

DALIT VOICE

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Denied Human Rights

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**Dalits must be resettled :
Thus spake Ambedkar**

Thus Spake Ambedkar

Untouchables must be regrouped into separate villages of exclusive Dalit settlements

RESOLUTION NO. IV referred to in the foregoing part of this paper is to my mind quite self-explanatory and not much detailed comment is necessary to explain its purport. Nor is it possible in the compass of this short paper to deal with it in more than general terms. The demand for **separate settlements** is the result of what might be called "The New Life Movement" among the Untouchables. The object of the movement is to free the Untouchables from the thralldom of the Hindus. So long as the present arrangement continues it is impossible for the Untouchables either to free themselves from the yoke of the Hindus or to get rid of their Untouchability. It is the close-knit association of the Untouchables with the Hindus living in the same villages which marks them out as Untouchables and which enables the Hindus to identify them as being untouchables. India is admittedly a land of villages and so long as the village system provides an easy method of marking out and identifying the Untouchable, the Untouchable has no escape from Untouchability. *It is the village system which perpetuates Untouchability and the Untouchables therefore demand that it should be broken and the Untouchables who are as a matter of fact socially separate should be made separate geographically and territorially also, and be grouped into separate villages exclusively of Untouchables in which the distinction of the high and the low and of Touchable and Untouchable will find no place.* The second reason for demanding separate settlements arises out of the economic position of the Untouchables in the villages. That their condition is most pitiable no one will deny. They are a body of landless labourers who are entirely dependent upon such employment as the Hindus may choose to give them and on such wages as the Hindus may find it profitable to pay. In the villages in which they live they cannot engage in any trade or occupation, for owing to untouchability no Hindu will deal with them. *It is therefore obvious that there is no way of earning a living which is open to the Untouchables so long as they live as a dependent part of the Hindu village.* This economic dependence has also other consequences besides the condition of poverty and degradation which proceeds from it. The Hindu has a code of life, which is part of his religion. This code of life gives him many privileges and heaps upon the Untouchable many indignities which are incompatible with the sanctity of human life. By the New Life Movement which has taken hold of the Untouchables, *the Untouchables all over India are fighting against the indignities and injustices which the Hindus in the name of their religion have heaped upon them. A perpetual war is going on every day in every village between the Hindus and the Untouchables. It does not see the light of the day.* The Hindu Press is not prepared to advertise it lest it should injure the cause of their freedom in the eyes of the world. The silent struggle is however a fact. Under the village system the Untouchable has found himself greatly handicapped in his struggle for free and honourable life. It is a contest between the economically and socially strong Hindus and an economically poor and socially small group of Untouchables. That the Hindus most often succeed in pulling down Untouchables is largely due to many causes. *The Hindu has the Police and the Magistracy on his side. In a quarrel between the Untouchables and the Hindus the Untouchables will never get protection from the Police or justice from the Magistrate. The Police and the Magistracy are Hindus, and they love their class more than their duty.* But the chief weapon in the armoury of the Hindus is economic power which they possess over the poor Untouchables living in the village. The economic processes by which the Hindus can hold down the Untouchables in their struggle for equality are well described in the Report made by a Committee appointed by the Government of Bombay in 1928 to investigate into the grievances of the Depressed Classes and from which the following extracts are made. It illuminates the situation in a manner so simple that even foreigners who do not know the mysteries of the Hindu social system may understand what tyranny the Hindus can practise upon the Untouchables.

(Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Writings & Speeches, Volume IX, Rs.50 1991, Govt., of Maharashtra, Bombay). The book may be had from Director, Government Printing, Stationery and Publications, Netaji Subhash Road, Bombay - 400 004.

Another nazi bid on Babri Masjid ends in fiasco : failure of Muslim leadership becomes total

The high power drama staged by the Hindu nazis at Ayodhya in July to coincide with the opening of the monsoon session of Parliament ended in a fiasco after two weeks. The time was carefully chosen to prevent a debate on the Rs. 4,000-crore bank fraud by the Bania - Brahmin gang which apart from being owners of all major "national" toilet papers are also the patrons and financiers of all Hindu nazi organisations. The script for this high power drama was written at a conclave of chiefs of all nazi organisations, RSS, BJP, VHP, Bajrang Dal, Ramjanam Bhoomi etc - who are different only in names but sacred thread in content - plus the hitherto unnamed and unorganised "sadhus" who are the latest recruits to Hindu nazi parties. Each one was provided with a particular well rehearsed role and dialogue. The brahminical toilet papers were ready with well-prepared reports. The beginning was very fine.

They very successfully stalled the Parliament debate on the Harshad Mehta scam. Hats off to the nazi drama. That the pro-nazi PM, P.V. Narasimha Rao, also colluded in this nazi high power drama is a public knowledge. Not only that, they were 100% successful in showing to the world that it was a pure and simple drama.

Hindu - Muslim clash : It is this success of the drama that ultimately boomeranged on the nazis themselves. The Indian masses and leaders of all nationalities soon realised that the Babri Masjid is not a Muslim property but an Indian property, and everybody felt that it is his duty to protect it and that they cannot leave it to Muslims only.

The nazis hoped that there would be Hindu - Muslim clashes leading to "Hindu unity". But what happened was the exact opposite : Hindu nazi vs. Indians. The

nazis got totally isolated. The less than 5% nazis came on one side and 95% Indians - meaning all other non-Hindus came on the other.

DV proves right : We feel this is a very important development. This proved that we were right when we said long back that "Babri Masjid will clean cow belt" (DV edit May 1, 1987).

Like the nazis, all other political leaders and sobre elites also feared that the incident would lead to Hindu Muslim clashes all over India. But to their utter disappointment nothing happened. They all miscalculated the Muslim common sense, sobriety and political acumen. Barring two places, Trivandrum and Malegaon, far removed from Ayodhya, the Muslim masses simply watched the battle between Hindu nazis and Indians as a whole. The Muslim silence shocked the nazis. *The Muslim common sense convinced them that the entire show was just a stage-managed drama not on the Babri Masjid, not on its property, not even within its precincts but in the 2.77 acres of recently acquired land with which Muslims are not at all concerned.*

Muslims laughed within themselves and said : "Let the nazis build as many temples as they want on their land. Who cares? Who are we to prevent them? But if they touch our Masjid, *Kabardar*".

Warning : Though the land on which the nazis played their high drama to entertain the gullible people of UP, who are getting disgusted by the collapsing UP nazi govt., does not belong technically to the Masjid still the digging does effect the Masjid as the entrance is now getting blocked. As the nazis have failed to touch the Masjid even after several attempts, let alone demolishing it - which even their grandfathers dare not do - they have started troubling the Masjid and thereby the

INDIAN RULERS EAT DUST AT OLYMPICS

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Bangalore: Defeat and disgrace. This is what India's rulers faced at the Barcelona Olympics. Gold was never expected. Not even a silver. No even copper or an iron piece. Finally, they did not get even a scrap of paper. Even unheard of countries small and weak got away with gold but India's rulers ate dust. We expected this. But the rulers are shameless. They are not worried about the humiliation. What they want is eternal enjoyment at others cost and that is what they got at Barcelona. Except boasting, bragging, swindling and ruthless violence against those who protest, they know nothing else. They have learnt nothing, forgotten nothing. (Aug. 5, 92)

Muslims via the willing judiciary which in India is as communal as its press.

To save their ill-gotten properties and positions, the nazi upper castes are using the press, police, judiciary and even banks to hurt and harm the human rights of Muslims and Dalits. Our people are coming to know this mischief. They are learning the nazi mischievous deeds daily. And once they are convinced the results would be disastrous so we once again warn the nazis and also the pro-nazi Prime Minister : Hands of SC/ST/BCs and Muslims/Christians and Sikhs. Don't exhaust our patience.

Three weapons : All the more it is a very big feather on the Muslim cap. We have been telling that Muslim elites can be finished through the three deadly brahminical weapons - *Sama, Dana* and *Beda* - but the oppressed Muslim masses - the targets of the fourth weapon, *Danda*, will never yield.

Here again, we have proved right as we correctly understand the Muslim mass psychology.

That the nazi drama ended in a fiasco is evident from the facts that today the nazi VHP chief, Ashok Singhal, is begging the Prime Minister for an out-of court settlement of the entire issue. His earlier stand that "no power on earth could prevent the construction of Ram temple" no longer sustains. The nazi double-fiddle : "Courts cannot decide on history, courts cannot decide on matters of faith, we have the people's mandate etc." and the opening of the brahminic old bag of tricks and jugglery of words by Kalyan Singh, Advani, Joshi that the construction work is not done by the UP Govt., we have no power to control *kar sevaks*, any interference with *kar seva* would cause law and order problem etc., all these faded into oblivion. That is why they begged for a face-saving formula.

False press reports : The UP masses already fed up by the nazi misrule did not respond to the fake *kar seva*. That majority of the *kar sevaks* were sent from the nazi - ruled MP and yet the number did not get beyond a few hundreds and some were paid labourers proved that the UP masses did not support the latest nazi actions. All this was kept a guarded secret with the help of the toilet papers.

The nazi - dominated 'national' napkin papers overloaded itself with false reports. Even when the TV announced that the Supreme Court issued a stay order, the napkin papers headlines were "SC refused to stay *kar seva*".

Simranjit Mann Call : When the nazis started getting the heat, Simranjit Singh Mann gave a call to the Sikhs to march to Ayodhya if the Babri Masjid was touched.

The newly formed but daily rising Islamic Sevak Sangh in Trivandrum prepared itself to launch a self-defence attack on nazis and the situation in Malegaon went out of control.

These developments along with the earlier Buddhist attempt to chase the Brahmin priests out of Bodh Gaya temple in Bihar further chilled the bone marrow of Hindu nazis.

And the desperate nazis used the neutral sadhus to negotiate with the Neogi Brahmin to come to their rescue and he obliged, of course with a rider that he would solve the entire problem.

This synchronised with the completion of the concrete platform which was the first stage of the Ram-janambhoomi temple. Both sides were trying to pluck the feather to fix it on their own cap, each claiming that the credit for the stoppage of *kar seva* should go to them.

V.P. Singh captures Muslim hearts : Even after this total humiliation the Muslim reaction was total silence. On one side are the nazis and on the other side is the Neogi Brahmin whose earlier credentials are not free from suspicion as the lieutenant of the hotheaded Arya Samjist of Hyderabad, Swami Ramanand Thirth. Though the Hindu nazis met with yet another failure to touch the Babri Masjid, fear still lurks in the hearts of all Muslims who have lost faith in PVN. It was once again VP Singh who came to the rescue of Muslims.

Be that as it may, we would like to warn the Muslim elites. *Those who stood with the Muslim masses in their gravest hour of crisis are the Dalits and backwards. But for their support the nazis would have taken the risk of attempting on the mosque.* If India burns, the nazis will be happy because they are Aryans and do not belong to India. Then the losers will be Muslims on one side and on the other side the SC/ST/BCs.

The Backward Castes and Dalits have proved once again that they are one with the Muslims. There is no difference between them. Both are blood brothers. Most of the Muslims are their kith and kin. SC/ST/BCs are not Hindus. They are all victims of the Hindu blackmail just as the Muslims are. The two-week Ayodhya drama has proved this point. Let this be the latest ground for Muslim - Dalit-Backward Castes unity for our onward march to protect the Babri Masjid from future attacks and also to meet Hindu nazi challenges.

