taken in the matter," Shri Bhandari said. ■ (FOC)

Corruption & cost escalation in Commonwealth Games projects go hand in hand : Malhotra

Indicting massive corruption in all infrastructure projects linked to the Commonwealth Games 2010 Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly Prof. V K Malhotra on December 02 told reporters that Delhi Government has been spending huge sum of money mindlessly to speed up work on them as the mega event approaches.



Congress government for not carrying out development works in unauthorized colonies, he said the pathetic condition of the slums and these colonies will be exposed to the outside world. He also feared that builders and contractors



compromise on quality of infrastructure to meet the deadline.

It is noteworthy, that not satisfied with the preparation for the event, Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) President Michael Fennel had in September sought Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh's intervention to put things in order. ■ (FOC)

Alleging that the Congress government was responsible for inordinate delays in implementation of various key projects, Prof. Malhotra said huge cost escalation of work was only benefiting the builders. Prof. Malhotra said massive corruption is taking place in all the projects being implemented by the Delhi Government. Now the Government is ready to spend any amount of money to ensure national prestige. Asked whether he has any substantial proof to back his allegation, he said the Comptroller and Auditor General in its report has already found financial irregularities in implementation of various projects. "Cost of the projects has increased three-four times. Who is responsible for it? Is it not corruption?" he asked.

The government is now increasing cost of most of the projects which will only benefit the builders and contractors," he said. Prof. Malhotra, who is also a senior vice-president of Indian Olympics Association (IOA), said the city will face huge embarrassment during the event because of the pathetic traffic and law and order situation.

Slamming the Sheila Dikshit led

ABVP protests against unique identity cards to Bangladeshis

Odisha Unit of Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) activists demonstrated before the Kendrapara district Collectorate on November 30 under the leadership of zonal ABVP secretary Shri Shyama Moga and co-ordinator Shri Amrut Mohanty protesting against the decision of the Union Government to provide Unique Identity Cards (UIDs) to illegal Bangladeshi infiltrators.

The Congress led UPA Government's decision to provide UID cards to all the citizens of the country in order to give identity proof to them so that they can enjoy all the developmental schemes from the Government was strongly opposed by the demonstrators. They urged the Government not to provide UID cards to over three crore Bangladeshi immigrants staying illegally in the country. Without preparing the National Register of Citizens (NRC), the State Government is planning to provide UID cards to the Bangladeshis which would pose a threat to national security and development of the country, they pointed out informing further that over 6,000 Bangladeshis illegally infiltrate into India every day via sea or other routes. The agitators informed that the Odisha unit of ABVP is especially concerned over the fact that the UID cards are going to be distributed in the six coastal districts of the State initially. The ABVP apprehends that the cards might be misused by non-Indians, especially the illegal Bangladeshi infiltrators which could lead to serious problems including anti-national activities.

The demonstrators also demanded that the Government should create a database by preparing the NRC on the basis of the data of the 1951 census or voter list of 1952 before issuing the UID cards.

Later, the agitators submitted a memorandum before additional district magistrate to fax it to the Prime Minister of India. ■ (FOC)

KARNATAKA

Gowda should visit flood-hit areas first : Yeddyurappa

Flaying former Prime Minister Shri Deve Gowda's allegations in Parliament of lapses in flood relief works in the state, Chief Minister Shri BS Yeddyurappa asked Shri Gowda to visit flood-ravaged districts and study the matter first before commenting on the situation.

Shri Yeddyurappa said, "Karnataka made history by spending Rs 1,000 crore in a day for flood relief works. I have respect for Shri Gowda, but instead of raising the issue in Parliament, he could have visited the flood-affected areas to study the situation. I request him to discuss the matter and guide me," he said.

Speaking to reporters on December 03 he came down heavily on the Opposition's criticism that the CM was only laying foundation stones for the rehabilitation houses. He said the state has spent Rs 1,250 crore under the Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme and the government will spend Rs 3,000 crore under the NREGS this year.

HIMACHAL PRADESH

State Govt decides to provide water filters to 15,000 schools

Himachal Government has decided to provide water filters in all 15,000 Government schools in the State. The Rs 56.55 crore scheme would be implemented in a phased manner and the schools where hand pumps had already been installed or static water tanks were available would be taken up in the first phase.

Irrigation and Public Health Minister Shri Ravinder Singh Ravi said an ambitious programme to install hand pumps in all Government schools was already under implementation and with the installation of 'aquaguards' in schools students would get pure drinking water. Fifty per cent payment would be made during the installation while 10 per cent payment released every year over a period of five years to ensure that the services were properly maintained. "Thereafter, the local Panchayats or school administration would be responsible for maintenance," he said.

