

# DALIT VOICE

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Denied Human Rights

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**Dalits can never trust Hindus :  
Thus Spake Ambedkar**

## Thus Spake Ambedkar

## Dalits can never trust a Hindu because he is not only alien but antagonistic

So far I have explained in a general way why the peculiar social structure of the Hindu Society calls for a peculiar political structure and why the maker of the Indian Constitution cannot escape problems which did not plague the makers of Constitution in other countries. Let me now take the specific question, namely why it is necessary that in the Indian Constitution the Communal Scheme must find its place and why in the Public Services for the Untouchables should be specified and should be assigned to them as their separate possession. The justification for these demands is easy and obvious.

It arises from the undeniable fact that *what divides the Untouchables from the Hindus is not mere matter of difference on non-essentials. It is a case of fundamental antagonism and antipathy.* No evidence of this antipathy and antagonism is necessary. The system of Untouchability is enough evidence of the inherent antagonism between the Hindus and the Untouchables. Given this antagonism it is simply impossible to ask the Untouchables to depend upon the trust the Hindus to do them justice when the Hindus get their freedom and independence from the British. Who can say that the Untouchable is not right in saying that he will not trust the Hindu?

*The Hindu is as alien to him as a European is and what is worse the European alien is neutral but the Hindu is most shamefully partial to his own class and antagonistic to the Untouchables.* There can be no doubt that the Hindus have all these ages despised, disregarded and disowned the Untouchables as belonging to a different and contemptible strata of society if not to a different race. By their own code of conduct the Hindus behave as the most exclusive class steeped in their own prejudices and never sharing the aspirations of the Untouchables with whom they have nothing to do and whose interests are opposed to theirs. Why should the Untouchables entrust their fate to such people? How could the Untouchables be legitimately asked to leave their interests into the hands of a people who as a matter of fact are opposed to them in their motives and interests, who do not sympathise with the living forces operating among the Untouchables, who are themselves not charged with their wants, cravings and desires, who are inimical to their aspirations, who in all certainty will deny justice to them and to discriminate against them and who by reason of the sanction of their religion have not been and will not be ashamed to practice against the Untouchables any kind of inhumanity. The only safety against such people is to have the political rights which the Untouchables claim as safeguards against **the tyranny of the Hindu Majority** defined in the Constitution. Are the Untouchables extravagant in demanding this safety?

In the midst of this political controversy one notices that the Hindus are behaving differently towards different communities. The Untouchables are not the only people in India who are demanding political safeguards. **Like the Untouchables the Muslims and the Sikhs have also presented their political demands to the Hindus.** Both the Mussalmans and the Sikhs can in no sense be called helpless minorities. On the contrary they are the two most powerful communities in India. They are educationally quite advanced and economically well placed. By their social standing they are quite as high as the Hindus. Their organization is a solid structure and no Hindu will dare to take any liberties with them much less cause any harm to them.

(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.

## DALIT VOICE

The Voice of the Persecuted Nationalities  
Denied Human RightsBSO killing Dravida leadership  
through corruption using  
parliamentary democracy

This is in continuation of our April 1, 1992 editorial: "Doubts on democracy : BSO using western models to enslave SC/ST/BCs and Muslims/Christians/Sikhs". We want our people to seriously ponder over the following issues:

The existing MPs (Members of the Lok Sabha/Parliament) and MLAs cannot serve our interests. Because the genuine leadership of these six oppressed communities cannot contest elections, let alone getting elected.

To contest election, one needs enormous money. It is said for a Lok Sabha seat a candidate has to spend about Rs.1 crore. And an MLA seat needs Rs.20 lakhs. From where can a genuine representative of the people get this much of money? That is why only the "rich" people, who can either afford or collect this amount, can contest elections which have become the game of the rich. That means only the corrupt can contest the elections.

That is why the entire "leadership" of the country - at all levels down to the panchayat - has become corrupt. Unless a "leader" is corrupt he cannot be in the political field. To contest elections he needs money and that is why after getting elected he will spend all the time collecting money. Our MPs and MLAs are busy doing only this work. We are not casting any aspersion on our elected representatives. The system is like that. Even if the Editor of DV becomes an "elected" MLA or MP, he has to be corrupt.

**Blue-eyed boy of Sanjay Gandhi:** This keeps out the genuine leaders. A leader wins the heart of the people only if he is committed and self-sacrificing. But a corrupt leader can neither be committed nor self-sacrificing. His masters are not his people. But those who pay him. That is why India is buried neck deep in corruption and has become the world's most corrupt country. That is why only the corrupt can get to the top. Corruption - that is "money corruption" - is never a part of our political vocabulary, nay the *Dharma*, because our politicians nay elections need the support of businessmen who can make money only with the support of the corrupt politicians.

Hashad Mehta was not arrested under the NASA only because he is shielded by the corrupt political leadership.

The Tanjore Iyer, Krishnamurthy, the dismissed Planning Commission member, was a blue-eyed boy of Sanjay Gandhi, the mafia leader.

This is what the parliamentary democracy has brought us: a corrupt political leadership thriving on a corrupt society. When the leadership becomes corrupt everybody else becomes corrupt. Top to bottom we have become corrupt.

That is how those who are not corrupt cannot contest elections under the existing parliamentary democracy which drives away the dedicated souls.

**What is the way-out?:** So what is the way out? This is what we discussed in our April 1 editorial.

We are not opposed to democracy. Parliamentary democracy is just one of the several varieties of democracy. The western whites have opted for parliamentary democracy because they have mostly 'nation-states'. England is a single "Nation" So too Germany, France, Italy etc.

**Nation-states:** But India and other Asian and African countries are not 'nation-states'. Several "nations" exist within a state. (*D. Smith: State and Nation in the Third World*, 1989, Wheat Shelf Books, Sussex, UK).

Under the Indian conditions, SC/ST/BCs and "religious minorities" can elect their genuine representatives only under "Three Separations": A separate electorate, separate settlement and religious separation. (DV edit: Jan.16, 92).

*That means self-determination.*

We had said this in our July 1, 1991 edit also: "*Non-Hindu lambs cannot get power through existing elections: Self-determination only solution*". We had said the same thing many a times. But our six segments - SC/ST/BCs and Muslims/Christians/Sikhs - comprising over 85% of our population are refusing to apply their mind. We can wake up a sleeping person. But can we wake up a person pretending to sleep? Our Dravidian people appear to have resigned to their fate. They are not feeling even the pain as their blood is being sucked by the Aryan rulers.

And what else we can say about such people except to sigh in sorrow: slaves enjoying their slavery?

Will the oppressed 85% plus the women (including the

Brahmin women) of the country, who are also oppressed go on sitting pretty enjoying their slavery?

**BSO's worst weapon:** Remember, the worst weapon the BSO experiments on us is corruption. You can take it from us that the entire leadership of all the six segments is corrupted. This is no exaggeration. We can give any number of examples. The Republican Party of India (RPI) started by Babasaheb Ambedkar is split into 10 warring factions (may be more) and each faction is under the payroll of one section of the BSO or other. In Bombay, the Jogender Kavade faction of the RPI threatened to take a march on nazi leader Bal Thackeray's house on Sept. 2 for insulting Babasaheb calling him "a stooge of the Nizam" (DV Sept. 16, p.13). What happened? Nothing. The Ramdas Athwale (a Minister in Maharashtra govt.) faction foiled it. Dog eating dog. The BSO sets one Dalit against another Dalit, one Muslim against another. In Kerala, the Muslim League Minister Kunhalikutty is asked by the BSO to fight the Islamic Sevak Sangh. Punjab CM, A Jat Sikh, is appointed by the BSO to fight other Jat Sikhs. Kanshiram and Ramvilas Paswan are at each other's throat.

Is this not slaves enjoying slavery?

In Karnataka, the Backward Caste Veerappa Moily, who has hardly any following in the Congress, is asked to fight the powerful BC Chief Minister Bangarappa. It is dog eating dog at all levels. From top to bottom. In every village, "leaders" of the six segments are fighting their own blood brothers. We have no words to describe the depth to which our non-Aryan, non-Hindu Dravidian leadership has descended deep into this bottomless pit of corruption.

**Kalyan Singh example:** The leadership in political, trade union, social, educational, govt. services, and cooperative societies, every other field is corrupted. Otherwise, how can a pig-rearing community leader of BCs, Kalyan Singh, head a nazi govt. in UP? How can several Yadav BC MPs defect from Janata Dal and join the Jat leader Ajit Singh camp? How can Karunanidhi become a Cut-Throat in Tamil Nadu? How can Madhavsingh Solanki, four times Chief Minister of Gujarat, forget his BC community and handover the State to the Patidar Patels, Banias and Brahmins? If he is honest why Solanki did not disclose the "secret note" on the Bofors on which he was forced to resign as Foreign Minister?

The whole thing is disgusting.

The existing parliamentary democracy keeping 80% of the people as illiterate and poverty-stricken has helped the BSO to keep us enslaved through corruption.

**Muscle & money rule:** Today, every "leader" has a

set of goondas to muscle through the society. Through money and muscles he maintains his "leadership". The best example for this is shudra Thackeray whose father Prabhodankaer Thackeray was once the leader of the anti-Brahmin movement in Maharashtra. Today, the son is the leader of the Maratha mafias sitting atop a Mount Everest of money and muscles.

Stinking corruption surrounds the leadership of all the six segments. Even the tribal leadership has been purchased and corrupted. Jharkhand tribal leadership is cutting each others throat to please the BSO. *The most shocking is even the purest North-East Mangolid tribal leadership has been killed through corruption. We have no words to describe our agony. When words fail, only tears can tell the story.*

Are we to sit silent throwing up our hands in haplessness? Frankly, we the non-corrupt people are in majority - big majority. Can't we "finish" this small corrupt leadership even if it is our own? We are not advocating the "dog eating the dog" method. We should not issue statements, go to the press to criticise our own corrupt brothers. We can quietly eliminate them by educating our people. Educate, Agitate, Organise. Every society knows the corruption of its leadership.

**Second Babasaheb won't come:** In Tamil Nadu, every Dravidian knows Karunanidhi's corruption and the way he betrayed the Dravidian cause. Every Dalit in Maharashtra knows that Minister Ramdas Athavale has betrayed Babasaheb on the *Namantar* (renaming of the Marathwada University) issue. A second Babasaheb can never be born as long as every up and coming leader allows himself to be corrupted by the BSO. Corrupt people whoever they are must be eliminated and then each segment must educate its people on the "Three Separations" leading to self-determination. Because, the 21st century is only just six years away. ■

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## KGB killed Rajiv Gandhi?

New Delhi: Retired Andhra Pradesh Director-General of Police M.V. Thomas on Sept. 14, alleged that the Soviet secret agency, KGB, had masterminded the assassinations of Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi and was also responsible for the death of Lal Bahadur Shastri. Thomas, who had served for 11 years in the Intelligence Bureau (1959-70), told newsmen here that the KGB had entrusted the job of assassinating Rajiv Gandhi to the most wanted international terrorist Abu Nidal, who engaged the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) for the purpose. (*Indian Express* Sept. 15)

# PMK creates history : Self - dermination

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Bangalore: Pattali Makkal Katchi, the up and coming revolutionary party of Tamil Nadu, became the country's first political party in India to demand self-determination for each nationality. Since India is not a nation but a group of nations as per Dr. Ambedkar, this resolution assumes great historic significance and has already started facing furious criticism from brahminical forces.