Babri Masjid should be viewed as the symbol of Indian unity and integrity. Nazis are bent upon breaking it. We are bent upon protecting it. And to protect it, India must be saved from Hindu nazis. ■

Upper castes dividing India in the name of "Hindu unity"

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Bangalore: Babasaheb Ambedkar said India is not a nation but a group of nations. (DV Sept. 1, 1991 p.17) If India is a "group of nations" which are those "groups"? These facts are hidden by the ruling upper castes because the moment the hidden facts come to light the different groups, victimised by the upper castes, will know that the so-called upper castes styling themselves by the new-found name of "Hindu" are a small minority of less than 15% of India's population.

What then are these "groups"? Each group comprises a *jati* which is the correct name. Because "caste" being an English word it does not fully convey the meaning of *jati*. In other words, each "*jati*" is a "nation" by itself. And several "nations" put together constitute India.

Each jati is a tribe: Before a "nation" came to be called "*jati*" by the Hindus, and they hierarchically arranged it on an ascending degree of reverence and descending degree of contempt, each *jati* was a tribe. What we today call a *jati* was once upon a time a tribe - fully autonomous. One tribe was equal to the other tribe. Equal but different. All these are a sociological fact and historical truth. And the following report in the *Deccan Herald* (July 20, 1992) proves our point:

Gulbarga: An atmosphere of mistrust and fear prevails in Afzalpur taluk which has been rudely jolted out of complacency following the violence that rocked Devalaganapur in the taluk on July 17 leaving four persons, including a police sub-inspector, dead. The Devalaganapur incident, coming within two months of the killing of three Dalits in Allagi (B) village, which is also in Afzalpur taluk, has fuelled fears about similar incidents recurring any moment anywhere in the taluk. Even as the administration is contemplating measures to prevent the possibility of caste hostilities assuming menacing proportions, Hindus of the taluk, who met on July 13, have formed the Afzalpur Taluk Janajagruthi Samithi. Over 2,000 Hindus participated in the meeting which was the first step towards the formation of a non-Dalit body.

The report says the Hindus (in this case Lingayats) are ganging up. They are ganging up against whom? Of course against Dalits.

Lingayats as oppressors: Why against Dalits? Because Lingayats comprising the upper castes in this area (Hyderabad Karnataka) constitute the oppressors. Why should the oppressors (Lingayats) gang up against the oppressed (Dalits)? They have to because they constitute a separate "nation". And this nation fears that they are under threat from the oppressed "nation" of Dalits who are already well

organised to face the Lingayat persecution.

And since this Lingayat ruling class of "Hindus" is a minority, they have injected the Hindu poison into the blood of the different tribal units who are today known as "Backward Castes". When this poison is injected the BCs also will get enraged against Dalits and will become the foot soldiers of Lingayats. This is the meaning of "Hindu unity". (Hindu unity leads to disunity of India, DV Edit. Jan. 16, 1991)

What is happening in Gulbarga district of Karnataka is also happening all over India. Each *jati* is consolidating itself, arming itself to face the other *jati*.

And this is bound to happen. It is part of a sociological process. In other words, it is called polarisation of social forces. This polarisation is good.

Bloody battlefield: Nay, it will intensify all over India, turning the country into a bloody battlefield.

Which police or army can control this new type of Caste war?

As the policemen and army jawans also belong to different *jatis*, they too will join their blood brothers when the caste war begins. The police and army will then refuse to obey the Hindu rulers.

As the Hindu rulers deploy police and army more and more to suppress the already oppressed *jatis*, their blood too will start boiling and they will take sides. After all, they too are human beings.

Sinking Hindu boat: What will the Hindu rulers do then? They are just 15% and even this 15% is not a united house. The *shudras* (meaning slaves) forming 80% of the Hindu population will be the first to desert and jump out of the sinking Hindu boat when such a war begins. When the real "Hindus" (meaning the Aryans) are left alone and when the crisis stares them right on their face, the real Hindus (meaning Aryans), whose number is not even 5% - who duped everybody calling anybody and everybody as "Hindu" and that Hindus form 85% of the country - will be finally left alone and this microscopic minority of "Hindus" (Aryans), meaning the *bhoodevatas* - who have assumed the false name of Hindus to dupe the world - have no other go but to run away to USA. They have no other alternative.

All preparations have been made to flee knowing full well that their defeat is certain. As India does not belong to them and as they have no love for the land, they will happily catch the next flight to America. Until then they will continue their destructive game of "Hindu unity" to destroy India's unity. And once they destroy India's unity, they will not remain in India. ■

Reservation for Dalits in Bangalore Catholic Schools

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Bangalore : We are happy to announce that in our ten - year - old battle with the church particularly the more conservative Catholic church, we have at last won.

The Catholic church's Bangalore Archdiocese with 46 high schools (31,000 students) and 56 primary schools (46,000 students) has taken a revolutionary decision to admit Dalit students on a priority basis reducing "merit" admissions to mere 10%.

This is a major reversal of the admission policy by which Christian schools used to admit mostly upper caste students, ignoring their own Dalit Christians.

Dr. Ambrose Pinto, a Jesuit priest and a lecturer at the St. Joseph's College here, is the brain behind this scheme.

Three crimes against Christ : We had noticed considerable resistance to our proposal not only from the college management but even from the church leadership when the Editor of *Dalit Voice* addressed principals of all Bangalore city Catholic high schools on Feb. 20, 1991 ("*Three crimes against Christ : Failure of church to support Dalit liberation*", DV June 16, 1991).

We are thankful to Fr. Ambrose for persuading the church authorities to fall in line with our proposal and we hope both the Protestant and Catholic church all over India will now follow the lead given by Bangalore.

As per this "revised admission policy", principals have been directed (1) not to deny admission to SC/ST students; (2) all applications shall be scrutinised in the following order :

- (a) Catholic Christians 50% in science, 60% and above in commerce/arts;
- (b) SC/ST and Backward Castes and
- (c) then others. Admission on "merit" will be reduced to 10%. Great.

Fr. Ambrose, who is pressing for a pro-Dalit shift within the church, said, the three Jesuit-run colleges here would also follow the same policy. As Dalits are the "poorest of the poor", the fees will be as much as the student can afford. If a student can't afford, the education will be free and on the top of that the student will get scholarship, he said.

The Bangalore archdiocese has 3.5 lakh Catholic Christian population of which the majority are Dalits, Fr. Ambrose said on the basis of the survey he just conducted (*Dalit Christians: Socio-Economic Survey*, Ambrose Pinto, SJ, 1992, Ashirwad, 30. St. Marks Road, Bangalore-1, Rs. 15).

CBCI direction: Asked if this revolutionary admission policy would be extended to the fashionable Catholic educational institutions like the Mount Carmel College, Shophia High School etc. which take pride in educating upper caste girls, he showed the resolution of the CBCI's Jan.-7, 1992 resolution which every Catholic was bound to obey.

In our booklet, *Christians and Dalit Liberation* (Dalit Sahitya Akademy 1987), we had given a six-point answer to the question, "How to make the church revolutionary?" The very first point was "Christian educational institutions must introduce reservations to SC/STs giving preference to Dalit Christians". (p.23).

We congratulate Archbishop Alphonsus Mathias of Bangalore for boldly implementing the reservation to SC/STs though the decision has come so late. He must now direct the Mount Carmel College etc. to fall in line. Samata Sainik Dal and other Dalit organisations must start an agitation if they fail. An ultimatum may be served fixing the date.

Christian education institutions all over India are warned to fall in line as early as possible.

DALIT VOICE DATA BANK

The reservation policy (human rights) which is the result of the struggle of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar no doubt created many avenues to the Scheduled Castes/Tribes people in education and employment. But the opportunities assured in the very Constitution of the country to the educated SC/STs are internally sabotaged and externally blocked by the upper castes who constitute the country's ruling class.

The educated SC/STs have to struggle hard to compete with others to secure their rightful place in the govt. sector. This struggle becomes all the more hard in the case of highly educated SC/STs.

Private sector doors are totally closed for us. When we turn to opportunities **abroad**, our youths dare not dream of it. All those who are sent abroad for better job on lucrative pay are upper caste/Aryans and their allies.

Keeping this fact in mind, to facilitate employment we have thought of an **employment exchange** for our youth. Professionals and technical experts, mainly engineers and doctors, are requested to make use of this facility. They can send their biodata to the following address:

DALIT VOICE DATA BANK,
NO. 109, 7TH CROSS, PALACE LOWER ORCHARDS,
BANGALORE - 560 003.

"Marxists" as communal as Hindu nazis

S. P. SINGH, TAKIAPARA, PATNA -12

With ref. to the report in the *Hindustan Times* (June 14, 92), I wonder if this "locking of horns" is for mating or a real fight. Seshan did not behave like a mad bull for the first time. If counting was stopped at Ballygunge and repoll ordered in some booths subsequently, there was at least some plea for it. There were some violent clashes during the poll.

What about the Patna parliamentary constituency in 1991? No report, no clashes, no inquiry, no repoll—simply the election was countermanded without anybody opening his mouth. This is cold-blooded murder. A similar game was played at the Vaishali Assembly election this year.

Does Basu expect P.V. Narasimha Rao to remove Seshan simply because he has helped Rao to get S.D. Sharma elected? PVN is fully assured of upper caste support in every party whether it is CPI, CPM, BJP or even the JD. The BJP people are more shrewd. They put up a ST candidate for President's post when they became fully sure that S.D. Sharma would win. The no-confidence motion was a mere eye-wash.

In the last year's election and this year's too, Seshan humiliated a number of IAS officers of the Bihar cadre. Why Basu did not raise any voice then? Was there no CPI or CPM when Indira Gandhi called for conscience vote in the 1969 presidential election? These sacred thread "marxists" will continue to play this nefarious game so long as the SC/ST/BCs do not have eyes and ears. Was there no Jyoti Basu when three Supreme Court judges were dismissed in 1973? Seshan represents the Aryans. Beware of this Alsation. ■

NO TO DR. AMBEDKAR VARSITY

Bombay: Maharashtra chief minister, Sudhakar Naik on July 27 reiterated that the renaming of Marathwada University would be possible only through a "change of heart" (*Times of India*, July 28)

5000 DALITS ARRESTED

Aurangabad : Some 5000 Dalits, led by long-march leader, Jogendra Kawade on July 27 courted arrested here as part of their jail bhara agitation to protest against the State Government's 'failure' to rename Marathwada University after the late Dr. B. R. Ambedkar. The agitation, held under the banner of 'Namantarwadi Kirti Samiti', was held near the statue of Dr. Ambedkar at Bhadkal gate. (*Hindu* July 28). ■

Dalits are indigenous

YOGESH VARHADE, UNITED NATIONS, GENEVA

GENEVA July 30 : I have given my testimony to UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations. It was well received.

We are now accepted as the Dalits - indigenous peoples of India along with the Tribals of India. Prof. Kisku, Presented the paper on tribals.

The Indian govt. as usual denied that India has any indigenous populations. They gave the same statement as last year, using Prof. Andre Battaile's bullshit.

Please let our brothers and sisters know that this is just a start and we have a long way to go. I am doing lot of meetings with other indigenous groups for understanding on our problems. I am in touch with Rev. Bob Scott of the World Council of Churches. Papers I shall send in two weeks from Canada.