Referring to Shah Nahar Project, hanging for nearly 26 years, the Minister said that the cost of the project had escalated from Rs 142 crore to Rs 311 crore and the Union government has declared the project as "single project" from 2008 and as a result ninety per cent funds would come as grants from the Centre.

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Identifying leakage as the biggest problem encountered by the Irrigation Department, Ravi said that the a penalty of Rs 57.85 lakhs was imposed on Solan based Hill Centre Engineers, while a fine of Rs 3 lakh was imposed on Shimla based contractor Ajay Kuthiala for the leakage in pipelines of Giri project. With a view of decentralising water management system and entrusting the control to Panchayati Raj bodies, the department has launched an "information and education" programme to enable these functionaries to discharge their duties in an effective manner, the Minister said. Shri Ravi said that 600 water testing kits were being distributed to panchayats to monitor the water quality as well as surveillance of water sources.

HARYANA

Under govt. instructions Haryana police targeting BJP

Bharatiya Janata Party leader and former Education Minister Shri Ram Vilas Sharma decried the move of Haryana police regarding filing criminal cases against BJP leaders on baseless charges. "Misbehaving with the leader of BJP Legislative party in the State and political conspiracy to involve MLAs of political parties in opposition are shameful acts of the ruling Congress Government in the State," said Sharma while talking to the media persons.

Shri Sharma said BJP national president Shri Rajnath Singh is taking up this issue in the Parliament highlighting how Congress Government in Haryana has gone insane as a result of its poor performance in the last Assembly polls in the State and how they are misbehaving with the opposition MLAs and putting them behind bars through their bureaucrats by framing false cases against the complainants.

UTTARAKHAND

State announces Rs 197 SAP for sugarcane

The Uttarakhand Government on December 03 announced a State Administrative Price (SAP) of Rs 192 and Rs 197 a quintal for normal and high quality sugarcane respectively.

It has also made it mandatory for sugar mills to pay sugarcane price within 15 days of its purchase. Those who violate this order will be liable for legal action. This would be around 33 per cent more than the SAP in the last crushing season. While disclosing this to media,

State Sugarcane Minister Shri Madan Kaushik said following the instruction of the High Court the State had constituted a sugarcane price fixation committee comprising Additional Secretary Vinod Sharma, Master Nagendra, Vijendra Saini, Rupendra Singh Bagga, Satpal Rana, a representative of Kashipur Sugar Mill and GB Pant Agriculture & Technical University Pantnagar, Joint Director of Statistical Agriculture Directorate and a nominated member of Sugarcane and Sugar Commissioner.

The committee considered the views of farmers, preparation of farm, cost of sugarcane seed, fertiliser and technology and cost to carry sugarcane up to sugar mills. They individually interacted with sugarcane farmers and recommended for the sugarcane SAP. Kaushik further said that this would be more than that in Maharashtra, Punjab, Bihar and South India, where they fix price on the basis of sugar content.

Despite knowing the fact that sugarcane price is yet to be announced by the Union Government and the matter is pending before the Supreme Court, the Uttarakhand Government has decided to announce its SAP. He also claimed that despite a fall in the area of sugarcane cultivation, production would be equal or more than that in last year because the yield is better than last year. He also made it clear that if any sugar mill, including cooperative, failed to pay the price for sugarcane within 15 days then the mill would be liable for legal action. While comparing with the crushing season of 2006-07 Kaushik informed that then the sugarcane SAP was Rs 127 per quintal but this year his Government announced Rs 192-197 per quintal at the entrance of sugar mill.

It may be mentioned here that the SAP announced by Uttarakhand would be higher than that in other States. For instance in Punjab SAP is Rs 175-180 per quintal and in Haryana it is Rs 175-185 per quintal.

BIHAR

State committed to strengthening ties with Mauritius : Modi

Deputy Chief Minister Shri Sushil Kumar Modi, at a function held at the Soochna Bhawan in Patna on December 3, released a collection of short stories written by Shri Raj Hiranman who, like many other Mauritians, shares his roots with Bihar. "The emotional and ancestral bond that the people of Mauritius and Bihar share is unbreakable and we are committed to further strengthen it by engaging in various cultural and social activities

that would assist in bringing the people of two different lands even more closer," Shri Modi said.

The Deputy Chief Minister also talked about the state-sponsored 'Search your Root' program designed for the Mauritians, and other expatriates, to find their origin in Bihar.