A resolution to this effect was passed at a massive Marina Beach public meeting of the party on the night of Sept. 12 that went on till 4 AM next day. V.P.Singh was present on the dias as the resolution was passed.

The resolution was moved by Dr. Ramadoss, founder-leader of the party, who is emerging as the future hope of Tamil Nadu now under the *papan* state a terrorism. The self-determination resolution is a big victory to *Dalit Voice* which has been continuously campaigning for this to save India's unity and integrity from the Aryan anti-national forces.

**Absence of Muslims:** Another important feature of the three-day conference was the open support to and praise of Velupillai Prabhakaran, the LTTE chief. Prabhakaran's portraits were taken out in the procession and slogans raised praising him - thus proving that *Bangalore papatti's* threat of arrest under the Terrorist Act for mere praise of LTTE is simply ignored. The fear is gone and TN is ripe for liberation from Aryan *papan* dictatorship.

Those who addressed the massive 3 - lakh-strong gathering included V.P.Singh, Ram Vilas Paswan, Prakash Ambedkar, V.T.Rajshekar, Ram Awadesh Singh. The Editor of DV, a family member of the PMK, was present on all the three days of the conference.

The Editor noticed many new fair weather friends flocking around Dr. Ramadoss. If the PMK has to preserve its revolutionary best such people must be kept away. The absence of Muslims was conspicuous.

As the Editor of DV was sitting on the high rise dias of the Marina beach conclave, certain thoughts passed across his mind and that will be poured out in DV later.

## MADRAS SEMINAR ON OCT. 1

Madras: The seminar on Dalit Christians is postponed to Oct.1 and 2, 1992. Ram Vilas Paswan will inaugurate and the Editor of DV will be speak at Evangelical Church, No.1, Second., Ormes Road, Kilpauk, Madras - 16.

# Why Chavan started Jharkhand controversy?

OUR CORRESPONDENT

**Bangalore:** The amount of deception practiced by our "leaders" in public life is crossing all limits. Union Home Minister S.B. Chavan "conceding" the long-pending demand of tribals for a "separate Jharkhand State" is the case in point.

At Pune, the Satya Sai Baba chela said this (on Sept.8) for the second time.

And the Union Home Ministry is in charge of the subject of creating new States. That means Chavan is giving the opinion of the Govt. of India.

But has the Govt. of India decided to concede Jharkhand? No.

Then is Chavan stupid?

No. He is not. He is just inciting the Jharkhand tribals against Bihar Chief Minister Laloo Prasad Yadav, the darling of the SC/ST/BC/Muslim masses of Bihar and hated for that very reason by the brahminical social order (BSO).

Chavan, a backboneless Maratha who has no following in his own home State of Maharashtra, is trying to please the BSO and thereby trying to retain his position.

**Sikh demand:** Can a Minister, that too the Union Home Minister, talk nonsense? Yes. Why not? If the talk is serving the cause of the BSO he can.

Chavan is the No.2 man in the Union Cabinet and presides over Cabinet meet in the absence of the Prime Minister. And yet he can talk like this?

No paper criticised Chavan for "conceding" Jharkhand because Chavan's nonsense was meant to hurt Laloo and that means Chavan's nonsense is music to the ears of the BSO which controls the media. ■

## CONGRESS USING SS TO FOOL DALITS

**Bombay:** The State Congress and the Shiv Sena have sown dissension in the Dalit rank and file at a time when the community is clamouring for the renaming of Marathwda University after Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, a longstanding demand of the last 14 years.

The Congress bosses are cleverly using the Sena as a bully-boy to warn the Dalits that agitational tactics would not help fulfil the popular demand. The Congress and the Sena have made a common cause as none of the two parties favour a change in the Marathwada University's name. ("Times of India." Sept 6.)

## Nazis say Aryans are indigenous but Muslims invaders - why?

SK. SADAR NAYEEM

The education minister of the BJP government in UP said the Aryans were the original inhabitants of the country. The theory that Aryans were foreigners who had entered north-western India through the passes in the Hindu Kush was the work of motivated historians, he said. (DV Sept. 1 92, p.20 *Anti-Muslim brainwashing in UP*).

By rewriting textbooks, the BJP hopes to make a twofold gain.

First, it plans institutionalising its much propagated but fallacious theory that Muslims were the first invaders who settled down in this country and who showed no reverence to its customs and norms.

Second, by polarising Hindus and Muslims genetically, the BJP will contend that Indian culture is not syncretic and that India is not a community of communities.

*The BJP's new, queer history will be taught in schools from next year. Little children will learn an erroneous version of history, written not by an objective academician but in accordance with the dictates of fascist political party.*

That the distortion of Aryan history will, ultimately, belittle the Hindu religion itself does not seem to bother the BJP.

If the BJP tries presenting the Aryan invasion of India as fiction masquerading as fact, then it will have to repudiate the basic Indo-European character of Hinduism. This is not possible as certain rituals and beliefs of the faith bear affinity to those of the Greeks, Romans, Celts, Germans, Scandinavians and Slavs.

**European origin of Aryans:** Further, there is no evidence to prove that Aryans went to Europe from India. Therefore, the historical testimony which suggests that Aryans migrated to India has also been used to support the notion that Indo-Europeans emerged from the region near the Caspian Sea and the southern Russian Steppes.

*From their original homeland, the Indo-European tribes spread out in search of pasture. Some went to Greece, others to Asia Minor, to Iran and to India. By the time the Indo-Europeans reached India, they had acquired the name "Aryan".*

To date, no scholar has challenged Georges Dumézil who has established the common religious heritage of the Indo-European peoples. The historicity of the assertion that the quintessential religion of the Aryans was not rooted in India is quite unquestionable.

The Aryan Hindu religious vocabulary did not have analogues in the Dravidian languages of the Indian aborigines. However, they did and do in the European and Indo-European languages.

For example, the word for god in Sanskrit is *deva*. This is derived from the Indo-European *deiwo* (to shine) or the corresponding noun *deiwo*s (those who shine). The Latin equivalent is *deus*. Similarly, the word *sharaddha* can be compared to the Avestan *zrazda* or the Latin *credere*.

Apart from language, the Indo-European character of the Vedic Aryans was visible in their lifestyle,

culture and institutions. Light was the embodiment of the most basic religious sentiment of the Aryans. This bears comparison with the Latin concept of *aurora* and the Greek one of *eos*.

The attitude of the ancient Hindus towards *agni* (fire) personified and deified by Aryans in the Rig Veda is akin to that of the Romans and Persians. *Agni, ignis* (Latin) and *ognji* (Slavic) are all reconstructions of the Indo-European *egnis*.

The *yajna*, a major rite of the Aryan Hindus, can be regarded a variant of the Roman *sacrificium*. Moreover, the Vedic *santramani* sacrifice, which is dedicated to the deity Indra, bears a striking resemblance to the Roman *suovetaurilia*.

It is clear from the annals of Herodotus that the Aryan practice of deifying natural phenomena was also a feature of Greek and Persian society. This is in keeping with the primordial Indo-European trait of regarding all natural phenomena as divine.

Even smaller natural phenomena, like rivers and streams, were deified. An old Syracusan gold coin depicts the river Arethusa as a goddess. The Aryans did the same to Indian rivers, with the Yamuna and the Ganga being prime examples.

**Aryans were original invaders:** Anthropological studies show that the shift from the non-anthropomorphic to the anthropomorphic was smooth but gradual. Indra, the god of fire, and Agni are products of this process which is analogical to the mythology of the Greeks and Romans. The Vedic pantheon presents a parallel

to the Greek, Roman and Nordic. **Further evidence that the Aryans were not an indigenous people comes from the fact that no Indian evidence has ever been cited as the basis of their ethnic identity.** The indigenous Indians, described in Vedic literature as *panis* or *dasas* were held as inferior because of their dark complexion and flat features which bore contrast to the fair skins and sharp features of Aryans.

**The language and social habits of the locals were totally alien to the invaders. This bred contempt and racism.** Subsequently, the word *dasa* came to mean slave. Therefore, at best, the Aryanisation of India can be regarded as its original colonisation.

The settlements of the Aryans were initially confined to Punjab. Later, as they advanced along the Ganga, Aryans spread eastward across uninhabited territory. After the entire north had been claimed, the Aryans began the colonisation of the Deccan.

**Subjugation of the south:** The subjugation of the south remained incomplete because the Aryans who settled there failed utterly in their attempt to impose their language and ways on the locals.

The aborigines in the north were, however, reduced to servitude. (Later they declined to the level of Untouchables). The original Aryan social structure comprised three classes; it now came to include a fourth. The Sudras were given the status of the fourth caste under Hindu law.

*Why is the BJP keen on portraying the Aryans as non-immigrants? Why is it attempting to prove that Indian culture has not derived from the Indo-European stock?*

The reason is the party is bent upon making the genetic principle absolutely binding so that heredity is viewed as a principle of ordering not

only race relations but all kinds of relations and functions within Hindu society.

**Why Nazis worship Ram?** By seeking to bind Hinduism in a straitjacket and preclude any change in its hierarchy, the BJP has proved that it is the representative of solely upper caste Hindus (i.e., the descendants of the Aryans). Its obsession with Ram is not surprising as the para-historical Ram is regarded as the supreme Aryan warrior-king in India and the leader of the southern campaign.

*That the BJP is not interested in the betterment of the lot of non-upper caste Hindus is apparent.* It has not debunked Vedic orthodoxy which declares it sacrilegious for a Sudra to even hear, let alone read, the Vedas. During any caste riot the bloodletting in Rajasthan's Kumher town earlier this year is a case in point - the BJP champions the upper caste cause and encourages lower caste oppression.

**Why Bengal is an exception?** That the politics of the BJP has not found much acceptance in Bengal is also due to its casteist overtone. Bengal witnessed an intellectual clash between conservative and liberal Hindus, in the last century, over the very issue. The conservative argument, equating Hindu pride with Aryan superiority, was dismissed by the liberals who argued that *since Bengalis were not Aryan a good deal of Hinduism was clearly non-Aryan.*

Such thought crystallised into the popular credo of Bengal and ensured the absence of the caste consciousness which characterises modern Aryavarta.

It is from this credo that must arise the challenge to the insidious BJP bid to codify Hinduism. **The BJP's reinterpretations of history is indeed harmful for Indian Muslims,**

**it is even more dangerous for 75 per cent of the Hindu population of this country. (Telegraph Setp.3)**

## UK rights leaders detained

OUR CORRESPONDENT

**Bangalore:** How oppressive and merciless the brahminical social order (BSO) can be? The following report gives sufficient indication:

**New Delhi:** On Aug. 26, the Supreme Court upheld the detention of the two British nationals, David Patrick Ward and Steven Hillman, under the National Security Act.