Vasant Moon dropped?

Bombay: Ambedkarists have been dropped from the Dr. Ambedkar source material publication committee of the state government which has so far published 10 valuable volumes of the social reformer's speeches and writings and is set to publish five more.

Among these dropped from the committee are: S.S. Rege, who was close to Dr. Ambedkar as a researcher and librarian, P.T. Borale, R.R. Bhole, chairperson of Dr. Ambedkar's People's Education society, B.C. Kamble, RPI leader, Shantabai Dani, and Vasant Moon, a biographer of Dr. Ambedkar and officer on special duty in the committee since 1973.

Vasant Moon said the eleventh volume would deal with Dr. Ambedkar's contribution in drafting the Constitution between 1946 and 1949. The twelfth volume will include his work as Union minister, his role in preparing the Hindu code bill and his speeches. (*Times of India* July 31). ■

Slum population growing

New Delhi: Calcutta has the largest slum population in the country followed by Bombay, Delhi and Madras as per an estimation in 1990, the Rajya Sabha was told on July 31.

The slum population in Calcutta was 4.38 million, 4.12 million in Greater Bombay, 3.20 million in Delhi and 2.10 million in Madras. (PTI - *Deccan Herald* Aug.1)

All those who live in slums are mostly SC/ST/BCs and Muslims. No Brahmin is found there - **Editor.** ■

Amnesty International cannot trust Indian press

RHONA LINDSAY, 278A-DERBY ROAD, LENTON, NOTTINGHAM, ENGLAND, NG7 1PZ

I am a member of Amnesty International, British Section, **Journalists' Network**, and I write to you on behalf of the **Network**, which was formed last year by a small group of workers in the print and broadcast media. Our aim is to highlight the human rights problems faced by journalists.

We campaign on behalf of media workers who have disappeared or become prisoners of conscience, imprisoned, tortured or threatened in the course of their legitimate work. We lobby politicians and governments on behalf of media workers and make others in the media aware of Amnesty's aims and encourage them to take action. In the past year the **Journalists' Network** has expanded greatly and we are now pleased to have members in many parts of Britain.

Power of publication: I believe that journalists can play an important role in human rights protection. As journalists we have access to information which others lack. *We have the ability and the power of publication. Using these we can strive together to heighten the awareness of the general public and*

governments to violations of human rights.

As you will know, Amnesty International published a report on March 25, "India - Torture, Rapes and Deaths in Custody". The report, which focused on the use of torture by the police, army and paramilitary in every state in your country, drew heavily on reports in the Indian media.

Human rights: Without such reports, human rights abuses would often go unnoticed. The efforts of the Indian media are a vital source of information to the international community and especially to bodies such as Amnesty International which are denied access for research purposes.

It is our duty as journalists to make the world aware of these horrific abuses of human rights. The Indian govt. has dismissed Amnesty's report claiming it is unsubstantiated. *Your own reactions to this official response are of great interest to us and I would welcome your views on the matter. I would respectfully ask you to write to me at my address with your opinions.*

BRAHMINICAL MEDIA

Our journal represents the persecuted sections of India. Though we comprise over 85% of India's population, we have no voice as the media is owned by the ruling class. This ruling class brahminical media's main objective is to suppress truth and spread falsehood. So, if you think that there is any hope in the Indian media you are thoroughly mistaken.

In fact, we in India are the victims of this monstrous media. We are suffering more at the hands of the media rather than that of the govt. This media is above the govt., above parliament, above the people and above everybody else. It makes and unmakes the govt.

Bania-Brahmin combine: This is because this monster media is owned by the tiny upper caste Banias and run by the brahminical forces. Together, these people represent not even 6% of India's population.

As they are owners of all property, power and position, they are using the media to maintain the status quo by suppressing truth and spreading falsehood - thereby denying our human rights. Nay. This press is aiding, abetting and promoting state terrorism.

We are saying this on the basis of our experience of working in this very so-called "national" press for 25 years in different parts of India.

State terrorism: So if you depend upon this press you will be thoroughly misled. It is this media which is suppressing the truth of the brahminical terrorism in every part of India particularly Kashmir, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Assam, Jharkhand. And on Dalits, Muslims, Christians, tribals, women, Backward Caste. Not even 30% of our human rights violations are reported in the press.

The journalists, most of them upper castes, act more as

representatives of their caste than as journalists. **This is perhaps the only one of its kind in the whole world where the power of publication is misused to serve selfish ends, and that is why the Amnesty should never trust the Indian press.**

Here is the proof. Every section in the country has welcomed privatisation, welcoming foreign investment, collaboration, market economy, in keeping with the govt. policy but India's corrupt media has unanimously opposed any move to allow western news agencies to operate in India, because then the cat will be out of the bag. If the ruling class in India has continued to maintain two faces - peace, non-violence, democracy and such other bullshit for outsiders - and endless violence, murder and mayhem for Indians it is solely because of this monstrous media.

— EDITOR.

Nazi Govt. Disappoints People : Every Promise Broken

KAMRAN KHAN, LUCKNOW

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the political wing of Hindu nazis, came to power in Uttar Pradesh promising *Ram, Insaaf and Roti*, plus an era of peace and tranquility. Besides, the construction of Ram Mandir was promised within a month of BJP govt. formation. The nazis were all excited.

Now, over one year has passed and not even the work on the foundation of the Ram Mandir has begun, the foundation stone of which laid during the Congress regime) though many acres of land around Babri Masjid were acquired by the nazis under the garb of promoting tourism.

Digging around the Babri Masjid is going on feverishly as this is written and a wall is being constructed in the name of security for the disputed structure, thus flouting the Allahabad High Court order that status quo should be maintained and no permanent structure should be constructed on the disputed area.

Nazis above law: Similarly, an earlier order of the court ordering the nazi govt. to repair Babri Masjid, which was damaged by the Hindu nazis during the *kar seva*, was also flouted.

Are the laws meant for the common people only? Are govts. and ministers above law and can disobey the courts or is it that our laws are too feeble to make the ministers/governments obey a court's ruling?

Digging around Babri Masjid had begun before the onset of monsoon so that the accumulated rain water would weaken the Babri structure and collapse on its own paving the way for the Ram Mandir. This is the same tactics which the zionists of Israel adopted for Al Aqsa mosque. They failed in their mission and so will these desi nazis.

A "sant sammelan" was announced by another nazi leader, Ashok Singhal, of the VHP to be held in Ayodhya on July 6 and 7 to be attended by 10,000 sadhus and they would decide the date of temple construction and that they would stay on in Ayodhya until the completion of Ram mandir. This also failed.

Ram wave fading: Such bluffs and brags are necessary to revive the fast-fading "Ram wave" and bring back the gullible masses deserting the nazi fold. In the recent by-elections BJP lost to the Congress in

Tilhar and Shahjahanpur. *The people are getting frustrated with the nazi govt. for going back on its promises.*

Insaaf (justice): What is the performance in this field? Claiming Babri Masjid as *Ram janambhoomi* (Ram's birth place) when all the archaeological reports, archaeologists and historians have denied it - Is it justice?

In their election manifesto, the nazis promised to abolish sales tax to please traders, mainly Banias. Over an year has passed, the nazi govt. is mum on sales tax. The traders are angry and recently they forced a total *bundh* here and at Kanpur. The govt. is worried as it does not want either to antagonise the traders or abolish the sales tax. But anyhow a promise is a promise and should be fulfilled. But the Hindu nazis believe in no promise, let alone justice.

Crimes against women, Dalits and minorities have increased tremendously and auto thefts are a daily news item.

Roti (bread): Instead of providing bread to the public the nazi govt. has denied it by skyrocketing the prices of even essential commodities, thereby diminishing the purchasing power of the public. Thus a peaceful meal could only be achieved when you shell out a huge amount of laboriously earned money.

Ram Rajya dream shattered: To break the back the govt. further hiked the UPSRTC bus fare by 30%.

Water and electricity shortage has become a permanent headache. Power failure in the city are dime a dozen and in themselves a record. Is it really 1992?

For all its failures, the nazis are blaming Delhi. And thereby they think they can shift the responsibility.

The innocent people of UP voted the BJP to power hoping for *Ram Rajya* - alas, all in vain. Now the govt. by going back on its election promises razing temples in Ayodhya instead of constructing; price hike; continuing with sales tax instead of abolishing it has made the public aware that *they were only beautifully fooled by a bunch of upper castes*. So soon the people got fed up and if the govt. continues to ride roughshod over them, they might lose their patience, and resort to other steps. ■

Why upper castes sabotaged primary education?

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Bangalore: B.G. Varghese, a former Editor in Chief of the *Indian Express* and a Syrian Christian from Kerala, has written an article in the *Indian Express* pleading for universal primary education.

The Constitution of India under the Directive Principles (Article 45) has provided for free, compulsory and universal primary education. And the Constitution came into force in 1951 and today it is 1992 - 41 years are over. And even 10% of the goal is not achieved.

The ruling upper castes, in charge of implementing this particular constitutional provision, successfully sabotaged the whole programme. But the same upper castes went on recklessly expanding university and other elite educational institutions like IITs and IIMs, medical colleges and whole lot of specialised institutions spending lavishly on them Why?

The urban-based upper castes deliberately neglected the primary education but intentionally expanded higher education because their children are studying there. The primary education, on the other hand, is meant for the village-dwelling "lower castes"- SC/ST/BCs. And if these "fellows" get educated they won't work as servants and slaves of Aryan/upper castes/Hindus. That is what they say.

The answer is clear and simple. B.G. Varghese as a Syrian Christian belongs to this ruling class and knows why his *jatvals* sabotaged the Constitution and yet why he is shedding crocodile tears?

He says: There have been committees galore on reforming education. Each one has made some useful recommendations. The latest in the list is the Central Advisory Board of Education Committee on Policy headed by Mr. Janaradhan Reddy. Three cheers for all these committees. Now for the action - on universalising primary education and getting rid of child labour in the bargain. Do this and SC/STs will everywhere rise to the top and enter the Presidential market too, imparting lustre to an achieving India. (*Indian Express*, July 22).

He knows who sabotaged the Constitution and why. And yet why he writes this?

He writes it to get name and fame and deceive the SC/ST/BCs/non-Aryans. ■

RIGHT TO EDUCATION MADE A FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on July 30 declared that all Indians have a fundamental right to education "at all levels". This new fundamental right has been held to be part of the fundamental right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution.

Justice Kuldip Singh and R.M. Sahai have given this new gift to citizens in *Ms Mohini Jain vs State of Karnataka* by stating that the right to life and the dignity of an individual "cannot be assured unless it is accompanied by the right to education".

With a single judgment, the judges have converted the non-enforceable right to education in the directive principles of the Constitution into an enforceable fundamental right. Millions of Indians kept illiterate by poverty can now demand education from their respective State governments, municipal corporations, panchayats and Jilla Parishads and can seek legal recourse from those managing State and local governments if they are denied this right. (*Indian Express* Aug.1) ■

SADDAM WINS AGAIN

Nicosia : Any objective tabulation of the gains and losses of Iraq and the US in their confrontation over the searching of the Agriculture Ministry in Baghdad shows that while, on the ground, the score is 50-50, the Iraqis have won hands down politically.