Shri Modi also expressed his gratitude towards Mauritius Prime Minister Shri Naveen Chandra Ramgoolam for visiting Bihar a few years ago and inviting a Bihari delegation to Mauritius to exchange business and cultural ideas with each other. The book 'Ghao Kare Gambheer' is a collection of short stories based on the real life experiences of the author, Shri Modi said.

Goa

BJP to expose illegal mining in Goa

Leader of Opposition in the Goa assembly Shri Manohar Parrikar, talking to reporters in Panaji said that the party legislators will put the Congress ruled state government on the mat on illegal mining issue. "Illegal mining is getting immense political support and we will expose who is Goa's Madhu Koda on the floor of the house," he stated.

"The beneficiaries of illegal mining are right in the state cabinet and district administration officers are paying nelson's eye to the misdeeds, at the cost of state's environment," the leader of opposition stated. Goa's assembly session would be held from December 15 to December 18. Shri Parrikar said that around 560 hectares of land in state's Quepem taluka is planned to be mined for iron ore, which is additional to the huge tracts of existing areas fallen prey for illegal mining.

The BJP legislators who met on December 04 has also decided to rake up the issue of senior police officers visiting off shore casino and partying while there has been a massive opposition for these floating vessels.

The state police had recently faced severe embarrassment when four of its officers to the rank of Superintendent of Police were found partying on the off shore casino. The BJP said that they will expose the lethargic law and order situation in the state, which has let the criminals to operate even from behind the bars. "Ashpak Bengre (notorious criminal) is managing his affairs sitting behind the bars while state Home Minister Ravi Naik, who is having all the powers, is not able to handle the ministry properly," he said. Goa unit of BJP on December 04 said that they would expose Goa's Madhu Koda during the forthcoming session of the state legislative assembly. ■

HAPPINESS

By Shri Swami Sivananda



“At the doors of large granaries are placed traps containing fried rice (Moori) to catch mice. The mice, attracted by the flavour of the fried rice, forgets the more solid pleasure of tasting the rice inside the granary, and fall into the trap. They are caught therein and killed. Just so is the case with the soul. It stands on the threshold of Divine bliss, which is like millions of the highest worldly pleasures solidified into one; but instead of striving for that bliss, it allows itself to be enticed by the petty pleasures of the world and falls into the trap of Maya, the great illusion, and dies therein”. - Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa

Man wants happiness. He shuns pain. He moves heaven and earth to get the happiness he wants from sensual objects, and lo, gets himself entangled in the extricable meshes of Maya. Poor man! He does not know that these objects are perishable and evanescent, finite and conditioned in time, space, and causation. And what is more, he fails to get the desired happiness from them. Sensual pleasure is tantalizing. There is enchantment so long as man does not possess the objects. The moment he is in possession of the object, the charm vanishes. He finds that he is in entanglement.

The bachelor thinks of his marriage, day and night. He thinks he is in imprisonment after the marriage is over. He is not able to satisfy the extravagant wants of his wife. He wants to run away from the house to forests.

The rich but childless man thinks he will be more happy by getting a son, goes on pilgrimage to Ramesvaram and Kasi, and performs various religious ceremonies. But when he gets a child, he feels miserable; the child suffers from epileptic fits and his money is given away to doctors. Even then, there is no cure. This is Mayaic jugglery. The whole world is fraught with temptation.

The Source of Happiness

There is no happiness at all in any of the objects of the world. There is not an iota of happiness in objects, because they are insentient. Even the sensual pleasure is a reflection of the Atmic bliss only. It is sheer ignorance to think that we derive any pleasure from the sense-objects or from the mind.

When there is a desire in the mind, the mind is filled with Rajas. It is in an agitated condition. It is restless and unpeaceful. It will be restless till the desired object is attained. When the object is attained and enjoyed, when the desire is gratified, the mind moves towards the Inner Soul. It ceases functioning. It is filled with Sattva. All thoughts subside for a split second; the mind rests in the Soul within. The Soul's bliss is reflected in the intellect. But the ignorant man thinks that he is getting the happiness from the object; just as the dog which is biting a dry bone imagines that it is getting the pleasure from the bone, that the blood is oozing from the bone, whereas in reality, the blood comes from its own palate.

Real Happiness Is Within

Real happiness is within you. It is in the Atman. It is subjective. It manifests when the mind is concentrated. When the Indriyas are

withdrawn from the objects outside, when the mind is one-pointed, when there is Vasana-kshya and Manonasa, when you become desireless and thoughtless, Atmic bliss begins to dawn, spiritual Ananda begins to thrill.