The Nagaland Govt. detained them as they were among those who were determined to fight the cause of Naga insurgents, as members of a UK-based organisation known as "Naga Vigil". (*UNI-Deccan Herald*, Aug.27).

Naga sources said the Nagas, a Mongoloid tribe, have been fighting the imposition of BSO "dictatorship" ever since India got "independence". It was during the British (Christian) regime, the Baptist Missionaries came and rescued the Nagas and civilised them. They made Nagaland a 100% literate in English. But it was the BSO which wants to "Hinduise" them and enslave them. Against this the missionaries offered support and so too the human rights organisations all over the world.

It is the Indian Army which is oppressing the simple Naga tribals but not the church. They said Dr. M.M. Thomas of Kerala was dismissed as Governor of Nagaland recently because as a Christian and humanist he did not like the BSO atrocities, they said. But the BSO has its own law.

## Crimes of Brahmin Bania landlord combine on Dalits & Muslims

KATTI PADMARAO, GEN. SEC. AP DALIT MAHA SABHA, PONNUR, AP - 552 123

On Aug. 15 last, we conducted "Black Day" rallies and hoisted black flags in all our offices. I hoisted the black flag before our office here and called upon Dalits to overthrow the caste-ridden power-mongers and fight for the real independence for the BC/SC and Muslims.

We have been suppressed all these years by the Brahmin-Bania-landlord combine ruling India for the past 45 years. The Hindu nazis have suppressed Dalits and Muslims. *Political power, land, industries, mines, natural resources and trade have passed into the hands of this crafty combine. And misery, poverty, hunger and shame have been transferred to the Dalits, minorities and weaker sections.*

**Handloom:** Police and revenue officials are recruited to suppress the powerless Dalits and minorities. The once internationally - acclaimed handloom industry is destroyed by the millowners and the handloom workers are starved to death. Potters, black-smiths, washermen, barbers, cobblers basket-weavers, stone-cutters are all perishing.

**Nude parade:** Recently in Medak dt. (AP), Gundreddipalli village, a washerwoman, Krishnamma (30) was gang-raped by nine people. Her head was shaved, cashewnut juice was applied on her bleeding head, a garland of chappals was put around her head, and then she was paraded in nude in two villages.

Has the civilised world heard of such an incident?

Yadava, Settibalija, Gowda, Ediga his brahminical rule.

**Babri Masjid:** The education field is captured through privatisation of engineering and medical colleges and by allowing capitation fees. **The Brahmin-Bania combine has joined hands with the shudra landlords to revive the Hindu rajya to deny any place to non-Hindus in India.** They have also a secret understanding with the Congress in this respect. Capturing Babri Masjid is nothing but a challenge to Christians, Buddhists, Jains and Muslims.

**Scrap reserved seats:** Political reservations have become a failure. They are serving the interest of the ruling class. This fact has been recognised by the SC/ST Parliamentary Forum. Nobody is taking interest in "separate electorate", pleaded by Babasaheb Ambedkar. The violence on Dalits at Chundur, Komher and Cheemakurthi are being repeated everywhere. There are about 160 lockup deaths in three years in AP. In 1991, there were 1,700 encounters on Dalits and the land of Buddha is continuously wet with the blood of Dalits. Hence this "independence" belongs to the Brahmin-Bania-landlord shudra class. So, let us say we have not got independence. Let us start a "Quit India" movement against these exploiting ruling class and march forward with black flags to overthrow the exploiters. ■

### BSO doesn't mean what it says and doesn't say what it means

#### OUR CORRESPONDENT

**Bangalore:** This is in continuation of our editorial of Sept. 16, '92: "Fascist famists and time-passwala women's organisations".

**Pune: President, Shankar Dayal Sharma unveiling the statue of Maharshi Dhondo Keshav Karve, a social reformer and pioneer in women's education, said on Sept. 4 that "Half the nation's population - women - must not be allowed to go waste". (Hindu Sept. 5)**

S.D. Sharma is an authority on the *Sanatana Dharma* and knows its friend, philosopher and guide, Manu, by heart.

What does Manu say? (*The Laws of Manu*, 1992, Penguin Books). It says: Before the marriage a woman must be

under the custody of the father, after marriage under the husband and during widowhood under her sons. Never shall the woman be left free".

The *sanatana* society has been following this dictates of Manu ever since he wrote his *Manu Dharma Shas'tra* that governs the entire brahminical social order. But S.D. Sharma knowing this full well speaks something contrary. What does it mean? That means he only speaks but does not mean it. If he means what he says, out he goes. And that also he knows and there is no question of his speaking against it as he is a part of it.

That means the *sanatana* society speaks with two voices. It doesn't mean what it says and doesn't say what it means.

## Poison sold as history : we buy it, read it and get jaundice

To what extent our upper caste/Hindu historians have distorted Indian history to instigate anti-Muslim feelings among the young school and college students is demonstrated by the *Modern Rationalist*, a monthly journal from Madras, devoted to rationalist causes. In its issue of June 1975, it quotes the text from the books of five noted historians. While the subject dealt with relates to one single incident - Mohammed Ghazni's attack on Somnath temple - the version differs from historian to historian indicating their biased approach. Each history book Vincent Smith (*Oxford History of India*), Majumdar, Rayachaudhuri and Kalinkar Datta (*An Advanced History of India*), Romila Thapar (*A History of India*), R.C. Majumdar (*The History and culture of Indian people, vol.5, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan*) - gives different interpretations of the sack of Somanath Temple and the motives behind the attack in which 5,000 Hindus were said to have been killed. While Vincent Smith and Romila Thapar say that Ghazni invaded India to plunder the hidden wealth in temples, Mazumdar and Sathianathaier play the Hindu nazi tune that Ghazni's invasion was part of his idol-breaking campaign at destroying Hindus. The relevant passages from these books are reproduced.

### VINCENT A. SMITH

The most celebrated and interesting of Mahamud's expeditions was the sixteenth, undertaken with the object of sacking the temple of Somnath of Prabhasa Pattana on the coast of Saurashtra or Kathiawar, which was known to be stored with incalculable riches...He seems to have quitted Ghazni with a force of 30,000 horsemen besides volunteers...A fiercely contested fight gave the invaders possession of the fortified temple and of an enormous mass of treasure. The number of slain exceeded 50,000....The object of worship was a huge stone lingam enshrined in the sanctum of a temple constructed mainly of timber. The principal hall had 56 columns of wood covered with lead...He arrived at Ghazni loaded with plunder...While Muslim historians regard him as one of the glories of Islam, a less partial judgement finds in his proceedings little deserving of admiration. **His ruling passion seems to have been avarice...** So far as India was concerned, Mahmud was simply a bandit operating on a large scale, who was too strong for the Hindu Rajas, and was in consequence also able to inflict much irreparable

damage". -*The Oxford History of India.*

### MAJUMDAR/RAYACHAUDHURI AND KALIKINKAR DATTA

"Mahmud's expeditions were mostly regular raids undertaken mainly with the object of destroying Hindu temples, desecrating Hindu idols and plundering the wealth of the country. Altogether seventeen expeditions were set to his credit by Muslim chroniclers who describe with glee the wanton destruction and massacre on a large scale by Mahmud and the fabulous wealth carried by him to Gazni after each expedition. It is said that from Nagarkot alone he plundered 700,000 golden dinars, 700 mans of gold and silver plates, 200 mans of pure gold in ingots, 2,000 mans of unwrought silver, and twenty mans of various jewels, including pearls, corals, diamonds and rubies".

### ROMILA THAPAR

Temples were depositories of vast quantities of wealth in cash, golden images and jewellery-the donations of the pious-and these made them

natural targets for a non-Hindu searching for wealth in northern India. Mahmud's greed for gold was insatiable. From 1010 to 1026, the invasions of Mahmud were directed to temple towns-Mathura, Thanesar, Kanauja and finally Somnath. The concentration of wealth at Somnath was renowned, and consequently it was inevitable that Mahmud would attack it.

"Added to the desire for wealth was the religious motivation, iconoclasm being a meritorious activity among the more orthodox followers of Islamic faith. The destruction of Somnath was frengniied, and its effects were to remain for many centuries in the Hindu mind and to colour its assessment of the character of Mahmud, and on occasion of Muslim rulers in general. A thirteenth century account from an Arab source refers to this event:

**Idol floating:** Somnath-a celebrated city of India situated on the shore of the sea and washed by its waves. Among the wonders of that place was the temple in which was placed the idol called Somnath. This idol was in the middle of the temple

without anything to support it from below, or to suspend it from above. It was held in the highest honour among the Hindus and whoever beheld it floating in the air was struck with amazement, whether he was a Mussalman or an infidel. The Hindus used to go on pilgrimage to it whenever there was an eclipse of the moon and would then assemble there to the number of more than a hundred thousand.

**Devadasis:** "They believed that the souls of men used to meet there after separation from the body and that the idol used to incorporate them at its pleasure in other bodies in accordance with their doctrine of transmigration.

"The ebb and flow of the tide was considered to be the worship paid to the idol by the sea. Everything of the most precious was brought there as offerings, and the temple was endowed by more than ten thousand villages.

"There is a river (the Ganges) which is held sacred, between which and Somnath the distance is two hundred parasangas. They used to bring the water of this river to Somnath every day and wash the temple with it.

"A thousand Brahmans were employed in to worshipping the idol and attending to the visitors and five hundred damsels sung and danced at the door—all these were maintained upon the endowments of the temple.

**50,000 "Hindus" killed:** "The edifice was built upon fifty six pillars of teak covered with lead. The shrine of the idol was dark but was lighted by jewelled chandeliers of a great value. Near it was a chain of gold weighing two hundred mans. When a portion (watch) of the night closed, this chain used to be shaken like bells to rouse a fresh lot of Brahmans to perform worship.

"When the Sultan went to wage religious war against India, he made great efforts to capture and destroy

Somnath in the hope that the Hindus would become Muhammadans...The Indians made desperate resistance. They would go weeping and crying for help into the temple and then issue forth to battle and fight till all were killed. The number of slain exceeded 50,000.

"The king looked upon the idol with wonder and gave orders for the seizing of the spoil and the appropriation of the treasures. There were many idols of gold and silver and vessels set with jewels, all of which had been sent there by the greatest personages in India. The value of the things found in the temple and of the idols exceeded twenty thousand dinars.

**Secret exposed:** "When the king asked his companions what they had to say about the marvel of the idol and of its staying in the air without proper support, several maintained that it was upheld by some hidden support. The king directed a person to go and feel all around and above and below it with a spear which he did, but met with no obstacles.

*One of the attendants then stated his opinion that the canopy was made of load-stone and the idle of iron, and that the ingenious builder had skillfully contrived that the magnet should not exercise a greater force on any one side-hence the idol was suspended in the middle.*

#### SATHIANATHAIER

"Some coincided, others differed. Permission was obtained from the Sultan to remove some stones from the top of the canopy to settle the point. When two stones were removed from the summit, the idol swerved on one side, when more were taken away it inclined still further until at last it rested on the ground". - (A History of India)

"Three years later he (Mahmud of Ghazni) achieved his greatest triumph in India - the expedition to

Somnath (Patan on the coast of Kathiawar above Diu). He is said to have been provoked into undertaking it by the boast of the Brahmans of Somnath that their god Siva was the greatest of the gods and that it was his hostility to the other gods that had been responsible for their overthrow by the idolbreaker.