President Bush can boast that President Saddam Hussein "caved in" and "backed down" because the UN inspectors will go into the ministry building in Baghdad on July 28 from which they were shut out for over two weeks. The fact is that it will be a different sort of team made up of neutral Europeans, headed by a German, and excluding Britons and Americans, as demanded by Iraq. And this defeat for the US is underlined by the fact that two American inspectors will be in that part of the team that will specifically function outside the ministry.

Thus, Iraq has asserted, and the UN has accepted that Iraq can have a say in the composition of the UN inspection teams and that the nationals of some countries, the US and UK, should not be on the teams because, as former participants in 'Desert Storm 1', they are not neutral. A considerable Iraqi gain. (*Deccan Herald* July 28).

("DV proves right on Saddam Hussain", DV Feb 1, 1992). ■

DV 10 YEARS AGO

JUNE 16, 1982

Editorial : "Role of Intellectuals in society"

Every society, every country in the world is shaped and led mainly by its intellectuals. All those who are remembered by history are mostly intellectuals. An intellectual may not get instant recognition by the society when alive but in course of time the person's greatness will be recognised and recorded on the pages of history. Because an intellectual and intellectual alone can bring about socio-economic changes. The Buddha, Plato, Marx, Lenin, Lincoln, Gorky, Bernard Shaw, Thiruvalluvar, Mahatma Phule were all great intellectuals. It is intellectuals who not only think but make others think. After Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, M.N. Roy, Periyar EVR and Lohia, we have hardly produced any intellectual giants in India.

India's ruling class has been systematically corrupting any up and coming intellectual and if any one dares to defy, he is mercilessly crushed. That is why rarely one wants to show originality, innovation. So much so, India has gone into total intellectual bankruptcy. The very fact that India has not received a single Nobel Prize after it became independent proves that we are a country of mediocres, dwarfs. But we are never tired of boasting that we have the second largest scientific manpower in the world... This is because our society and its value system does not believe in encouraging and promoting intellectuals. Our ruling class wants us to surrender our judgement. Dissent is disliked. Truth should not be spoken... Intellectuals alone can lead a society. But if the intellectual is corrupt he will mislead and this is what is happening in India. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar has beautifully painted the picture of an intellectual in his book, *Annihilation of Caste*.

Indian intellectuals have become corrupt and spineless - bumlickers. Dr. Ambedkar became India's tallest intellectual giant only because he fought and died for justice and truth. A second Dr. Ambedkar could not come up because the ruling upper castes have corrupted and nipped in the bud every up and coming Dr. Ambedkar.

Why caste-based reservations? V. Anaimuthu, Trichy, TN : There can't be competition between unequals. Equality does not constitute absolute equality. Over 85% of the people remain illiterate because of the inequality preached by caste system. So these people need caste-based reservations if they have to be made literate. ■

ISS must force Muslim League to quit Kerala Govt.

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Not only the Indian Penal Code sanctions murder in self-defence but even the Koran blesses violence in self-defence. No less a man than the chief of the Muslim League had said this (DV June 16 '92 p.10).

So if the militant Islamik Sevak Sangh of Abdul Nasser Madhani, the up and coming revolutionary Muslim leader of Kerala, used violence in self-defence while fighting the Hindu nazis at Trivandrum, neither the IPC nor the Koran could find fault with the ISS. We congratulate the ISS for becoming the real protectors of Muslims in Kerala at a time when the Muslim League abandoned the Muslims for the sake of petty gains.

Press reports, however, said the six "Hindus" killed in the coastal Poonthura of Trivandrum in the latest ISS self-defence violence were fishermen (Dhewara) and hence not Hindus. (*Telegraph*, July 25). Poonthura is a coastal strip inhabited by Muslims and fishermen. We have visited that place. Hindus meaning Brahmins and Nairs, who are the only Hindus of Kerala, do not reside on the coastal strip.

Cowardly Hindu nazis: The cowardly Hindu nazis have injected the nazi poison into the blood of Dhewaras but the fact is Dhewaras are not Hindus and never Hindu. They are Backward Castes and hence not Hindu. The ISS must note that Hindus means only Aryans. *SC/ST/BCs are not Aryans and hence not Hindu. Without making a proper study of the enemy, there is a chance of the ISS landing in trouble.*

The ISS self-defence should be directed at nazis - not the innocent fishermen who could be easily convinced about the danger of Hindu nazis. The ISS should be careful about this. Or else the cunning nazi, who also control the Kerala press, would instigate SC/ST/BCs against the Muslims and the result would be disastrous. The ISS must avoid brothers fighting brothers. That does not mean the Dhewaras attacking Muslims should be spared. The Koran and the IPC does not say that.

Meanwhile, ISS must launch an agitation to force the Muslim League in Kerala to withdraw from the pro-nazi Kuranakaran's Congress coalition govt. as a protest against the mischief played by the pro-nazi Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao on the Babri Masjid issue. If the Kerala Govt. falls that will serve as the first Muslim warning against the nazis. ■

Letters to Editor

Shaikh Hyder, 408, 70 Mornelle Crt., Scarborough, Ont., M1E 4S8, Canada: I read your article, "*Dalit Voice on Death-bed as the Caravan Enters 11th year*" (DV Nov.1, 1991, p.7). I hope the Caravan of *Dalit Voice* will carry on. God will reward those who struggle in the righteous path. Nothing is permanent on the planet earth except the word of the Creator. Heroes and Zeroes of tyranny will pass away, the "national" toilet papers of India will also pass away. There is certainly an awakening among the Blacks of Africa and suppressed peoples on earth. The Zambian President, Kaunda, is defeated in the elections. Zair's dictator and robber Mobutu is in trouble though Europeans are giving him help so that they can rob the Africans of their wealth. Kenyan president is out of favour with his white bosses and his days are numbered. Mengistu is already thrown out by the people but he did destroy Ethiopia to please his masters - Russians, Americans in turn, for a long time. The oppressed people of Afghanistan are free, Kashmir, Palestine and the hungry and deprived people of India must not give up hope. The brave people of Afghanistan gave one million martyrs to defeat the Russian invaders. The oppressed peoples of earth must join hands with Kashmiri freedom fighters. The Aryans of India have sent 25 tons of gold to their mother country, England. It does not matter to them whether the poor masses in India need the money or not. They want to mortgage the country to the ex-masters of India so that they will send them arms to control the oppressed people in Kashmir, Punjab, etc. as long as the holy Brahmins rule the hungry Indians.

G. Rajendar, Vizag-20, AP: Your prediction on the so-called privatisation has come true. ("*If Privatisation comes in the Way of Brahminism, ruling class will Scuttle the PVN Move*, DV edit. Mar 1 .92). You have rightly said that such predictions are possible "when we are close to the hearts of the people". You are right in saying that brahminism is the curse of India. Whatever reform is brought, it will not work unless it is helpful to brahminism. In the banking industry, the Narasimhan Committee Report favoured that banks should be accorded autonomous status in their commercial dealings., Overnight Harshad Mehtas were born. Some Dalit leaders asked Dalits to go to the streets to oppose the privatisation moves of the PVN govt. These leaders should read the DV edit (Mar. 92). We

need not be worried about these moves. The ruling class of India cannot face multi-nationals.

Er. S.D. Singh, MIG-101, Avas Vikas colony, Rudrapur, UP-263 153 : The DV edit June 16, 1992 rightly describes the state of Dalit movement. You have mentioned that there are several thousands of all-India SC/ST organisations but without any ideology and followers. But I feel it difficult to accept when you say, "Nothing wrong in having such a plethora of SC/ST organisations. More the merrier. The field is so vast and the work so much, we have scope for many more such SC/ST organisations". It is said a single son, who is intelligent, sincere and strong, is better than a hundred sons who are fools, lazy and weak. Our thousands of organisations are really of no use to our liberation.

P.K. Abdurrabb, Mazhappilangad, Kerala: This has reference to the letter of Miss Uma AT, Trivandrum (DV July 16), in which she says that so many brothers have offered the subscription of DV to her. I have a suggestion to those brothers who are ready to spend. They can subscribe a DV to their nearest libraries and reading rooms so that the mission of DV may reach more and more Bahujan Samaj (BC/SC/ST/Muslims/Christians/Buddhists/and Sikhs).

Dalit Voice Readers Circle, C/o Harish Mandal, vill. Agapur, Milan Nagar, New Barrackpore, WB-743276: Since the formation of our "readers circle" about three months ago we the readers of New Barrackpore have become closer. Periodically sitting together, we discuss various topics of DV and DSA books which help us become real Ambedkarites. Our new friends are showing interest to read DV. We desire to have contact with all DV subscribers of WB. Please think over the matter so that at the initiative of any veteran DV admirer a "WB DV Readers Circle" can be formed taking Calcutta as its centre point followed by a seminar/convention in the presence of the Editor.

Arshad Kalliath, Trivandrum: *Illiberal Education* is a new book venomously anti-reservationist in the context of US Blacks. It is published in India by Vintage at Rs. 333 and is written by one Dinesh D'Souza. Reviewing the book Ms. Antara Dev Sen has described the author a 'Coconut' - brown on the outside and white inside. We may find this term useful in future. This is akin to the word 'Oreo' (after a chocolate cream biscuit black on the outside but white inside).

M.R. Vidrohi, 589/A, Sect.2, Avantika, Delhi - 85: I read your Hindi book, *Know the Hindu Mind*. It enlightened me on several subjects like Dalit-Muslim unity, India's unity and integrity, computer, English language for governing caste, business of beef, who is

country's traitor, advantage and disadvantage of caste system, brahminical pity on animals, their fake vegetarianism, their humbugs like Chipko and Apiko, scheme of Narmada valley, false scientists, beef-eater Aryans, Hinduism and communism, regional goondaism, dual system of law, education, wineshops, sexual peopled, dual thinking on wine-drinking, and meat eaters in India, "American cow", originals and Aryans, idly-sambar eaters in India.

Pathiripaly George John, Kodapanakunnu, Thiruvananthapuram-5: This is with reference to the letter of T.K. Narayanan, (DV July 1). I agree with the proposal of TKN, a noted Dalit scholar well versed in the watch words of our "First Leader Buddha". I request you to set apart a page for "Thus Spake Buddha". TKN will supply the watch words and speeches of Buddha, emancipator of the original inhabitants of India. Buddhism is the only religion that emerged from Indian roots 3,000 years ago to annihilate the barbarian brahminism now known as Hinduism.

Bikash Nag, Bargarh, Orissa: Your God Krishna killed his uncle and aunt, your god Ram banished Sita while she was pregnant, your ancestor Parsuram killed his mother; your brother Godse killed Gandhi, the "nation's" father; your hero Pandavas killed their relatives; your teacher Drona asked for the thumb with ill-motives. Now you embrace us as brothers, oh cheat. Will you tell, what is your intention behind it?

T.H.P Chentharassery, TKD Road, Pattom, Trivandrum-4: I disagree with Nehru on certain points (DV July 16, 92, p.18) that "the first great cultural synthesis and fusion took place between the incoming Aryans and Dravidians who were probably the representatives of the Indus Valley civilisation". The only representative of Indus Valley civilisation is the Dravidian race. It cannot be assigned to the Aryans. I am elaborating this in my book, "The history of the original Indians".