The musk is in the navel of the deer, but it runs here and there to smell it. The chain is in the neck of the damsel, but she runs hither and thither in search of it. The precious diamond is within you, but you run after the broken glass-pieces in vain. Even so, the ocean of bliss is within you; the fountain of joy is within you; and yet, you run here and there in search of it. The Sun of suns is ever shining in you, but your blind eyes cannot behold it. The eternal sound is ringing within you, but your deaf ears cannot hear it.

Go wherever you may, to Gulmarg or Pahalgam in Kashmir, to Darjeeling in Simla, to Vienna or the Alps. It is all the same. You will not find any real rest. The charming scenery may soothe the retina for a second. Raga, Dvesha, jealousy, passion and greed are everywhere. You will find the same earth, the same sky, the same air, and the same water. And you carry with you the same mind. Imagination and change of place have deceived not a few. O man! Be contented. Live where you may, but discipline the mind and the

senses. Meditate on the Inner self, the Antaratman, ceaselessly. Here you will find everlasting peace. Mind will stop deceiving you now.

Raja Bhartrihari, Raja Gopichand, Lord Buddha deserted kingdom and all pleasurable objects, palaces, music, children, wife, etc., to attain Atmic bliss which is everlasting. They attained immortality. They are not fools. Had there been real happiness in objects, they would have stuck to this world. The difficulty is that the worldly men with gross Vyavaharic Buddhi are not able to understand or comprehend a supersensual spiritual bliss that exists beyond the senses, mind and intellect. ■

(Excerpts from the book "Bliss Divine" by Swami Shri Sivanandji Maharaj of the Divine Life Society, Rishikesh)

Injustice was perpetrated on HP whenever Cong ruled at Centre : Dhumal

Himachal Chief Minister Prof. Prem Kumar Dhumal on December 01 lashed out at the Congress led UPA Government for discriminating against the BJP ruled State of Himachal, saying 'injustice was perpetrated on Himachal whenever the Congress ruled at the Centre.'

Sharply reacting to the affidavit filed by the Centre in the Supreme Court, opposing the claim of Himachal for 12 per cent free power in all hydro-power projects under Bhakra Beas management Board (BBMB), Prof. Dhumal said that it was like adding insult to injury.

Talking to media persons, Prof Dhumal asked Union Ministers Shri Virbhadra Singh and Shri Anand Sharma to prove their bonafide that they were concerned about the long-term interest of Himachal by pressing the Centre to change its stance. He said that fertile lands measuring thousands of hectares were submerged in Bhakra and Pong dams but the oustees who lost their homes and hearth were yet to be rehabilitated. Himachal could not raise its voice and stake its claim as it was not a full fledged state. He further said by giving 12 per cent free power as royalty in hydropower projects commissioned after September 1990, the centre had accepted that the demand of the State for 'royalty' was genuine and justified and was intriguing that the Centre had opposed the demand for royalty in hydro-power projects.

Prof. Dhumal asked the Union Steel Minister Shri Virbhadra Singh to clarify the stand as it was his Government which filed the case in the Supreme Court. He said that Punjab reorganisation Act 1966 was passed by the Parliament and it was the responsibility of the Centre to ensure implementation of the Act.

Taking a dig at the Centre for appeasing the States infected by terrorism and violence, Prof. Dhumal alleged the Centre was deliberately ignoring Himachal and acting against its interests simply because the people were peace loving and not resorting to violence or other disruptive activities. ■ (FOC)



continued from Dr. Joshi

Whatever crop you may take - rice, wheat, maize, groundnut, sugarcane etc. - its per hectare production in India is very less in comparison to that of other major countries. Why are we not augmenting our production capacity? And this situation has not cropped up just today. How will you rein in inflation in such circumstances? As far as coarse grains are concerned, they have fallen off the eyes of the Government. The coarse grains are very nutritious and easy to grow. They need less water also.

I am astonished to note that the farmers are not interested in the farming of pulses. This is due to the wrong pricing policy of the Government. I feel that the Government wants to showcase the high rate of GDP growth by pushing the inflation rate up. This is unethical. As regards sugar, there is no dearth in the sugar stocks. It is the faulty distribution policy which has created this situation. 65 percent of our sugar goes to the industries and the traders, whereas meagre 35 percent is left for the public. The Government should enhance the levy sugar to 25-30 percent and it must understand that the model of industrial agriculture and globalized trade on food are responsible for the creation of hunger. Junk and processed food is being forced on the country through globalization. If our country depends on import for foodgrains, our sovereignty will be in danger. So, I would like to request the Hon'ble Minister to rise up and challenge the wrong policies of the Government. We hope that the policies being pursued in favour of globalization and agricultural commercialization will be changed and the healthy agricultural tradition of our country shall be revived. ■