"Mahmud made careful preparation for his march through the Indian desert and reached Sakmbhari (Sambhar) and thence Anhilvad in 1025. Bhimadeva I Solanki fled from his capital and Mahmud, after defeating his army, arrived at Somnath and captured the fort in spite of its vigorous defence. Subsequently, he saw the great temple with the revenue of 10,000 villages, 1,000 priests, 300 barbers and 350 dancing girls, with a big linga 9 feet high above the floor and 15 feet on the whole, daily bathed in the Ganges water carried over a distance of 750 miles and garlanded with Kashmir flowers.

"He was offered a huge sum of money, if he would spare the idol and against the advice of some of his own followers he broke it on the plea that he was a breaker not seller of idols and sent the fragments to Ghazni, Mecca and Madina...

"To defend his destruction of Hindu temples by pointing out that it was effected in the course of warfare in order to get at the treasures accumulated and hidden in them is one-sided and the humiliation to which the idols were subjected even after they had been broken to pieces.

*"If his objectives was not conversion, it is difficult to see what purpose his desecration of temples and idols would have served other than the glorification of islam in a way most objectionable to the Hindus, and we cannot therefore, exonerate him completely from the charge of fanaticism, though we cannot*

concede that the destruction of monuments to some extent in the course of protracted warfare is inevitable in order to break the resistance of the enemy by seizing his wealth and removing his points of vantage". - (History of India)

#### R.C. MAJUMDAR

"Mahmud reached Somnath in the middle of January, 1025 and found there a strongly defended fortress on the sea shore. The Hindus, who assembled on the rampart of the fort, were passing their time in merrymaking, fondly believing that Somanath had drawn the Muslims there only to annihilate them for the sins they had committed in demolishing idols elsewhere. *Their morale was high even though their leader had fled away in cowardice with his family to a neighboring island.* The following day the Sultan began assault.. a large number of people lost their lives. But before the Muslims could consolidate their position they were attacked violently by a fresh batch of Hindus who came out of the temple of Somanath after a prayer for strength and courage...Next day...they all crowded in front of the gate of the temple of Somanath. The Muslims pursued them there and then followed a terrible carnage.

*"Bands of Hindus in succession entered the temple to pray with all their hearts for victory and then coming out of it rushed against their enemies, only to be killed. In this way, more than 50,000 Hindu sacrificed their lives to defend the honour of their deity. The new survivors, who attempted to escape by sea were pursued by the Muslims and put to the sword.*

"The Sultan made a triumphal entry into the temple, broke down the Sivalinga into pieces and took possession of the vast wealth it contained said to have been worth

2,000,000 dirhams. The temple was then razed to the ground. The fragments of the Sivalinga were carried to Ghazni, where they were made to serve as steps at the gate of the Jamia Mosque - an act of profanity imitated by later Muslim rulers".

*The History and Culture of the Indian People Vol.5-(Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan).*

#### HYSTERIA OVER HISTORY

As soon as the Janata Party came to power in 1977 middle, the RSS - Jan Sangh elements, who had a dominant say in the then Government launched their first attack on some important historians with "leftist" leaning. The controversy generated on this account rocked the good part of the latter half of the year 1977 throwing much light on the nazi bid to re-write Indian history. The nazi attack on these historians - Romila Thapar, Bipin Chandra and Harbans Mukhia was so sharp that even the Jamaate-Islami could not tolerate it in spite of its then new - found friendship with nazis.

**Secret note:** The attempt, obviously, was to portray the medieval period of Indian history as a period of relentless struggle between the Hindus and Muslims or between the religious community and others. A "secret note" was prepared by some pro nazi historians and it was forwarded by a Jan Sangh MP to Prime Minister Morarji Desai's office. They somehow prevailed upon the Prime Minister's office and got the note sent to the Education Ministry seeking withdrawal of the some of the history textbooks which in their view gave a "brighter side of the Muslim rule of India". One of the books to which exception was taken is that of Dr. Romila Thapar, a noted historian who is described in the note as a "communist and a communalist".

Its objections is to a passage in the book pertaining to Mahmud Ghazni's invasion of India. The note says: *"This book largely gives only the brighter side of the Muslim rule in India".*

The example quoted is as follows: "For examples, Mahmud Ghazni's destroying of Hindu temples has been justified on the ground that he wanted to plunder them. His proud claim as a breaker of idols has been almost ignored."

"The reality is different. The original quotation from the book which has been distorted, reads thus: "He (Mohmud Ghazni) had heard that there was much gold and jewellery kept in the big temples in India. So he destroyed the temples of Somnath in western India. Destroying temples had another advantage. He could claim, as he did, that he had obtained religious merit by destroying images".

"Another example mentioned in the note refers to another book on medieval India which had said that Akbar and Aurangzeb were not foreigners. For that they have been charged with saying that they were national heroes and others like Rana Pratap were not national heroes." (National Herald-July 31,-1977).

**Taj Mahal is Temple:** Why do the Hindu nazis are so particular of rewriting Indian history? It is because they know that history is an ideological weapon. Several instances of nazi distortions of history can be cited - the most well known being that the Taj Mahal and the Red Fort were not built by Shahjehan but by Rajput princes. It is because nazis do not want any account of current developments to be left behind by contemporary historians; its existence might make re-writing or distortions of present-day history difficult by future nazi historians.

## Letters to Editor

**Mrs. Pritam, Ropar, Punjab:** With ref. to the report, "Who Caused Sikh Terrorism?" by Gulcharan Singh, (DV Aug. 1 92, p 9 & 10), DV Editor has very correctly replied saying the wrong Sikh strategy to fight brahminism has made Sikhs to be described as "villain, terrorist, anti-national, traitors", in their powerful brahminical media. Even the Anandpur Sahib resolution was called anti-nation. The resolution is about the human rights denial. The Sikh social order believes in the power of the sword/gun while the brahminical social order by virtue of its power over our mind made the Sikhs fight against Moghals and British or vice-versa, made all of them weak and then occupied the seat of power in 1947, sidelining all those who really suffered for its freedom. Today, they are successfully making one Sikh fight against another Sikh. Hence in the interest of Sikhs and the country, the Sikh leadership should review its strategy and must (1) organise a powerful media with the help of *Dalit Voice*, (2) keep the gun powder dry and wait for a suitable time, place and situation to strike.

**Sub - Maj. (retd.) K.C. Bhagat, Sujapur, Punjab - 145 023:** With ref. to the article by Lt.- Col. (retd) Gulcharan Singh, the first incident of shooting was not at Amritsar but it started at Pathankot in Aug/Sept. 1977, when a gang of Akali Sikhs supported by Congress leaders interrupted the peaceful Nirankaris. The flareup followed the Amritsar episode on Apr. 13, 1978 which made the existence of Nirankaris known to the world. Even the Sikhs who were created into a Khalsa by Guru Gobind Singh now believe in caste. Though the Guru gave them the name "Singh" (lion), the use of surnames like Bajwa, Brar, Sandhu, Grehwal, Kahlon paved the way for casteism.

**S.P. Singh, Danapur, Patna:** Kurmis in Bihar worship all sorts of Hindu gods besides their own family gods. But the Arya Samajis (among them) do not worship any god in theory. However, their own women do worship all the gods and go to temples. Kabirpanthis among them do not worship any Hindu idol. The Kurmis come under the Hindu caste system but are classified as Sudras, Vaishyas as well as Kshatriyas. They have been claiming Kshatriya status for the past 98 years. The 1931 census recorded them as "Kurmi Kshatriyas" (I have a copy of the Govt. of India's letter with me). Not only Kurmis but the Yadavas and Koiries etc. were all recorded as "Depressed classes" in the

census till 1921. This debarred them from govt. service, especially, in the Army. When we talk of Bihar, it includes Chotanagpur also (Jharkhand). There, the Kurmis were recorded as aboriginal tribes till 1921. During the 1931 census, they were removed from the list of aboriginal tribes. Now they are fighting for restoration of their privilege. This is the paradox of the Hindu caste system. Barbers, blacksmiths, carpenters all claim brahmanhood. The barbers used to call themselves "Nai-Brahmins". The carpenters simply called themselves Brahmins and directly related to Bishwakarma, "the architect" of the world. Many of them took the title "Sharma". Kurmis of West Bengal were not even Jala Charaniyas (a caste from whose hands upper castes/Hindus could even take water). What about the Marathas? The Chitpavan Brahmins of Konkan did not take water from the hands of Marathas. Yet the Marathas have gone up and are ruling the State. They are classified as BC under the Mandal Commission in Bihar and UP but not in MP. Mandal Com. has given reservations to Brahmins, Rajputs as well as Kayasthas in different States. We have to crush the Hindu nazis. They depend on my *jatimen* for their existence. They were behind the Maratha uprising but when Shivaji succeeded, they usurped all the power. This time they again wanted to flourish on the "Hate-Muslim" mantra. Temple worship means touching the feet of a Brahman. This is what we must fight against. The Brahmins are a mixed race. Some of the lower castes have directly become Brahmins. Some are cross-breeds. Rajputs are latecomers. (6th century AD). Other Kshatriyas are what you may call BCs - the main stock of the Dravidian people - be they cultivator or Bania or fighter or artisan. Once again I say, let us study. There are authentic books on the subject. We are going to pass a resolution in our Kurmi Sabha - we are neither Hindus nor Aryans. We shall sever all connections with Brahminism in matters of religion. No worship in a temple where there is *panda* system. Gods like Shiva, Kali, Krishna, are Dravidian gods. They are our war heroes. Rama killed Ravan (who was a Brahmin) and chased away Parasuram (another Brahmin). Our South Indian brethren wrongly think that Ravana was a Dravidian king. All our scriptures say that he was a Brahmin (grandson of Pulastya Rishi). The Aryan invaders hate us. We have to study and know each other. Vishnu was the leader of the Brahmin party. How could he be born as Rama and Krishna? This is a brahminical deception to cheat us. They have even written a book *Allah Upanishad*. How funny? Vyas (a cross-breed) has abused them in the filthiest of language at many places in the *Bhagwat puran* and

*Skanda puran.*

**C. Madhavan**, Muttada, Trivandrum-25: I was very happy to see you here on Aug. 17 after 11 years. The entire Travandrum city can be smashed to pieces with the explosives "captured" by the Trivandrum city police. What else is needed to explain the communal war which rocked Kerala recently? Almost all the people are worried. What is the root of this kind of activities carried on daily all over India? Which State in India is free from law and order problem? What is most surprising to the masses all over India is the way in which the Aryan ruling class manages the affairs of the country.