Miss. Uma AT, Trivandrum: There are two Dr. Ambedkar Memorial Residential School in Kerala. One is the Malappura boys UP school and other is girls UP school here. About 90 students are in the school here under the ST dept. The school coaches students to become IAS, IPS, IFS officers. But the problem is though the govt. is running it, Hindu nazis are put in charge of it. Ambika Devi, headmistress of this school, the students say, is a Hindu nazi. She threatens the hapless Dalit students with her brutal behaviour. Dalit students are facing many problems.

A.K. Mandal, 102, Ramlal Bazar, Calcutta-78: Three cheers for *Dalit Voice*. I am extremely happy to know that our representative is going to the United Nations.

I thank Yogesh Varhade, Canada, for taking up our cause. Hope your efforts will be successful so that our age - long bondage will be removed and our right of self-determination is established. In this connection I want to set up the "Council of Dalit Nations" which is a clarion call to all Dalits all over India.

B.K. Roy, 37 - GLT Road, Calcutta-36: This refers to the letter from a Dalit student of JNU (DV July 16, 92) criticising the life-style of BSP president Kanshi Ram. While rebutting the charge, I like to say that Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi used to stay half naked but was he really a friend of Dalits? Our Dalit brother perhaps saw Kanshi Ram through the eyes of a Brahmin who is addicted to see us as a landless labour, servant/mind servant and not as an elite person. He is playing into the hands of BSO to undermine a man who is a new hope to crores of Dalits of India.

B.K. Nag, Jeypore, Orissa: It is only DV which made me popular throughout India and abroad and united our educated people in Orissa. I am trying to introduce DV in Kalahandi and Koraput districts even though our population is over 70%. I have translated the book, *Know the Hindu Mind*, in Oriya. Please permit me to publish the book as "Hindu Manasa Manthana".

Temporary Workers of Madras Christian College, Tambaram, Madras-59: We are in all 140 employees who live as virtual bonded labourers. In spite of service in the college between 1 to 38 years we remain temporary workers on an unbelievably low consolidated pay. In 1991-92, our salary ranged between Rs. 140 and a maximum of Rs. 1050 per month. No provident fund, no pension and nothing to look forward to in life. The treatment meted out to us is illegal and immoral.

P.C. Sethi, Bhubaneswar: There was a big debate in Oriya toilet papers on the statement made by Chief Minister Biju Patnaik to burn the *Manusmriti* on April 14. Prafulla Kumar Mishra (Brahmin) criticised the CM but advocated abolition of the caste system without harming brahminism. How funny? The nazis want to abolish the caste without destroying brahminism or *Manusmriti*. Some backward castes also criticised Biju. We are sorry our Backward Caste brothers have not studied the *Manusmriti*. The BCs think they are Hindus. Slaves enjoying their slavery.

Lok Ratan Gautam, 1072-Block 29, BKS Marg, New Delhi-1: We request you to denounce the brahminical conspiracy at Bodh Gaya and inform the PM and Bihar CM about the black deeds of the Brahmin priests.

Pramod Meshram, State Bank of Indore, MP-452 003: We recently reviewed the SC/ST position in our

bank. For this the general secretary of the SC/ST Welfare Council was transferred as a punishment from Kampel (village br.) to Mahidpur (semi-urban br.). This proves that victimisation and vindictive transfers of SC/ST officers, clerks are rampant in this bank. The Parliamentary Committee on the Welfare of SC/ST visited our head office on Jan.10 and 11, 1992 but the SC/St employees were not told of this visit. Our bank has no reservation in the officer cadre from junior management grade scale-I to top executive. In the writ petition of the Syndicate Bank SC/ST Employees Association against the Syndicate Bank and Union of India the Supreme Court had passed a historical judgment upholding the writ.

T.N. Arivarasu, Tiruppur, TN-638 602: We are very eager to translate all your books. Those revolutionary ideas of yours must be brought to the notice of the oppressors in Tamil Nadu. There are many Untouchables in villages who have not heard of Periyar. They know only MGR but not Periyar and Dr. Ambedkar. We met Karur lawyer, P.R. Kuppuswamy. He encouraged us to form a "DV Readers Forum. Please explain the meaning of the word "Dalit". Our comrades wants to see you and hear you. Please give us a date.

Please study DV and our books but don't start hero-worshipping. This is bad. Hero-worship is a Hindu disease. Aryan / brahminical forces encourage politicians, film stars, sports stars because these people thrive on the weakness of hero worship of the masses. We want you to seriously study our thoughts. Once the thoughts convince that it can liberate you, we will come. Not before that. Politicians, film and sports stars, are all like those flies flocking around the burning lamp. They quickly die. But not thinkers and scholars. They are eternal. So please don't reduce us to the level of flies like MGR. When the time comes we will come to Tiruppur. Educate, Agitate, Organise. — EDITOR.

All India Catholic Union, New Delhi-17: We have come across a pamphlet by Drakt International, Diamond Harbour Road, Joka-743 512 on "FF 12 - Granulum" to propagate their medical capsules depicting a picture of the Virgin Mary along with the Infant Jesus and the literature, "Consult the doctors - Save your motherhood". The images depicted are sacred and venerated by Christians all over the world. Therefore it is injuring the Christian religious feeling. So we demand immediate withdrawal of the offensive pamphlet and an apology.

R. Arul, Dr. Ambedkar Study Circle, Chidambaram, TN 608 002: I visited my native place to witness a heart-breaking incident. A Dalit girl was raped right before her husband by five police men including an

Inspector here at the Annamalia Nagar police station on June 2 last. Her name is Padmini. Husband Nandagopal was later killed by those criminal police while in custody on June 3. Tamil Nadu's only revolutionary party, Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK) has launched an agitation on this. Its leader, Dr. S. Ramadoss, said, "We saw in Keezhvenmani, 44 dalits burnt to death by upper castes. The govt. did not take action on those criminals. But Dalits took direct action on them. If the govt. does not punish the criminal policemen, we will punish them. Until then we will continue our struggle". Under the *Bangalore pappti* rule we are witnessing state terrorism.

N.K. Raji, N.M. Puthenpura, Mavattupuzha, Kerala - 686 673: I completed my study at the Calicut Regional Engineering College. Now, I am back at my native place. India is ruled by the upper caste Aryan/Brahmin bureaucrats. Until they rule us we cannot liberate our people. If we mobilise our people against them, they can easily overcome us with the help of their force and media. So, what we have to do is that we have to destroy the bureaucracy first. But that is not an easy task. I have an idea. We have to become AIDS virus and spread it into the body of the bureaucracy. For that our educated youths should take a major role. We have to get into the bureaucracy.

Fr. M.A. James, SJ, Director, National Vocation Service Centre, Pune-14: It is a matter of joy to see that in the changed situation in India, vocations to priesthood and religious life are coming more and more from the hitherto neglected sections of society, specifically Dalits and tribals. The new entrants find life difficult. There is a cultural gap between them and the others. These differences make life difficult for them and they come to the conclusion that they do not fit in here and thus a valuable vocation is lost. The problem is in its early stages. But as days go by and more and more Dalit vocations develop, the problem is likely to get worse. It is our duty to see to it that the new entrant into clerical or religious life feels comfortable and accepted in his new milieu. He has to feel at home. How can we do this? With this in mind we are inviting you for a 3-day consultation here from Sept. 14.

Mrs. Happy, Solan, HP: This is with ref. to the article, "Mass Conversion to Sikhism alone can Save Cowbelt SCs/STs/BCs" by Nand Kishore, Osian, Bighapur, Unnao, UP (DV June 16 p.9). Kishore is quite rational but the following points are to be included in the agenda for possible deliberations with the Sikh leadership before the likely conversion of SC/ST/BCs to Sikhism: Do the Sikh social order (SSO) consider 18 saints, other than the six Gurus, Sikhs whose verses are accommodated in *Granth Sahib*? These saints cover

almost all the communities of India: Muslims, Aryans and Anaryans. If so, their birth anniversaries are to be celebrated, like any other existing *gurupurb* to give a feeling to SC/ST/BCs etc. that Sikhs are not a part of Hinduism which is nothing but brahminism that denies the human rights of sudras Dalits and women. *A Simple History of the Punjab (1500 to 1858)* 1968 edition for BA students has revealed (p.85) that certain "Hindu" sects have been excluded from the Khalsa organisation. Is it the writings of Guru Govind Singh or some interpolations made later by some one else? If it is not the work of Guru Govind Singh, then this clause should be amended accordingly. It is surprising that non-martial corrupt and mean Aryans, especially Brahmins, can become Khalsa whereas non-Hindu Jains (perhaps Buddhists) etc. are denied this fundamental right. Bodhies and Jainies had once efficiently ruled this country but defeated by the alien Aryans with deception. *Granth Sahib* is dead against escapism, irrationalism, hypocrisy etc. The principles of the Khalsa emphasises a three-point strategy: (i) Educate, Media (ii) Agitate and (iii) Organise. Among the perennial weaknesses of the Sikhs/Khalsa (lack of media, leadership, diplomacy, disunity in the cadre etc) media is to be taken up on a war footing. Then only this proposed unity move, put forward by Nand Kishore may become reality. Without a strong media even this likely unity move will fail.

T. Abdullah, 992 - New St., Vaniyambadi, TN-635 751: This is with ref. to the report: (DV July 16, p.21) "*Which Verses in Quran Sanction Violence in Self-defence?*" I am separately sending you a book, *Misconceptions about Islam*. Please read the book from p.81 to 93. You will find many verses from the Quran about sanction of violence in self-defence.

F. Alam, Bhagalpur: The leakage of question papers of various competitive examinations in the cow-belt of North Indian exposes the hollowness of the so-called "merit and efficiency" propagated by the Hindus. Recently, Tribhuvan Bhatnagar was caught redhanded while getting the photocopies of the General Studies paper of IAS (prelim) examination, 1992, at the request of K.M. Pandey, the Examination Controller of Uttar Pradesh Public Service Commission. Press reports say that attempts are being made to hush up the action of the nazis.

Ibne Umar, Maz Neem, Jambusar-392 150: The PTI report about the "Buddhist" demand for banning Geeta chanting inside the temple and *Azan* offering nearby is indeed strange. No differentiation between an occupier within and an onlooker nearby.

Kamran Y. Khan, Lucknow-1: In UP/Lucknow, I can hardly find a Dalit who would purchase a book against

Hindu thoughts. Dalits like Brahmins think they are Hindus. Therefore, we will have to first educate them about their own roots and not start disapproving what they hold dear. This will only alienate them. A Hindi edition of DV may capture the market. I talked to a couple of Muslims and Dalits and they asked for Hindi DV.

S.P. Singh, Takiapara, Danapore, Patna-800 012: We formed an "All-India Original Inhabitant Kurmi Sabha" on April 21, 1992. Please publish its resolutions to help spread the message of *Dalit Voice*. All its English-knowing members have become DV subscribers. We are also trying to bring out a Hindi DV. After that each member of this newly-formed "Kurmi Sabha" will automatically become a *Dalit Voice* subscriber. Out of the three Commandments of Babasaheb, "Educate, Agitate, Organise", I have taken up the first one only. I consider myself competent to educate the people on two subjects - caste system and religion. As a matter of fact, I do not have to do any research work. I have to only quote from books written by eminent British writers on caste system. These books are an authority on the subject. Their sanctity is more than that of the Vedas. Even Brahma, the so-called creator, who created the four *varnas* from different parts of his body, shall like to have a peep into the wisdom that these books contain and Brahma shall come out wiser. Shiva was a *sudra*, Kali was a SC (Bhilni) in one of her incarnations. I can quote from *Durga Sapta Sati*. Why should worship of Shiva and Kali be given up? They are our father and mother. Worship directly in your own language and not through a Brahmin. So, for SC/ST/BCs a long range of choices may be given. I shall write regular articles on these subjects. Some items of *Dalit Voice* need immediate publicity in Hindi. I can translate some pieces into Hindi and send it for publication. Hindi version of DSA book, *Who is ruling India?* Will be sold like hot cakes in Bihar and UP.