**Prof. N. Varadarajan**, Ex-Principal, R.C. Commerce College, Bangalore: Please accept my congratulations over your success in the fight for reservation right for Dalits in admission to Christian educational institutions (DV Aug. 16 p.6). It has added value since it has come at a time when education has been accepted as a fundamental right. The idea of starting an employment exchange for Dalit youth is a commendable proposition because it will open up real and better opportunities for our youths to prove their mettle and make a mark.

**Biplop**, CR Park, New Delhi: In DV Aug. 1 '92 editorial you have said that "Katju tantrums" have provoked SR Talukdar to come out with a suggestion to divide Indian people on *Avarna* and *savarna* lines. This is what we want. We want fire-makers not fire-fighters. Because, only such Katjus will help wake up the sleeping tigers i.e., the 85% SC/ST/BCs/Muslims. Now we have no time to waste but start our fight against the Aryan tyrants.

**Prakash Varma**, C/o Bhagwat Prasad Varma, Regional Transport Office, Samadat Ganj, Faizabad, UP: I just read your book *Know the Hindu Mind* in Hindi. I am so much impressed by it that I want 25 copies and also all your other books.

**Md. Babu**, AP ST/BC/Dalit/Muslim Front, 15/307/11-A/1, Papatiahpet, Warangal, AP - 506 002: Devarapally Masthan Rao, president of AP Dalit Maha Sabha, Guntur dt., inaugurated our study class attended by 80, students on July 4. The Indian indogenous peoples problems started from the day Aryans entered India to defeat innocent Indians 3,000 years go. Under the mask of brahminism, which is the real enemy of the SC/ST/BCs, it is destroying our own identity. The Reddy, Khamma, Velama leadership at all levels must be defeated. On July 5, K. Ilaiah, Joint Secretary of the AP Civil Liberties Council and Associate Editor of *Nalupu*, Telgu fortnightly, spoke on "Dr. Ambedkar, Caste and Constitution". Reservations are not a charity but the right of every Dalit until the upper castes

are reduced to the present positions of Dalits. Uppala Sambasiva Rao of Hyderabad, Editor, *Edureeta*, Telugu monthly organ of Marxist-Leninist Centre, said Ambedkarism is the torch to guide all of us in the existing ideological crisis dogging all leftists. Dr. Gurukula Mitra, convenor of "Badugu Vargala Party", also spoke.

**John Joseph**, Editor, "Vidyarthi Sabdam," Vadayampady, Ernakulam dt., Kerala - 682 308: Our students front, "Keraleeya Vidyarthi Munnani", (KVM) is publishing this magazine. We very much appreciate the work done by *Dalit Voice*. In our first issue we had published excerpts from Dr. Ambedkar's *Annihilation of Caste*, articles on Ayyankali's struggles for establishing schools in Travancore, reservation issue of Dalit Christians.

**Meshram S. Kumar**, Bank of Maharashtra, Amravati, MS: Confidential reports of SC/ST/BC employees are spoiled deliberately by upper caste officials to ruin our service records. Because of this they don't get promotions.

**Sanjay Kumar Prasad**, C-9, Lane No.6, Arjun Nagar, Delhi-51: As an engineering graduate, I decided to work for Dalits and came to Delhi. Now I am secretary, culture committee of the Yuva Janata Dal. Cultural movement is necessary before any socio-economic work. So, I have decided to serve through culture committee first. *Dalit Voice* is very much helpful in this direction. I read your book, *How Marx Failed in Hindu India*. This is a very fine book. You have correctly presented the facts. I fully agree with your views.

**B.K. Roy** 37 GLT Road, Calcutta - 36: Our famous Kabial (poet-cum-singer) popular in both the Bengals is a Namasudra (SC). Nishi Kanta Sarkar at Santinagar (Sripalli), PO Bengal Enamel, Dist. 24 Paraganas (N), W. Bengal, is now too weak to sing and is in a miserable condition. I appeal to all kind souls to help him get a monthly grant from the Central Govt. for his noble work.

**B.N. Nag**, Koraput, Orissa: The Malkangiri constituency has gone to BJP in Koraput dt. (Orissa). Winning an election depends on money and muscle power. The Dalit population in this district over 70% (SC 15% + ST over 55%). Even to this day, these people do not allow a Brahmin to perform their ceremony. They do not worship Hindu gods and goddesses. They have their own deities. Still they voted for the nazi party. What is the reason? Muslims and Christians in Koraput say that they are happy. They may be happy but is it not their duty to see the oppressed SC/STs also remain happy? Are they happy? What does their Koran say about the *Mustadafeen*? Are they sure that nazis will

not instigate the innocent SC/STs against them? Why do the SC/STs attack Muslim/Christians for nothing. This is because the unthinking SC/STs are brainwashed and Hinduised by the Hindus (5%) so that with the help of SC/ST/BCs they could achieve "Hindu unity" meaning reinforce their Nazi rule. The sufferers (SC/ST/BCs) and co-sufferers (Muslims/Christians/Sikhs) must unite. And for this the more enlightened Muslims/Christians/Sikhs with their egalitarian religions must help stop the exploitation of SC/STs by the tiny Hindu/upper castes.

**R.S. Rathee**, No.3 - Postal Colony, Model Town, Rohtak, Haryana - 124 001: Corrupt upper caste P & T officials have transferred me to a far off place for fighting against corruption.

**M. Minj**, 27 - Nayatoli Lane, Ranchi - 834 001: I am an old man of 78 years suffering from a paralysis of right side for the past 18 years. My right hand and leg are useless. Nevertheless I enjoy reading DV which keeps me alive.

**Alangadu Thankappan**, Kunnotharn House, Koduvazhanga, Neerikode PO, Kerala - 683 511: I learn that the Malayalam DV from Calicut was stopped. This is the right time to resume it. Muslim organisations like SIMI, ISS, etc. have made tremendous impact on the Dalit people convincing that they are not Hindus. I am a Sambava from Kerala.

**K. Sreenivasan**, State Bank of India, Pattom, Trivandrum: On July 8, we staged a full-day *dharna* inside the State Bank zonal office here. Caste-biased trade unions are our Enemy no.1 and caste prejudiced management is our Enemy no.2. We warned the two enemies that we do not spare either of them if they go against our interest. On July 22, a similar struggle was observed at our zonal office, Ernakulam. And from Sept.17 onwards at State Bank local head office, Madras. We are determined to establish our rights. We want to liberate our people from the clutches of upper caste trade unions and management. Some of our SC/ST officials are in the enemy camp. Our own SC/ST/Cell officer, supposed to safeguard the interest of SC/ST, himself had become an agent of the Nazis.

**Tamil Mani** T. Nagar, Madras - 17: I was happy to read the report, "World Church Council recognises Dalits as indigenous people" (DV June 15, 92) later reproduced in *New Leader* (Madras July 1). But Bishop Arockiasamy of Tanjore has come out with a statement against Dalits (*Junior Vikatan*, a Tamil weekly, July 15, 92 pg. 18-19). He says the Dalits are selfish. The time has come for Dalits to fight such brahminical forces inside the church. ■

## DV 10 YEARS AGO

Aug. 1, 1982

### Editorial: "The Farce of village security force"

*Quoting Metcalfe's observations on Indian villages, Dr.B.R.Ambedkar told the Constituent Assembly: "I hold these village republics have been the ruination of India ... What is the village but a sink of localism, den of ignorance, narrow-mindedness and communalism", he said snubbing advocates of Gandhian Gram Raj or the Panchayat Raj. Events have since proved that Dr.Ambedkar was right and Gandhi wrong. The powerful landed gentry belonging to the dominant caste group has captured these village republics and so much so democracy is dead long back in the countryside. It is the tyranny of the dominant community over the rural poor.*

*Meanwhile, the Govt. of India's decision to set up a "Village Security Force" (VSF) may bring a ray of hope. But the proposal is shrouded in secrecy. There is so much upper caste opposition that the VSF may die before it is born.*

### SSS to fight RSS: TN Dalit leader explains.

*E.Kadar Karayandi, Dt. President, Anuschita Jati Sangha, Tirunelveli, TN, says Thevars are the traditional oppressors of Dalits and Muslims in South TN. The RSS describes the clashes between Muslims and Thevars as Hindu-Muslim clashes. This is wrong. Thevars are joining Hindu fascist forces in a big way.*

### Mandal Commission recommendations.

*Letters to editor from AP Nirmal, Principal, United Theological Seminary, Pune, N.V.M.Fazalullah, Areacode, Kerala, Gurudev Singh, Patiala, Prof. Khader Mohiudeen, Trichy, TN.*

### Assault on DK leader Veeramani sends shock waves.

*Veeramani was attacked near Rajapalayam, Ramnad dt., on the night of July 20, 1982 resulting in bleeding injuries. Veeramani is the topmost DK leader and this attack on him by some *papan* forces should be effectively retaliated.* ■

## Dalit leader arrested

**Ludhiana:** The Ludhiana police has booked the president of the Indian Minorities and Dalit Front, Sewa Singh Sekhwan (sedition) for delivering an "anti-national" speech at the panthic rally at Alamgir Gurdwara ON Sunday which, however, was soon thwarted. (*World Sikh News* Sept. 11). ■

## Aryans were barbarians, Dravidians had advanced civilisation

*The following (Chapter II) on Aryans is reproduced from the famous history book, The Dravidian Element in Indian Culture, by Gilbert Slater, MA, D.Sc., Professor of Indian Economics, Madras University, published in 1924 (pp.192) by Ernest Benn Ltd., London. It carries a foreword by H.J. Fleure, Professor of Geography and Anthropology, University College of Wales, UK. Slater says Aryans were "barbaric invaders" while the Dravidians had a more advanced civilisation. Aryan Brahmins enslaved the Dravidians by manufacturing the karma theory. "The privileged position of the Brahman and the social degradation of the untouchables were caused by this karma theory. (p.99). He says the art of magic is a Dravidian contribution to Indian culture and not of Aryans (p.117). In Kerala, the Namboodiri Brahmins to protect their landed properties evolved a system by which only the eldest son can marry within the caste. All other sons enter into sambandham (sex) relations with Nair women by which the Nairs feel so honoured. The children of this marriage do not become Brahmins nor can they know the identity of their fathers. Yet the Nairs are so proud of this obnoxious custom by which Nairs are born to Brahmins.*

*Dr. T.M. Nair revolted against this inhuman custom and founded and organised South India's first anti-Brahmin (p.139) political movement called Justice Party.*

GILBERT SLATER

The great obstacle to a right appreciation of the Dravidian influence in the evolution of Indian culture is the wide currency and established position of what may be called "the Aryan myth". Indians cling to the theory that they are "Aryans," and that their religion and culture are "Aryan." The word "Aryan" is legitimate enough, provided the definite meaning is attached to it, as a name for the invaders from the north-west who introduced the Sanscrit language into India. It is illegitimate if used to imply the theory popularised by Max Muller, that an ancient "Aryan" race of men, superior to other races, spread from the original "Aryan home" somewhere in Europe or Asia, over India, Persia, and Europe, displacing the previous occupants, all regarded as inferior mentally, physically, and culturally, and bequeathing to their descendants the various languages of the Indo-Germanic family. All attempts to harmonise that theory with the facts have broken down hopelessly, and Max Muller himself was brought to admit that language

is no test of race. Nevertheless it lingers on even in Europe. H.G. Wells, in his "History of Mankind", talks of "Nordic Aryans", though it is perfectly obvious that, whatever the racial affinities of the Aryans might have been, they could not have been characterised by the blue eyes and blond complexions which mark the Nordic race of North-western Europe. Blue or gray eyes are to be found, though very rarely, among Indians, but the place to look for them is on the west coast, and ancient sea traffic is the only possible explanation of their occurrence.

In India the Aryan theory rests upon a solid basis of sentiment. Indian *amour propre* is gratified by the idea that Indians are Aryans, so to say, of the elder line, British, French, and German Aryans of the younger and till lately relatively uncivilised branch. Since very few Indians are aware of the facts set out in the previous chapter with regard to the racial affinities and ancient cultural contacts of the Dravidian race, it commonly appears to an Indian that to be

regarded as a Dravidian rather than an Aryan is to be denied his kinship with the western European and relegated to an inferior category. This idea is, of course, groundless.

### GREEK MYTH

The probable date, and essential character, of the Aryan intrusion has recently been argued by Myres in connection with the horse.

(*Cambridge Ancient History*, Vol.I., pp.106-7) "The horse had been hunted for food since palaeolithic times, but there is no clear evidence even of its domestication, even as a milch animal, outside the high plateaux of Central Asia, until a comparatively late date." In Europe the Halstatt culture is "the first great regional culture which made systematic use of the horse for riding as well as for driving."

In Asia "the first positive record is in a Babylonian tablet of about 2100 B.C., where it is described as the 'ass from the east' or 'from the mountains', and it was therefore still a recent acquisition among the ass-

using folk west of the Zagros range. Its arrival here is commonly referred to that irruption of fresh peoples from Iran and beyond who founded the barbarian Kassite dynasty of Babylon about 1750 B.C., and as there is no reason to believe that the great plateau of Iran was even then in much better condition than now to support an indigenous pastoral civilisation, it is probable that this irruption originated further to the north-east, on the Sarmatian flat land, and that it is to be connected, in its significance, if not precisely in date, with the irruption of Aryan-speaking folk into India from the same northern reservoir," and with westward movements into Europe across the Dnieper and via Galicia into Bohemia, as well as via the Balkan Peninsula into Asia Minor.

**Superior Dravidas: The Aryans, then, must be regarded as relatively barbaric invaders,** provided by their horses with an immense advantage for rapid and concerted movement, and so for military and political mastery of peoples, who as in the cases of the Sumerians and Dravidians lacked this equipment for victory and power, in spite of their superiority in those elements of culture which make for wealth and civilisation, and whose very superiority in wealth was an enticement to the invaders. The latter no doubt brought other new culture elements into India besides the horse, among them, we have reason to believe, the practice of burning the dead, and associated ideas with regard to life after death, which mingled with Dravidian beliefs without superseding them. An old Greek myth discusses the relative merits of the equine and pre-equine cultures. Poseidon and Athena disputed as to which was entitled, by having conferred the more valuable gift, to give a name to the city known to us as Athens. Poseidon gave the horse, Athena the olive, and the jury

of gods gave the verdict to Athena, because her gift was associated with peaceful industry, and that of Poseidon with war. If, on similar principles, we reckon Egyptian above Hykso culture, and that of the Romano-Greek Empire above that of the Turks who overthrew it, we *should also esteem Dravidian culture above the Aryan at the time of the irruption.*

### Naga State

Still more, it is necessary to approach with an open mind the question of the proportions in which the two elements entered into the make up of Indian civilisation as we know it. The analogy of the early history of Greece may be of some help; but to make the cases more closely parallel we must imagine what that history would have been if the barbarian invasions which presumably crushed the Minoan and Mycenaean cultures had never penetrated beyond the Gulf of Corinth, and the Peloponnesus had maintained its ancient language and traditions.

It is curious that for the most part even the foreign observers in India who have been struck with what may be termed the general racial homogeneity of the great majority of the people of India, and who have drawn the natural inference that Indians are, in the main, Dravidians by race, still tend to accept without scrutiny the popular doctrine that Indian culture, religion, and philosophy are of Aryan origin. Thus Mr. C.F. Oldham, whose striking and valuable book "The Sun and the Serpent" is largely devoted to showing the importance of the Dravidian element in the populations of North India, yet assumes that Brahmanism is Aryan in origin, and regards the mention in Sanscrit literature of Brahmans in a position of dominance in any Naga (Dravidian) state as an indication of its having been Aryanised. But there is less than no

evidence of the superiority of the Brahman caste, or even of the caste system itself, being an Aryan institution.

### DEGRADED SHUDRAS

Max Muller ("Chips," Vol.II., p.311) asks: "Does caste, as we find it in Manu, and at the present day, form a part of the most ancient religious teaching of the Vedas?"

We can answer with an emphatic 'No!' There is no authority whatever in the hymns of the Veda for the complicated system of caste; no authority for the degraded position of the Sudras; there is no law to prohibit the different classes of the people from living together, from eating and drinking together; no law to prohibit the marriage of people belonging to different castes; no law to brand the offspring of such marriages with an indelible stigma...there is no trace in the Veda of the atrocities of Siva and Kali, nor of the licentiousness of Krishna, nor of the miraculous adventures of Vishnu. We find in it no law to sanction the blasphemous pretensions of a priesthood to divine honours, or the degradation of any human being to a state below the animals. There is no text to countenance laws which allow the marriage of children, and prohibit the marriage of child-widows; and the unhallowed rite of burning the widow with the corpse of her husband is both against the spirit and the letter of the Veda."

### BENGALI CASTE

The caste system, the sanctity of the Brahman, the worship of Kali, of Siva and Vishnu, of Parvati the consort, and Subrahmaniam and Ganesa, the sons of Siva, and of Krishna, the last incarnation of Vishnu, these things are not mere alien and unimportant accretions to an Indian culture of Aryan and Vedic origin, they are of the innermost essence of

Indian culture. If Kali and Siva and Vishnu are not Vedic deities, and certainly they are not, they can hardly be Aryan, and there seems no other possible alternative than to suppose they are Dravidian. And if caste is not an Aryan institution, is it Dravidian?

### BENGALI CASTE

Here the question is a little more complicated. The theory generally accepted among Indians is that caste is an institution that arose among the Aryans after they had settled in India and had developed a more highly organised industrial life based on agriculture; and that its basis is economic; it provided a simple, but advantageous, division of labour, and the principle of hereditary occupations was the easiest and most natural way of providing technical instruction. And in support of the view that caste did originally arise in some such way as this, the fact may be cited that new castes are thus brought into being. Prof. Radhakamal Mukerjee gives an interesting example in "The Foundations of Indian Economics." The oil-pressers of Bengal were all one caste until the device came in of making a hole at the bottom of the mortar in which oil seeds are pressed. Then the oil-pressers who adopted the new device became a separate caste, socially inferior to the caste that continued to use the old method of baling out the oil and of moping it up with a cloth.

### ORIGIN OF CASTE

European observers commonly hold that the origins of caste are political rather than economic. Laying, perhaps, too great emphasis on the social stratification of the caste system, and on the association of caste superiority with relatively fair colouration, they attribute the whole institution to a succession of invasions of India by the passes of the North-west, the invaders being in each case fairer, physically bigger and

more war-like than the previous inhabitants. *Each fresh body of invaders spread itself over the country, and selected wives from the native young women, but, actuated by racial pride, imposed on their children, and especially on their daughters, a strict prohibition of any further intermarriage. Hence their descendants became an exclusive caste.*

There are doubtless elements of truth in both these theories, but they require modification to suit the facts. On either theory North India rather than South India should be the special home of the caste system; for the first theory because it is more highly Aryanised, and for the second, because it is the part whose history has been most dominated by successive invasions. But notoriously the caste system is much stronger, much more elaborate, and plays a much larger part in social life in South India than in North India; and it reaches its highest development in that part of India which is most effectively cut off from land invasions from the north, the narrow strip of land between the Western Ghats and the Arabian Sea. This fact is by itself sufficient to prove that caste is of Dravidian rather than of Aryan origin. The question of the probable manner of its evolution will be dealt with later.

### ROLE OF RIG VEDA

In the work previously referred to, "The Sun and the Serpent," Mr Oldham collects the passages in the Vedas and Sanscrit epics which throw light upon the civilisation of Dravidian India at the time of the Aryan invasion. That the Aryans themselves were then essentially nomadic pastoralists, though possibly not altogether unacquainted with agriculture, is undisputed; the *Dravidians were probably in a much more advanced stage of civilisation.* It is only necessary to reproduce

some of Mr Oldham's quotations from the Rig Veda, that being the most ancient, and therefore the source on which we can best rely as indicating conditions at the actual time of the invasion rather than later. We have:

"Indra shattered, for Divodasa, the hundred castles of Sambara."

"Indra, wielder of the thunderbolt, warring on behalf of Purukutsa, thou didst overthrow the seven cities; thou didst cut off, for Sudas, the wealth of Anhas."

"Benevolent to man, thou hast broken the cities of Pipru; and protected Rijisvan in his battles with the Dasyus."

"Thou didst boldly sweep away the wealth of Sushna; thou didst shatter his castles."

Castles, cities and wealth—these are sufficiently significant. "In addition," says Mr Oldham, "Sanskrit writings ascribe to the Dravidian Asuras 'Luxury, the use of magic, superior architectural skill, and ability to restore the dead to life.'"

### DRAVIDIAN INDIA

We must not let the full significance of these facts escape. They imply in pre-Aryan Dravidian India the existence of a priest-magician class or caste, such as apparently did not exist among the Aryans, but which is one of the most important features of Hinduism. It points directly to the conclusion that the Brahman caste itself, and its position of dominance over even the Kshatriya or warrior caste is a Dravidian institution. This conclusion is borne out by detailed evidence quoted by Mr Oldham, though he fails to draw the obvious inference.

**Krishna is Dravida:** He notes (p.80) that Krishna is recorded as the special protector of Brahmans, and as making a practice of washing their feet. That Krishna was a dark-skinned non-Aryan is a tradition which Indian pictorial art has faithfully

preserved; he is always painted blue. And the story of his descent is that besides being an incarnation of Vishnu, he was the son of Vasudeva, who was the great-grandson of Aryaka, a Naga chief. The word Naga means Serpent, or, applied to human beings, serpent-worshipper, and in Sanscrit Epic literature it replaces the terms Asura, Dasyu, Daitya and Danava, as the ordinary term for the still unconquered Dravidians of North India.

**Asuras were Dravidas:** Again (9p.78), "Balarama, the elder brother of Krishna, is represented as having his head sheltered by the hoods of many serpents. He is said to have been an incarnation of Sesa Naga, and at his death his soul, in the form of a great serpent, escaped from his mouth".

From the Mahabharata we learn (p. 68) that "Sakra, the chief priest of the Asuras" (Dravidians), "divided himself by the power of asceticism and became the spiritual guide of both the Daityas" (Dravidians) "and the Devas" (Aryans). This obviously records the success of the priestly caste of the Dravidians in imposing their spiritual authority on the Aryans also.