Madhu. C., Kochuvilayil Kattanam, Pallickal P.O., Alleppy (Dist) Kerala-690503: Marxist attack on Dait workers is not a new thing in Kerala. A former state president of Kerala Dalit Panthers, Ravikumar, P.M., and his family were attacked by the "marxists" on July 15. Most of the assailants were Dalits and Ezhavas. However, they miserably failed as our Dalit workers retaliated on time. The upper caste "marxists" are using our own blood brothers against us and they reap the harvest. After this attack a police case also was registered against our Dalit workers. This was with the help of a Dalit MLA from Pandalam who said that the organisations like Dalit Panthers and ISS were

"communal" and it should not be allowed to take root in Kerala.

M.M.S. Salahuddin, P.B. No.47, Doha, Qatar : The Hindu nazis must stop building a temple at the site where Babri Masjid stands. L.K. Advani says that peoples mandate should be implemented. Why this nazi does not use the same yardstick to the problem of Punjab where people gave mandate to the parties which struggle for self-determination? If referendum is conducted in Kashmir, the majority of the people will surely vote for secession from India and demolition of all the temples in the valley. He (L.K. Advani) also says that the Babri Masjid is unused for decades. In India, there are thousands of temples which are not used for performing daily *pooja* and no renovation steps have been taken. The only goal of the nazis is to grab power at the Centre. If they try to catch power at the Centre by insulting the faith of the Muslims, demolishing the mosque and killing the innocent Muslims, then there is no way left for Muslims but secede and form another homeland.

Ookkodu Gopalan, National Dalit (SC/ST) Federation, Trivandrum-20: I had met you at the Dalit editors and writers conference at Whitefield, Bangalore, some years back. I read *Dalit Voice* at our public library here. I am very much impressed by its writing. In Kerala, Dalits are getting only 10% of the State budget allotment but even this is not utilised properly. I am the general secretary of the Federation and editor of the *Bahujana Sabdam*. I won the best "Rural Journalist Award" from a noted cultural organisation (Thrussur Sahrudaya Vedi) in Kerala in 1990. Press facilities and accreditations are wholly owned by upper caste groups only. I am trying to form a Dalit Press Club in Kerala.

Jaivir Singh, Advocate, Kanpur - 4 : I have read in DV the "document": "Parliamentary democracy failed in Pro-India because of Brahmin-Bania tyrannical rule" by Dr. Ambedkar. It reveals the conspiracy of the ruling class. This combine got more strengthened and turned cruel with added muscle power of the shudras and Backward Castes. Especially in UP, the nazi govt. headed by a Lodhi (BC) is having over 100 BC legislators. This Lodhi leader is obeying the Nagpur Chitpavan Brahman orders like a slave. They kept him busy for the past one year on the Babri Masjid issue. The nazis are grabbing the administration and education in a planned way. But the BC ministers are kept busy to make money. They are shortsighted and followers of pig philosophy. I agree with Nand Kishore (DV June 16) suggestion of conversion of Untouchables to Sikhism. Lack of militancy is the root cause of

atrocities on Dalits. By adopting Sikhism they will get cultural identity as well as honour. In UP, the Kurmi community is joining the nazi party and becoming slaves of brahminism.

Dr. P.K. Sukumaran, Trichur, Kerala-4: Hindu nazi forces do not really believe in democracy or non-violence. SC/ST/BC/Muslims must get united at any cost. Close cooperation in social, cultural, religious and economic fields must start. An economic blockade of *savarnas*/Hindus will give definitely a fantastic result. They will come begging before us.

Ismail Shafi, Editor, "Isha Patrike", Natakal, Asaigoli, Mangalore tq., DK dt.: The Progressive Lawyers Association of Bangalore had submitted a memorandum to the Karnataka Govt. to withdraw the three criminal cases against me. Besides this, two MLAs had also made the appeal. But disregarding all these appeals, the govt. decided (July 8) not to withdraw the cases but legally proceed against me. This proves the anti-Muslim attitude of the Congress Govt.

Abdurrashid Khan, Najmus Saquib Islamic Publications, 100/B, Modikhana Solapur-413 001: You are an honest, intrepid crusader championing the cause of SC/ST persecuted class, but in fact, your struggle has and ought to have the potential of a humane, universal appeal for mankind, cutting across all barriers, of caste, creed, country, colour or gender because the issue at stake is the extirpation of all form of deprivation, injustice and wickedness. ■

SELF-DEFENCE IN QURAN

Dr. A.I. Rahmathullah, Dept. of Arabic, Calicut University-673 635

As per your request in the DV (July 16), I would like to furnish the following verses of the Final revealed version of Divine Guidance (**The Quran**) which will strongly substantiate Sulaiman Sait Saheb's arguments.

The Editor of DV must carefully study these verses. This may make you think of yourself, too, and your own personal eternal future, for, the most important thing is that each individual recognises the Almighty and submit fully to His will. The whole world cannot be rectified fully, and absolute social justice cannot be expected in this world, because humankind is given free will for a limited time in spite of His guidance.

Chapter Verses

(Al-Baqara) 2 : 179, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194

2: 114 4: 75 3: 195

9: 111, 29, 13, 14, 36, 38, 39, 40, 41, 52

2: 216 4: 94, 95 8: 75 48: 16, 17.

Please refer these verses of **Holy Quran** but try to get any translation other than Yusuf Ali's one, for, it is highly poetic and ambiguous.

Elite Muslims closer to upper castes than oppressed Muslims

S.N. MANDAL, PADMAPUKAR ROAD, THAKUR PUKUR, CALCUTTA-63

The debate initiated by the *Dalit Voice* in August 1991 on the Jamate-Islami role in promoting Dalit-Muslim unity has drawn a number of Muslim intellectuals into the debate which has brought out many unique points for the first time and for this the entire Muslim community must be thankful to DV. I was impressed by the arguments of Iqbal Ahmed Sheriff, Advocate of Bangalore, Mohammed Yusuf of Delhi, Murad Ali of Jaipur and Chand Peer of Bangalore. They have gone deep into the question of the imperative needs of the Dalit-Muslim unity to combat the Aryan/brahminical tyranny to divide India into Hindus and Muslims.

The salient points that have emerged so far vis-a-vis the Jamat's position are:

Jamat's ideology: The Jamat is essentially a fundamentalist organisation engaged in the preaching of tenets of Islamic theology. The books and journals published by it deal only with religious matters and preaches Islamic morals. They never talk of Muslim mass education, culture, economic and social liberation. In this respect they are analogous to that of Hindu nazi organisations. The education imparted through the institutions run by the nazis are Hindu religious teachings which help people turn anti-Muslim.

The teachings of the Jamat are an attempt to keep the Muslim masses within the Islamic religious bounds without giving scope for freethinking. So also the religious teachings of Hindu nazis towards the Dalits in that religion. This tends to arouse

parochial ideas among both the Dalits and Muslim masses leading to religious intolerance.

Why this hatred? : Why this antagonism has developed between the Dalits, allegedly in the Hindu fold, and Muslim masses in the Muslim fold? This is because of the fact that the two fundamentalist organisations are controlled by the Aryan brahminical forces among the Hindus and elites or foreign elements among the Muslims.

The elite Muslims who control the Jamat keep good contact with the brahminical forces controlling Hindu nazi organisations.

The brahminical social order (BSO) covers just 15% of the Indian population but they are hostile to the rest (65%) of the population (Dalits) though for their private benefits they call the Dalits Hindus.

Dalit converts: Of the Muslim population in India over 85% are Dalit converts to Islam but they are hardly represented in the Jamat leadership. When the Jamat on the one hand and the Hindu nazi parties face any contradiction between them, together they whip up religious sentiments within their respective masses and get religious and political mileage at the cost of killings of so many innocent Muslims and Dalit masses.

What Jamat lacks : The Jamat claims itself to be a cadre-based cultural organisation but has failed to take measures for the social, economic, educational and political liberation of the Muslim masses. With its disciplined cadres, the Jamat could have promoted education among the Muslim masses to make

them conscious and help improve their plight by starting even night schools. But it thinks that by "education" it means only what is imparted through govt. syllabus in recognised schools. Education makes a man conscious of self and of his oppressors. Hence they might have been ready to fight the Aryan/brahminical forces and the Muslims elite leaders with the help of the Dalits in the Hindu fold. This action could have threatened their leadership. Hence this apathy of the Jamat towards the educational and cultural liberation of the Dalits among Muslims.

Dalit-Muslim unity: Dalits and Muslim masses have emerged from the same root, same ethnic stock. *It is a historical fact that Muslim masses who constitute about 85% of the Muslim population are converts from Dalits. Both have a common social, economic and cultural roots.* A vast majority of oppressed Muslim masses are agricultural labourers, petty traders, cobblers, carpenters, weavers, butchers, hawkers, artisans, coolies etc. who daily mingle with men of their own professions from SC/ST/BCs.

This similarity of professions have brought the Dalits and Muslims masses nearer to each other and helped develop a brotherhood among themselves. **The non-Hindu Dalits consider Muslim masses closer to their hearts than the upper caste Hindus.** As their economic and social status are low, both live as neighbours in shanties and slums. Their religious faiths relegate to background. They lead an otherwise peaceful social life. It is only the nazis who disturb the peace of these

masses disrupting their good neighbourly relations. As both of them live side by side they have to confront and become the victims of religious and political vested interests of both nazis and the Jamat. During the anti-Muslim riots in Hyderabad two years back, most of the victims were Dalits and Muslim masses (Dalits among Muslims).

Dalit conversion: The conversion of the Dalits to other religions will not solve their social, economic and cultural problems. The Dalits who were converted to Islam during the Muslim rule in India continue to live in the same sort of social and economic position. The change of faith did not improve their educational and cultural standards. This is due to the dogmatic approach of Jamat which is controlled by elite Muslims. The same is the case in South India where the Christian converts from Dalits have failed to improve their social status. Upper caste Christian converts hold the sway over the Dalit Christians.

The Jamat is ignoring the principle of universal brotherhood which professes to extend the hands of cooperation to any oppressed people irrespective of faiths.

Hence Muslim masses entering into dialogue with non-Muslim Dalits is not un-Islamic and also not against the Koranic teachings. Further, religion alone cannot liberate people from social, economic and cultural domination by elites of any religion. The Dalit converts of Islamic and Christian religion in India do not enjoy social dignity in the new faith.

The Jamat as a religious organisation should change its ideology and think that Islam is not merely a set of dogmas, creeds and rituals but is a programme for radical social reforms leading to social revolution, which can bring about the social, economic, cultural and political liberation of human kind irrespective of religions.