## SACRED THREAD

The Vishnu Purana yields the information that one Usanas or Sakra lighted fires, said mantras and recited the Atharva Veda for the success of the Asuras, or Dravidians, against Indra, the god of the Aryans. He also restored to life Dravidian Danavas, who had been killed by the Aryan Devas; so clearly he was a Dravidian priest-magician. He was a son of the great rishi Bhrgu, who therefore was presumably also a Dravidian priest-magician. But the sons of Bhrgu were Brahmans, and were the spiritual guides of the Daitya (Dravidian) chief Hiranyakasipu.

To this evidence, for which I am

indebted to Mr Oldham, I must add two observations founded on familiar facts: (i) If the Brahmans had been originally an Aryan priestly caste, the worship of the Vedic deities, Varuna, Indra and the rest, would have become as dominant in Hindu religion as the Brahmans are in Hindu society. Actually their worship has, in spite of the continual influence of the religious use of the Vedas, practically disappeared, being replaced by that of non-Vedic deities; and (ii) the distinguishing mark of the Brahman caste is the cord of cotton thread worn over one shoulder and under the opposite arm, which indicates an original association of the caste with cotton spinning, which certainly was no art of the Vedic Aryans.

The Aryan invasion may reasonably be regarded as one of the long series of exoduses of pastoral tribes from Asiatic steppes that have repeatedly devastated surrounding agricultural districts. The paradox is now established on a pretty solid basis of evidence that intensive agriculture among the first pioneers of progress preceded extensive agriculture, and that agriculture was practised before the pastoral stage was reached. But cattle and sheep having been domesticated by the agriculturists of Egypt and Mesopotamia, the breeding of such animals can hardly fail to have spread more rapidly among neighbouring hunting tribes than the more laborious art of cereal cultivation. The change from the hunting to the pastoral life involves an immediate increase of births and decrease of deaths. A supply of milk for infants makes earlier weaning possible, together with a reduction of child mortality and a more vigorous growth. A supply of milk for the mother reduces the strain of child-bearing, prolongs the period of fertility, and, combined with a shortening of the duration of suckling after each birth, leads to a

shortening of the intervals between successive births. For a limited number of generations the rapidly increasing population can be maintained by the same area of land, used as pasture, as had previously been required for much smaller numbers as hunting ground, but the time comes when the pasture grounds are fully exploited and still the population grows. Then something has to happen, and Hykso or Hun or Mogul or Turkish treks, great floods of conquering hordes overwhelming even powerful empires, are examples of what has happened. Where the pastoralists are horse-breeders these movements become most devastating. India, though relatively remote and difficult of access, has undergone such pastoralist invasions repeatedly; the Mogul invasion under Babur was the last, the Aryan invasion, led according to the Vedas by the god Indra, was the first; but there were many in between.

**Don't kill but enslave:** The Aryan descent into India was probably by the Khyber Pass, which gave entrance to the northern corner of the Punjab. The invaders probably found at first only thinly inhabited lands, on which they and their stock could increase and multiply. Later came the time of inter-racial conflict with Dravidians and Pre-Dravidians which must have passed through three stages. The first, indicated by the Rig-Veda, was the stage of slaughter and devastation, the superior mobility of the invaders enabling them to concentrate an overwhelming force against each centre of resistance; Uritsa was devoured, Bala was overthrown, the seven cities, the cities of Pipru were rased, the castles of Sushna were shattered, and his wealth became the booty of the worshippers of Indra. The second stage came with the realisation that has always come to such invaders sooner or later, that *it was more profitable to*

enslave than to kill; and then Aryan kingdoms were established, guarded by an Aryan solidery, and sustained by the labours of Dravidian peasants and artisans. Thirdly came the stage depicted in the Epics, when Aryan kingdoms warred and made alliances indiscriminately with one another and with the Dravidian states surrounding them that still maintained their independence.

**Brahmins master English:** During the second stage, and still more during the third, a mutual action and reaction was taking place. Intercourse included intermarriage; it involved a struggle for survival between languages. That the more brawny but thicker-witted Aryan should learn the extraordinarily difficult language of "the ill-speaking man," as the Vedas term the Dravidian, was not to be supposed. The Dravidian instead had to learn Sanscrit.

What happened then we can infer from the experience of South India in recent times. In the eighteenth century, with the overthrow of Dupleix, the English East India Company became the ruling power in the Carnatic. Mastery of the English language became a means to profit, influence and power. The Brahman caste, habituated to an intellectual life, and trained in the exercise of verbal memory to an astonishing degree, found here an opportunity. At the present day, though there still remain in the Tamil country some "temple Brahmins" who are more familiar with Sanscrit than with English, with the Vedas than with Shakespeare, they are a very small minority of the caste. *The ordinary Tamil Brahman speaks English more accurately than Tamil, writes it more easily and rapidly, reads it much more frequently, and has practically adopted English literature as his own; and, accordingly, the staffs both of Government offices and those of mercantile houses consist almost entirely of Brahmins,*

*and they almost monopolise the legal and journalistic professions.*

## SANSKRIT

Similar motives existed from the time of the establishment of Aryan predominance in the Punjab to induce the Dravidian Brahmins of that and neighbouring districts to adopt Sanscrit as their language, and to constitute themselves the guardians and exponents of the Vedas. They had behind them the traditions of magic and of priestcraft, of which the underlying principle of the quest for any sort of recondite or esoteric learning that either tends to differentiate the sacred caste from the common people, or in any other way tends to the acquisition of power and influence. And the Brahmins having thus taken the initiative in spreading the use of Sanscrit, or Sanscrit derivatives, among the Dravidian population, others less eagerly and with greater difficulty followed by degrees, just as has happened with the spread of English in the Madras Presidency.

**Brahmin domination:** While the Dravidians were thus Aryanised in language, the Aryans were Dravidised in culture. What that meant is a question to be dealt with below. But one feature of the change must be mentioned here. They were brought under Brahman dominance. The immediate effect of the incursion into India of conquering tribes that had no specialised priestly caste, and of the period of fierce warfare that ensued, was to depose the priestly caste temporarily from its supremacy, and to make it yield precedence to the warrior caste. Not until many generations had passed, centuries during which the Indian environment had worked its effect, the terrific heat of the summer sun, the monsoon deluges, hurricanes, pestilences, famines, all combining to teach men to honour rather those who asserted their

power to control the elements and conciliate angry deities than those who yielded the sword, did the **Brahman caste succeed in re-establishing its primacy.** To this deposition and restoration we have a later parallel in the history of the Mogul Empire; and the nature of the social forces at work is also illustrated by the speedy domination of the descendants of Sivaji by their Brahman ministers. After Brahman ascendancy had been re-established, it may possibly be conjectured that the Brahman caste became largely Aryanised in blood, as the most powerful men were able to secure in marriage the fairest brides. ■

## Jesse Jackson sold to Jews?

**Chicago:** When Jesse Jackson, in a speech before a World Jewish Congress in Brussels, Belgium, on anti-semitism and prejudice, called for Jews and Blacks to recreate their old coalition, I wondered whether his call was the symptom of a pimple about to swell with pus or just a simple statement of urgency for both Blacks and Jews.

As I pondered over the text of that July 7 speech, I began to realize that it wasn't just a simple call for unity but a crooning plea, a sentimental gesture that could ultimately pillage African American interests. Rev. Jackson seemed to plead for a renewed alliance between Blacks and Jews (actually between Blacks and white Jews), without stipulating critical preconditions by which the alliance could endure.

He said that Blacks and Jews should work together for economic growth and peace and to prevent the "scapegoating, racism, anti-Semitism, polarization and violence" that has arisen since the walls of the Cold War came tumbling down. All that's fine and good. (A writer in the *Final Call*, Sept. 8 1992). ■

## CONSTITUTION RECOGNISES 18 "NATIONS" WITHIN INDIA?

OUR CORRESPONDENT

**Bangalore:** Babasaheb Ambedkar, the Father of India, has said India is not a nation but a country of several nations. (DV Sept. 1 1991 p.17: "India is not yet a nation" - Dr. Ambedkar). The passing of the latest constitutional Amendment Bill in Parliament including Nepali, Konkani, and Manipuri in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution proves the truth of Babasaheb's argument.

With this the number of "national" languages included in the 8th schedule has increased to 18 and that the Constitution has recognised that India has within its bosom 18 "nations", including the "Hindi" speaking nation.

So, we can't say Hindi is the role single "national language" of India. When India is not a "nation" how can there be any one "national" language? In a cycle chain, which link is important? Every link is equally important. Because if one link breaks the cycle will not move.

**Demand for Tulu:** Similarly, if the demand of the speakers of one language, Konkani, is not accepted, they will feel they don't belong to India.

The Editor of *Dalit Voice* is a Tulu-speaker and belongs to the coastal Tulu Nadu which has its own "nation identity". As the President of the Tulu Koota, the organisation of Tulu-speakers in Bangalore for several years, he has been fighting for recognition to Tulu and at last the govt. is realising the importance of

Tulu.

Several other linguistic groups will also now press for the recognition of their languages. As Union Home Minister SB Chavan, has pointed out, the govt. is already considering the cases of Bodo, Bhojpuri, Bhutia, English, Kok Borok, Maithili, Rajasthani, Santhali, Tulu and quite a few other languages.

Having made the latest inclusion, it is only a question of time before some of these languages are also considered worthy enough to make the grade.

**Sanskrit a dead language:** Hindi is "spoken" by 30.4% and the people "forming the largest linguistic group", followed by Telugu (8.6%), Bengali (7.7%), Marathi (7.6%) and Tamil (7%). The list also includes Sanskrit, as a dead language.

It is a fair enough guess, however, that a quarter of a century will not elapse before more languages are added to the list. The percentages of those speaking the three new languages now in the schedule cannot be too high, but it is obvious that the current trend is to include the languages spoken by distinctive social and cultural groups, irrespective of their size.

In a way this is a recognition of the immense diversity and ethnic varieties of which the country is justifiably proud, and there is little doubt that the inclusion in the 8th schedule will not only confer greater respectability to the language, but also help in advancing its cause.

## Fall of President Sharma

OUR CORRESPONDENT

**Bangalore:** Read this interesting complaint by a Brahmin in the "Letters" columns of the *Times of India*, Bombay (Aug.22), under the headline "Times Stumbles?"

:- Sir, The two photographs showing the President, Shankar Dayal Sharma, stumbling and falling (Aug.21), are in bad taste. Even a healthy person can stumble at any point of time. The fact that Sharma stumbled because of his infirmity does not mean that you display the President's fall on the front page. It is the *Times of India* which has stumbled. **S.V. PAI**

(We have received a number of complaints about these pictures. However, we wish to point out that news, however embarrassing, is always in the public interest. **Editor. (Times of India)**

Why this Aryan Pai is so shy about the fall of President

Sharma? Because the Bhopal Brahmin is his *jatwala*. The Aryan logic is whatever the Aryans do is right. Even when they indulge in rampant corruption, murders and mayhem it should not be disclosed.

## DALIT KILLED BY POLICE

**Kotla Nihang (Punjab):** The death by torture of a maidservant in police custody has infuriated the people of Tilenuma village, near this semi-rural town. Though her father, brother and five children are still in a state of shock, the thirst for revenge can be seen on their faces. Thirty five-year-old Balbiro had been working as a domestic help in the house of Akshay Kumar Mudgil, sub-divisional officer of the Ropar thermal power plant for the last six and-a-half years. All these years, she never took her wages from the Mudgils who were paying her Rs. 250 per month. (*Telegraph* Aug.30)

## Fooling SC/STs via special courts

OUR CORRESPONDENT

**Bangalore:** Here is a report to entertain the "Slaves enjoying their slavery" (DV edit Sept.1)

Thiruvananthapuram: The Central Govt. is likely to set up special courts in all States exclusively to conduct trial of cases involving atrocities on Scheduled Casts and Scheduled Tribes, Union Welfare Ministers Sitaram Kesari said on Aug.28 while inaugurating the two-day regional conference of the Welfare Ministers and Secretaries of Southern States and Union Territories here. Such courts are to be headed by a retired High Court judge and is to have two other members to constitute a bench. The govt. is also thinking in terms of an appellate court in New Delhi for such cases to be headed by a Supreme Court judge and with two other judges as members (Hindu Aug.29).

The cunning Bania from Bihar who for years survived as cockroach as the treasurer of the Congress, the original brahminical party of India, must know that "trial" in a court can begin only after the police arrest the upper caste culprits for violence on SC/STs. If they don't, what "trial" the court can conduct?

The country has the best of law to prevent atrocities on SC/STs. It is called the CRP Act. But in many States the upper caste police have not even filed a case against the culprits. Strictures have been passed by the Govt. of India's SC/ST Commissioner himself against the police for not filing cases.

**What is Dharma?:** Then what does the Bania mean by "setting up special courts for SC/STs?"

What he means is that by setting up such courts, one each in the State and then an apex court in Delhi, so many of his upper caste cronies will get jobs. The 120-odd SC/ST MPs, all slaves of Hindu political parties, will be also astisfied with such cosmetic concoctions. It is wholesale fooling. Why not fool the SC/STs when they are willing to be fooled?

More kush jobs for the overfed upper castes. Why not enjoying at the cost of other's misery? Why not those who have the "merit and efficiency" rule when Indian slaves are enjoying their slavery? This is *Dharma*. *Sarvejana Sukhino Bhavantu* means exactly this. ■

Malayalam Bible

Dr. Hermann Goundert with critical introduction by  
Prof. Scaria Zackaria

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## DV proving right on scam?

OUR CORRESPONDENT

**Bangalore:** DV is proving right on the "Frauds of the Century" (DV Sept. 16, '92 p7).

*The South Kanara dt. Gowda Saraswat Brahmin Ratnakar's Fairgrowth, which has cheated hundreds of people to the extent of crores and crores of rupees, is all set to escape unpunished. A proposal submitted by the crooks of the company, with its head office here, is being accepted by their cousins in the Reserve Bank. The "Times of India" (Sept. 6) has published the "settlement" proposal by which the company will be allowed to go into liquidation. Since the lyers in Finance Ministry, the lyers in the RBI, the lyers in the Fairgrowth are all cousins, the Fairgrowth officials are likely to go unpunished. The proposal is to allow the company to go into liquidation. When one thief escapes, the others are sure to bolt. DV*

## DALIT TEAM TO JAPAN

OUR CORRESPONDENT

**Bangalore :** A five - member Dalit team of Tamte (drum) players left here to Japan on Sept. 19 to participate in the International cultural festival held at Fukuoko there. The team led by Venkatswamy, President of the Karnataka Samata Sainik Dal, was seen off at the Airport by V.T. Rajshekar, Editor of Dalit Voice. Tamte is the chief musical instrument of Dalits in this part of the State. The Japanese invitation marks a big jump in the Dalit - Japanese relationship. ■

## German heads WCC

**Geneva:** Dr. Konrad Raiser (54), the German Lutheran pastor and theology professor, was chosen on Aug.24 to succeed Emilio Castro as the WCC's chief executive officer and head of staff., Prior to becoming professor of systematic theology and ecumenics in the Ruhr-University, Bochum, Germany, in 1983, he had served in Geneva for 14 years, first in the Faith and Order secretariat and then as deputy general secretary. Meanwhile, Deborah Robinson (USA, Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc) has been appointed executive secretary for racial justice issues (Programme Unit III- Justice, Peace and Creation) (EPS)

# "Council of Dalit Nations" to fight SC/ST cause in UN

OUR CORRESPONDENT

**Bangalore:** Brother Yogesh Varhade of Canada, who created a record of sorts at the UN Human Rights Commission's Working Group on Indigenous Population, Geneva, says India's Untouchables and Tribals have every hope of reaching the goal very soon. (DV Aug. 16, 1992, p.7: "Dalits are indigenous".)

The official representative of the India's ruling class, which controls the Govt. of India, as usual blew the trumpet borrowed from the brahminical agent, Andre Bettile, the ruling class social scientist at Delhi University. That was expected. The rulers will do what they want to frustrate our plans. But are we doing what is expected of us?

No. Varhade says the biggest achievement this time is the support received from the Geneva-based World Council of Churches.

The indigenous SC/STs must however fight hard. To begin with they must set up the "Council of Dalit Nations" (CDN) and start working seriously, he says.

**True history:** CDN must be set up in every State with the following objectives:

- (1) To re-establish the identity of Dalit "nations", meaning indigenous peoples of India through all media communications.
- (2) To represent their problems and find solutions at provincial, "national" and international levels through democratic means and help resolve them.
- (3) To promote their heritage, history, culture, languages and humanhood.
- (4) To build a research centre for the study of all indigenous peoples of India and publish the true history of these "nations".
- (5) To coordinate all the indigenous people's brotherhood around the world.

All communications may be addressed to Yogesh Varhade at the *Dalit Voice* office to be transmitted to Varhade in Canada who has determined to fight until the goal is reached. ■

## Swiss asylum for Sikhs?

**Chandigarh:** The Swiss Workers' Assistance Organisation, which sent two of its representatives to India, has painted a very grim picture of human rights violation in Punjab. A 25-page summary of the long report submitted by Hansuell Rafflaub and Hanspeter Spaar, released by the Movement Against State Repression (MASR) here, asked the Swiss authorities to be liberal in granting asylum to Sikhs in Switzerland as repressive laws like TADA and NSA and the police acting as extra-judicial executioners were making many young Sikhs flee the country. According to MASR representative here, the Swiss Government has been a bit more liberal after that.

The team, which visited Punjab in March last year, said 2,600 applications for asylum were pending and the Swiss Govt. team found enough evidence to say that much of the militancy was the product of brutal police actions.

The team quoted from Amnesty International and Asia Watch to focus on the violations and urged the Government to do something to stop these violations. (*Hindustan Times* Sept.7) ■

## DV proves right on Cut-Throat

OUR CORRESPONDENT

**Madras:** The Cut-Throat has come out in his true colours and thereby proved that we are right in calling him so.

We have said that the Cut-Throat though born a BC (a temple-piper *jati*), he is pretending to be a supporter of the Dravidians though his heart is with the non-Tamil Aryans.

Here is yet another proof:

**Madras:** In a significant shift in its Sri Lanka policy, the DMK, one of the most vocal supporters of the LTTE, on Aug.22 said it lost all sympathy for the militant group after its links with the Rajiv Gandhi assassination were known. DMK president Karunanidhi told reporters here that his party had no sympathy either for the LTTE or any other Lankan Tamil militant group. (*Indian Express*, Aug.23).

The oppressive brahminical social order is capable of crushing anybody. The Cut-Throat was crushed and reduced to pulp because he challenged the BSO. Today, his sole concern is how to save himself, not the Dravidians. ■

## Is the Indian Church anti-Dalit?

A SOCIO - ECONOMIC SURVEY OF ARCHDIOCESE OF BANGALORE

Dr. Ambrose Pinto, S.J.

Dept. of Political Science, St. Josephs College, Bangalore -1

A study of the Dalit Christians (Catholics) in the rural areas of Bangalore.

A must for all those interested in the liberation of Dalits.

Foreword by Archbishop Alphonsus Mathias. The study covers 487 houses with 2,670 people. The archdiocese has 50% Dalit population. KGF with 25,000 Catholics is entirely Dalit. The study reveals that the existing leadership of the Dalit Christians is selfish and that it should be rejected. Dalit Catholics were critical of the church, particularly its upper caste priests and sisters. Nothing has been done to Dalits. Majority of the Dalit Christians belong to the Holeya, Adi-Karnataka and Madiga sects.

The study reveals that church has not taken much interest in their welfare. Living conditions of Dalit Christians are no different from non-converted Dalits. Caste discrimination exists even within the church. Priests have very often sided with the upper caste Christians.

The survey reveals that though converted, the Dalit Christians are no different from their non-converted brothers: And hence like SC/STs, they too need reservations. The study thus fulfils the Supreme Court directions made in its famous judgment on the "Susai Case" (Sept. 30, 1985) in which it upheld the Govt. injustice denying reservations to Dalit Christians.

Read also "Dalit Voice" editorial Sept. 1 1987 on the subject: "The State used to promote Hindu religion? Constitutional Fraud on Dalits".

1992 Rs.15

Ashirwad No. 39 30 St. Marks Rd., Bangalore - 560 001.

## Aryans & Olympics

### OUR CORRESPONDENT

**Bangalore:** Dr. Ashok Mitra, Ex-Finance Minister W.Bengal and its ruling class Kayasth, says:

"Take for example our performance at the just concluded Olympic Games. What shame, what humiliation, even a rag-tag country like Surinam or an apology of a country such as Somalia, where children in their thousands are dying quietly for lack of food, has managed a medal or two; we have drawn a total blank (*Deccan Herald*, Aug.26).

As long as the Aryans oppose beef-eating and glorify vegetarianism (grass-eaters), India can get no gold - not even a scrap of paper.

Indians is last not only in sports, they are last in everything but, first in killing, quarreling, cheating, stealing, swindling. (DV Aug. 16, 92: "Indian rulers eat dust at Olympics").

This 45-year rule of merit-mongers has failed. Leave the field free to non-Aryan SC/ST/BCs and Muslims/Christians/Sikhs, the original inhabitants forming over 85% of its population, we will not only get gold but convert India into a golden Goliath.

## Rights violations in Assam

**Guwahati :** The Mahab Adhikar Sangram Samiti, a human rights organisation of Assam, has charged that at least 40 custodial deaths took place during "Operations Bajrang" and "Rhino" due to the existence of anti-people laws such as the Armed Forces Special Powers (Assam and Manipur) Act and the Assam Disturbed Areas Act. The Acts provided immunity to military and civil personnel engaged in the control of insurgency even if in the course of these duties they were to kill persons assumed to be insurgents. (*Hindu* Sept.2)

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