Periyar EVR on the curse of Congress

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Bangalore: The Congress is the original brahminical party of India and not the RSS or BJP. The last two are the children of the Congress which is the mother of all evils and the cause of all our troubles. The following passage, "This Day That Age", is reproduced from the *Hindu*, the Mount Road Mahavishnu, the country's chief brahminical daily and the greatest supporter of the Congress. The quotation is taken from the *Hindu* issues published 50 years ago in which Periyar EVR, one of the greatest leader of India, calls the bluff of Congress. What he then said is even more true today:

Madras: Congress claims are "moonshine and bluff", says EVR. Support in India for the stand of the British diehards that the Indian National Congress was not representative of the wishes and desires of the whole of India came not only from Mr. Jinnah and his Muslim League. Joining the ranks of the detractors, Mr. E.V. Ramaswami Naicker, an erstwhile member of the Congress but powerful stalwart later of the Justice Party of Madras, said: "While the total population of India is about 400 millions, we have in it 90 million Muslims, 60 million Scheduled Class people, 40 million Dravidians and Sikhs, and about 10 million Indian Christians. These classes have their own self-supporting political parties. They do not accept the regality of the Congress and are quite alien to the creed and constitution of the Congress. Besides the Pakistanis, we have other partners in India such as the 500 Indian States who can claim about one-third of India both in population and in extent, and who neither recognise the Congress nor will allow it to poke its nose into their affairs. The Congress is thus placed in a narrow sphere, and for it to claim on that basis that it has an all-India representative character is mere moonshine and bluff. I want to emphasize that the British Government should therefore act with foresight and true vision. If it bows down to the overtures of the Congress, it will lead the people of India, and particularly of Madras, into wanton trouble, chaos, and catastrophe."

(*Hindu* July 21, 1942)

After 50 years of this statement and 45 years of Congress rule, we feel EVR was absolutely correct. - EDITOR

Africans in India facing racial pervention

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Bangalore : Racism is so deep-rooted in India that Black-skinned African students studying in this worded original country of racism are facing serious trouble. Not only they are facing segregation but more than that many African boys and girls are being persecuted after being called carriers of AIDS disease and deported. One Kenya student said that while travelling in a train from Bangalore to Delhi in a second-class reserved compartment a gate-crashing Hindu family attacked him and tried to throw him out of the running train if he did not vacate his berth. Another student had to change his accommodation their. Such is the hatred for Black colour in India. African students arrived in India for studies are strictly warned by govt. authorities not to have any relationship with any Indians. So much so, the Black students in India maintain a strict aloofness for fear of being deported.

New World Order aims at exterminating Muslims

Britain's most important Muslim leader, who master-minded the "Muslim Parliament" in London and gave a shock to the world, Dr. Kalim Siddiqui, answers the question raised in *Dalit Voice* (March 16, 1992 DV edit): "Why the Whole World Hates Muslims and Islam?". He is connected with the fortnightly English journal *Crescent International*, a revolutionary journal of Muslims.

Dr. Kalim Siddiqui

During the past year we have once again witnessed the West's open enmity of Islam and Muslims. The 'Gulf War' was little short of yet another Crusade. The West's triumphalist propaganda and claims to have created a 'new world order' are utter nonsense or, at best, imaginative thinking. The Gulf War has merely confirmed everything we have always known. This can be summarized as follows:

1. That all Muslim and Arab nation-States serve the regional and global interests of the West. There were no exceptions to this rule before the Gulf War and there are none now.
2. That the West would kill any number of Muslims, or indeed any other peoples in Asia, Africa and Latin America, in pursuit of its imperialist interests.
3. That the Soviet Union is (has always been) a fully paid-up member of the Western alliance against Islam and Muslims.
4. And that the United Nations has always been and will always remain an instrument of the West.

However, there is one revelation of new, is nonetheless important. *The*

Gulf War has once again revealed what may be called the soft belly of the otherwise impregnable West; it is called the 'Vietnam syndrome'. Before the war the phrase that was on the lips of the U.S. president most often was that 'the war in the Persian Gulf will not be another Vietnam'. Well, of course, Vietnam itself is a long way away from the Persian Gulf. What did George Bush mean? Clearly he did not mean that the U.S. was not going to be defeated by Saddam Husayn's Iraq. There was never any likelihood of that. The U.S. and Western allies, having planned, financed, supplied and supported Saddam Husayn's war against Islamic Iran for eight long years, knew Saddam Husayn's fighting capability. There was no danger from him. Where, then, was 'Vietnam' in the Persian Gulf? George Bush was clearly referring to Iran. *When he said that there would not be another Vietnam, what he meant was that the U.S. and the Western alliance would not provoke a fight with Iran.* In the event, with more than

Kalim Siddiqui, the Muslim firebrand and former sub-editor of the *Guardian*, Islamic academic in his white beard, rabble-rouser, no longer wants to talk about Rushdie. Through his Muslim Institute he is engaged nothing less than a cultural revolution throughout the Muslim world by spreading the ideas of the Iranian regime. As he put it, he was "rewriting Muslim political thought to free it from western ideas foisted on it in colonial times." The Siddiqui special theory, read to a conference in Teheran, is that the Shia tradition of rule by imams and Sunni tradition of rule by caliphs merged in revolutionary Iran - a process that finally triumphed in Khomeini's fatwas.... Muslim Parliament's unselected members are chosen by committees in each of the big cities. They are expected to contribute money and raise more. They raised \$40,000 within a month of the Parliament's launch, mainly from corner shopkeepers in Leeds and Bradford. The next step is an "upper house" of dignitaries who are expected to raise higher sums.

Like many other Muslims, Siddiqui is convinced that after the demise of communism Islam has come to the fore again as the ideological enemy because it stands for spiritual values in an aggressively secular world.

He was a North Indian landowner's son and his earliest politics, working for the Muslim League was carrying his father and other old men and women on his shoulders along dusty tracks to the polling booth because in British India only landowners could vote. The first struggle was at school when Hindus and Muslims bear each other up in the months before Partition. Years later, working nights at *The Guardian*, he took a Phd in social studies. His thesis followed Max Weber's line that conflict has a positive role in society....

Poor refugees in Karachi, 27 Siddiquis lived in two tiny rooms. Kalim slept out and read his books on the grass in the botanical gardens....

By now a confirmed Muslim militant, he fought the secular legacy of Jinnah's Muslim League and championed the Islamic ethos with Maulana Maudoodi. (*The Guardian-Telegraph*, Calcutta, May 29, 1992)

the Gulf War that, though not entirely 750,000 troops and the greatest land,

air and naval power ever assembled available to them, the Western leaders made sure that not a single one of their aircraft even accidentally flew over Iran.

Fear of Iran: The Western air forces did not chase fleeing Iraqi planes into Iranian airspace. Perhaps Saddam, by using Iranian airfields as a 'safe haven' for his aeroplanes, was hoping to provoke the West into bombing Iran. But the West refused to be provoked. What did the West fear? Surely not Iran's air power, or Iranian anti-aircraft capability. Iran had precious little of these. **The West feared the power of Islam that is Iran today. They realized that if they ventured into Iran, that would be their Vietnam and Waterloo.** Imam Khumayni, by prolonging the war with Iraq for eight years, had signalled to the West and other potential invaders, that Iran would be their graveyard if ever they were foolish enough to invade the Islamic Republic. The West now likes to fight short, sharp technological wars against weak enemies. Any engagement with the Muslim soldiers of Iran would be a long drawn-out affair with hand-to-hand fighting. *In this type of warfare, American GIs clutching photos of their girl friends would be no match for the soldiers of Islam clutching copies of the Qur'an and seeking "shahadah".*

In Jan. 1989, less than six months before his death, Imam Khumayni delivered another body-blow to the progress of the secular civilization. In a letter to Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, the Imam prophesied the demise of communism.

Collapse of communism: Within a year, the vast communist empire collapsed like a pack of cards. The Imam invited Gorbachev to examine Islam as the only alternative. He even offered to welcome Soviet scholars to study in Qum. This was *imam al-hujjah* on the part of the

greatest *hujjat al-Islam* who ever lived! The Imam's strictures against communism apply equally to social democracy and capitalism. *Communism collapsed because it was the ultimate form of capitalism, with the State playing the role of the capitalist.* Corporate capitalism that has developed under the guise of social democracy is ultimately just as inefficient, wasteful and morally bankrupt as communism had become in the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe and China. Indeed, the democratic governments in such countries as Britain, France and Germany have created larger public sectors in their economies than the Soviet Union ever achieved. The factors that led to the collapse of communism are all present in the so-called capitalist/democratic systems as well. *The militaristic arrogance of the West is partly designed to hide the void at its core.* In time the capitalist monolith will collapse just as surely as the communist one has done. The West knows this. **Deep down in its historical consciousness the West also knows that the Islamic civilization will ultimately replace it as the world's dominant civilization. It is this knowledge that compels the West to try to damage Islam, the world of Islam and the Muslim people of the world as much as possible in the hope that this will at least delay their own inevitable defeat and humiliation at the hands of Islam.** This is why the Western intellectual tradition has invested so heavily in an outright attempt to try to distort and mutilate the message of Islam. This is why there is so much rubbish written and spoken against Islam and Muslims every day everywhere in the West.

Satanic Rushdie: In sentencing the author of *The Satanic Verses* to death, the judgement of the Imam was faultless. He saw *The Satanic Verses* as part of a conspiracy to

open Islam and the Prophet of Islam upto 'immaginative thought' of the kind one A.N. Wilson has now applied to the production of a highly pernicious 'biography' of Jesus Christ, upon whom be peace. If he had not been stopped in his tracks, Salman Rushdie might now be writing a similar 'literary' biography of the Prophet of Islam. A British government minister has recently admitted that a book like *The Satanic Verses* would never be written again. Good. Let us hope that, for their own sake, no one ever forgets the fate of Rushdie.

But the Imam's *fatwa* did more than that; it brought forth to the surface **the deep-seated hatred of Islam that is an essential part of the West's make-up.** The *fatwa* ignited the West's barely disguised hatred of Islam. They called us barbarians, but in the heat and violence of their own anger and frustrations the Western governments, elites, intellectuals, media and the literate bared their own barbaric past and their present and future intentions for all to see. Muslims living in Britain had a ringside view of this spectacle. This was a drama in which we were heroes, villains, innocent victims and spectators all at once.

Role of Khumayni: Imam Khumayni's greatest achievement is that he has restored to Islam its original revolutionary zeal and purpose. The debilitating effects of colonialism, nationalism and Western political culture have been banished, at least from Iran. The late Imam has also caused the political thought of Shi'i and Sunni schools to converge. (This was the subject of my paper here two years ago.) A rolling programme of Islamic revolutions will rid the entire Islamic world of this Western contagion. *Islam is now in the driving-seat of history, pressing for change. The West is on the defensive, protecting the status quo of a colonial and imperial legacy of plunder.* This legacy is

consolidated in a worldwide capitalist system and legitimized by such slogans as 'social democracy', Fukuyama's 'End of History?', and now a 'new world order'. *The struggle between the emergent civilization of Islam and the decadent civilization of the West will occupy the centre stage of history for most of the 21st century.*

What West wants: It is essential, therefore, that Muslims should develop a better understanding of the West. The western civilization's highest value is the 'standard of living' of the western man. It is also a complex civilization consolidating the enormous advances made by man in science, the technological wonders of the space age and the awesome power of modern weapons. It has produced the complex human organizations of the modern nation-States and the business acumen and efficiency of the multinationals. *The genius of the western civilization has made everyone 'equal' while making inequality permanent.* The so-called 'sovereign equality' of nation-States is an example. When 'aid' is given to the poor it is only to allow the rich to export more at higher prices, ultimately making the poor poorer and the rich richer. When protection is extended to the weak, it is to prevent the weak from trying to overcome their weakness. A 'democratic' oligarchy is created to confine the use of power and the management of resources in the hands of the same people, organized into 'competing' parties. An 'education' is given which first makes the individual insecure, and then he or she is equipped to pursue selfish goals in controlled 'systems'. The resultant commercialism has been given the values of 'freedom' and 'competition'.

Greed & profit: This has created a culture of institutionalized greed leading to high mass-consumption. Profit maximization has been made

respectable by economic theory; but at the same time wage maximization is 'immoral'. Companies can 'regulate' supplies to raise prices, but labourers must not withhold labour or else they are causing 'disruption'. Women must be sex objects at home, in the streets, in the world of entertainment and at work, but they may not forget to take the pill or else they are being 'irresponsible' by bringing 'unwanted children' into the world. *The West now has a thriving abortion industry to meet the needs of a sexually greedy civilization which, at the same time, does not want too many people to share in the goods and services they produce.* 'The poor are poor because they have too many children', is a commonly held aphorism; 'there are too many poor because they breed like rabbits', is another.

The western civilization only believes in a change which serves the interests of the west. The rest of the world is told to 'catch on' while the West also insists on its right to 'pull away' as a reward for its superior technological and organizational skills. The West's real motives for keeping the poor poor, or making them even poorer, are now widely recognized by many in the West itself. The 'left' and the 'third world' lobbies have produced a good deal of literature on the theme of exploitation, new-colonialism and imperialism. But the 'left', the 'liberals', and those who set up such cosmetic operations as Oxfam, War on Want, Christian Aid and the Third World Foundation, etc., are quite ineffectual and succeed only in giving the West an undeserved image of caring for its victims. They operate on the fringes of the symptoms, while themselves being part of the disease.

West is a plague: The position that has to be taken, and only Islam can take it, is that the western civilization is in fact a plague and a pestilence. It is no civilization at all. It is a

disease. The West today is qualitatively no different from the *Jahiliyyah*, the primitive savagery and ignorance, that prevailed in Arabia and the rest of the world at the time of the Prophet Muhammad, upon whom be peace. The *Jahiliyyah* also called itself a 'civilization', it had its 'values', it had its centres of knowledge and gave education to its children. It was strong in its trading relations and had a rich culture. The people of Makkah were renowned for their hospitality and poetry, and other forms of art also thrived there and elsewhere. That *Jahiliyyah* also had its 'gods'. (Al-Tawhid, Iran, April-June 1992)

HINDU TORCH DALIT VILLAGE

Bijapur : Police fired in the air to disperse a Hindu mob which set fire to 12 huts in the Dalit locality of Tamba village, 37 Km from here, on July 6. The mob violence was touched off by a petty quarrel at the borewell pump in the village. A Dalit boy allegedly removed a vessel kept under the tap. A man belonging to the Jhada caste objected to this. This soon led to a quarrel between two groups. (Deccan Herald July 8). ■

India punished for human rights violations

Washington : India was at the receiving end on June 25 in the House of Representatives of the United States Congress for what the American lawmakers said was abuse of human rights of the people of Kashmir and Punjab by the Indian security forces. As a culmination of the indignation of the House, it adopted an amendment to the Foreign Aid Appropriations Act for 1993 that would cut US development assistance to Third World countries by \$ 24 million from a budget of \$ 1,037 billion. The amendment was proposed as a punishment for India.

However, we need to admit that India's image abroad is being seriously damaged by reports of human rights abuses in Kashmir and Punjab by the security forces. (Deccan Herald July 1). ■

Indus Valley was not Aryan but a glorious Dravidian Civilisation

In continuation of our search for roots, we are reproducing the following passage from the famous book, "The Cambridge History of India". (The Indus valley civilisation), by the world famous author, Cambridge University Press, 1953. The following portion is reproduced from the "Conclusion" of the book, pages 93 to 95).

MORTIMER WHEELER

Any attempt to appreciate the general position of the Harappans in the history of civilization as a whole must be based on an evaluation of three factors: the contribution of the seemingly earlier civilization of Mesopotamia, the initiative of the constituent Indus population, and the debt of both to a pre-existing or underlying continuum of ideas.

The civilizations alike of the Twin Rivers and of the Indus converge retrospectively in the vast massif which extends from the Himalaya and the Hindu Kush westwards across Iran into Anatolia. In this mountainous zone, broken by patches of steppe and stony plateau, a great variety of small related cultures developed in the fifth millennium to the capacity of a restricting environment; and from that zone in the fourth millennium certain of the more enterprising of them began to escape southwards and south-westwards into the riverine plains, there to encounter simultaneously unprecedented problems and opportunities. The rapid consequence was a social co-ordination which by the latter half of the millennium was already, in Mesopotamia, worthy of the name of civilization.

Links with Mesopotamia: It is to be supposed that the Indus civilization, too exotic to be regarded merely as a Mesopotamian colony, was essentially the parallel product of similar stimuli at a somewhat later date. It is equally to be supposed that the primary struggles of the proto-Sumerians towards civilization had provided a pattern which was now ready to the hands of the evolving Harappans and helped them to an early and easy maturity.

For it is the likelihood of an early and easy maturity that has, above all things, impressed the excavators of the Harappan sites. True, there are matters which require further examination before this impression hardens. There is that unknown quantity, the unsounded depths of Mohenjo-daro and Chanhu-daro. There is the suspicion that the citadel-builders of Mohenjo-daro and of Harappa were innovators, arriving with architectural traditions founded elsewhere upon the

manipulation of mud-brick and timber, and imposing themselves upon a pre-existing urban population. The high-build citadels seem indeed to be frowning upon their cities with a hint of alien domination.

Euphrates connection : If so, at Mohenjo-daro that domination must have been dynastic rather than cultural, for the excavations of 1950 indicated a substantial continuity of culture from the pre-citadel into the early citadel phase. These and other possibilities must be given provisional weight without undue emphasis.

But it can at least be averred that, however translated, the **idea** of civilization came to the Indus from the Euphrates and the Tigris, and gave the Harappans their initial direction or at least informed their purpose.

Between the two civilizations ensued a sufficiently active inter-relationship to carry seals and other knick-knacks westwards to Sumer and, more rarely, Sumerian or Iranian objects eastwards to the Indus. At the back of this trifling interchange was presumably a more ample trade in perishable commodities such as incense, cotton, perhaps slaves and timber; the unsuitability of both claimates for the preservation of organic material prevents certainty. But the surviving evidence of this interchange is not impressive in bulk, and it is likely enough that many of the inter-regional resemblances, particularly in matters of religion (pp 80 and 84), owe more to community of inheritance than to trade.

It is improbable that Gilgamesh, for example, was carried from Sumer to Mohenjo-daro like so much merchandise and there equipped, as we seem to find him, with adopted tigers instead of lions; certainly it is easier to postulate an ancestral Gilgamesh native to both civilizations and absorbed independently into the two environments. For there is on the whole a notable absence of intellectual borrowing between the material cultures of the two regions.

Priest king: In a vague sense the artificial mountain of the ziggurat and the artificial mountain of the Indus citadel may be thought to reflect a comparable hierarchical polity.

The regimented cantonment of Harappa may suggest the priest-controlled industries of Sumer. It may even be permissible to propose a priest king for Mohenjodaro. But all these points of resemblance, real or imagined, may be ascribed rather to the inherent cousinship of a social phase than to literal, local interchange. They are common generalities, the product of stray seeds readily fertilized in similar historical and geographical settings. The particularities, on the other hand, show abundant and significant local variation.

In such sculptural art as the Indus has produced there is no real affinity with the sculpture of Sumer. No one would mistake a stone carving from Mohenjodaro for one from Tell Asmar. The Indus terra-cottas are in a different world from those of Mesopotamia. The art of the Harappan seals has no close parallel in the whole history of glyptic.

Indus language not Sanskrit: And the Indus language, in so far as its features may be dimly determined through the veil of its unread script, differed as its script differed from that of Sumer and owed no more to this than the basic **idea**, perhaps, of written record. The integrity of the Indus civilization stands unchallenged.

Such integrity itself, however, implies an isolation which raises the further and final question: How far did the Indus civilization contribute to the enduring sum-total of human achievement? It is not difficult to relate the civilization of Mesopotamia to the general development of civilization in the West. There the Harappans have at present small claim to partnership. Nor at first sight have they any great claim to their own sub-continent. Their cities decayed and were, it seems, obliterated in their decadence by an insurgent barbarism, instinct with the heroic qualities which barbarism is liable to assume but not sympathetic to the vestiges of urban discipline.

Slaughtered Harappans lay unburied amidst their streets and drains. Did all that they represented perish with them? Their plumbing at least and their special artistry they failed to bequeath to later ages.

What of their less tangible qualities, their philosophy and their beliefs? Here archaeology is of necessity an insensitive medium. **But reason has been shown to suspect that the later Hinduism, in spite of its Aryan garb, did in fact retain not a little of the non-Aryan, Harappan mentality and relationships perhaps to a far greater extent than can now be proved.**

The recurrent figures of a proto-Siva, seated in sinister state or possibly dancing as triumphant Nataraja, the

evidence of phallic worship, of reverence paid to animals, particularly of the cult of the bull, have nothing to do with Vedic faith but anticipate dominant elements of the historic Brahmanism.

Paradoxically it would appear that the Indus civilization transmitted to its successors a metaphysics that endured, whilst it failed utterly to transmit the physical civilization which is its present monument. Our appreciation of its achievement must in the end depend upon a marshalling of values which lies outside the scope of this chapter.

Tamil Dalit Professor disproves merit theory

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Coimbatore : Dr. Aruna Rajagopal alias Dr. Aruna Arasuko of Tamil Nadu received the Ramsasthrulu Monagala Award for best research in agriculture for the year 1991. This award (gold medal) was presented at the annual celebrations of Madras Agricultural Students Union here.

Aruna, a noted Dalit scholar, is heading the Water Technology Centre of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University here as its Director since Oct. 1990. Graduated in 1962, he took his M.Sc. (Ag) in 1971 and completed his doctoral programme in 1979. His specialisation is irrigation management.

He has published five books and many research articles. His area of study is '*Identity Crisis of Dravidians of India*'. He has brought out the identity and glorious past of Dalits/BCs and other minorities of India. He is currently working on the topic 'Buddha to Pandian'.

He has proved that Dalits of India were either Buddhists or Jains and also the blood relations of BCs/Muslims and Christians.

He visited US, Japan, Phillipines, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Lanka. He will be going to Bulgaria shortly on a cultural exchange programme. He has translated the works of V.T. Rajshekar's *Apartheid in India* into Tamil. He is also translating articles appearing in *Dalit Voice*.

He is the first Dalit Professor at the University level in TN (1981). He attributes the motivation of Dravidian movement (DK, DMK), educational facilities of Christians, and brotherhood of Islam for his achievements and disproved the Aryan/Brahmin "merit" theory.

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