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DALIT VOICE

The Voice of the Persecuted Nationalities Denied Human Rights

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No.13

DEFEAT OF WEST IN WAR ON ISLAM

**SIGNIFICANCE OF OBAMA'S CAIRO
SPEECH TO MUSLIMS****Hindu racists
deserved
Australian kick****Debate on
Budhism &
armed struggle****Birth-based discrimination leads to hatred :****THUS SPAKE AMBEDKAR**

Thus Spake Ambedkar

7. The Scheduled Castes Federation believes that the gulf between the higher classes and the lower classes in this country is already very great. This gulf has already crated a good deal of enmity between them. The murders, arsons and loot that were committed by members of the lower classes against members of the higher classes in 1948 in certain parts of India after the murder of Mr. Gandhi shows how deep rooted this enmity is.

The Scheduled Castes Federation is firmly of opinion that to remove the cause of this enmity is to give the lower classes the higher education and to open to them the door of services is the only solution of this problem. The artificial distinction between higher

Birth-based discrimination leads to hatred

was 14.3 per cent; and for 1941-51, it was 13.4 per cent.

(ii) There has been very little change in the occupational structure, despite considerable development of industries. In 1911, about 71 per cent of the working population was engaged in agriculture. For 1948, the National Income Committee puts this figure at about 68.2 per cent. Agriculture affords employment for only a part of the year, so that a large proportion of the workers engaged in this occupation and more or less idle for the rest of the year. There is thus a great deal chronic under-employment in the country.

(iii) Sown area per person has shown a steady

DV to launch a new column on Periyar EVR

From the coming issue of *Dalit Voice* (July 16, 2009) we will start a new fiery column, "Thus Spake Periyar", on the request of our family members world-wide. Periyar E.V. Ramaswamy of Tamil Nadu is ranked next only to Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, Father of India. Periyar's writings and speeches, running into thousands and thousands of pages, being in Tamil did not receive the attention because they were not in English. Besides it suffered the blackout from the Brahminical Social Order which called him "the most hated person in India", much more than Babasaheb. That means he automatically must become our dearest person — EDITOR.

classes and lower classes based on birth must come to an end soon. But it cannot come to an end except by raising the lower classes to the level of the higher classes in the matter of education.

B. The Problem of Poverty

8 (7) The economic condition of India has been described by the Planning Commission in very realistic terms: It says:-

(i) The population of the Indian Union (excluding Jammu and Kashmir) has increased from 235.5 million in 1901 to 356.9 million in 1951 — an increase of about 52 per cent over the half century. The rate of increase for the first two decades was relatively low, but it has risen since then. Between 1921 and 1931, the increase was 11 per cent; for 1931-41, it

tendency to decline. For British India, sown area per person went down from 0.88 acre in 1911-12 to 0.72 acre in 1941-42. For 1948, i.e. after partition, the estimated sown area per person in the Indian Union works out at 0.71 acre. Evidence as to the trend of yields per acre is not conclusive. From some of the published figures available, it would appear that in respect of certain food crops, at any rate, the trend has been downward. It is difficult to assess the over-all trend of productivity in agriculture, but the broad picture that emerges suggests conditions of stagnation in this respect.

8. The Problem of poverty is thus a double edged problem. From one point of view it is a problem of more production both in Agriculture and in Industry.

(To be continued)

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Writings & Speeches, Vol.17, Part-1 (p.389-391) 2003, Rs. 125.
Maharashtra Govt., Manager, Govt. Central Book Depot, Near Charni Road
Railway Station, Netaji Subhash Road, Bombay - 400 004.

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Barack Obama's mesmerism of Muslims signifies defeat of West in its reckless war on Islam

We saw President Obama delivering his hour-long speech live on June 4, 2009 to the Muslims from the very heart of the Islamic world at Cairo. It was a fantastic oratory that simply mesmerised the 1.4 billion Muslims of the world.

The pain of being a Black in Obama, the Muslim in Obama and a victim of the horrible zionist-controlled America — left in tatters by its most hated President George W. Bush — was clearly pouring out of his heart.

Top Muslim scholars and Muslim students from all over the world present at the Cairo University simply cheered Obama at every stage. The only people in the world upset by Obama's speech were the zionists, who are the sole cause of America's current misery, its present predicament and also the one who launched the Third World War that began with the birth of the Jewish state (DV June 16, 2009, p.10).

Shattering speech: But Obama's long-awaited shattering speech in which he for the first time identified himself as a Black, a Muslim, Christian, a proud American and addressed his thoughts directly to the Muslims and Jews needs good deal of pondering because of its deep historical significance.

The election of Obama as the President is itself a turning point in the history of not merely America but the whole of world — fed up with its unending war and violence. His overwhelming popularity not only inside US but the whole world shows that the people are tired of war — particularly this so-called "war on terror" (read Muslims).

Only two people love war: Only two people want war in this world: the zionist Jews and their cousins — India's Brahminical rulers — together forming a micro-minority population. The latter are not only more dangerous of the two but so much untrustworthy and treacherous too. Because they once conspired to eradicate the Jews by misleading "a fellow Aryan" Hitler. (*Aryan Myth*, Leon Poliakov, New American Library, New York, 1977). It is a pity that the zionists later admitted these very people as partners and trusted them in their global war against Muslims and Islam.

That is why Obama's speech did not get any applause in India's "national" toilet papers controlled by the "Jews of India" — though being cowardly worms they lack the courage, unlike the zionists, to boldly say so in public.

Obama's words poured out from his heart — and not head. We could make out that. But how will he translate the words into action? The zionists in USA, joining the White racist

Christians under their control, did their best to block the Black man's entry into the White House. Having failed, they launched their second attack with the help of their zionist-controlled high finance. The very Federal Reserve is a zionist institution. The entire US media is zionist. Just 2% Jews control the US. We have said this many times.

China rescues USA: As soon as Obama entered the White House he was rattled by the zionist financial fury that was about to sink the world's No.1 economic and military power. Fortunately China came to its rescue. And the goodwill of the entire world gave him the moral strength to tackle the mother of all evils — the zionists who conspired to have their homeland right in the heart of the Islamic world.

We have been told by friends like Alan Hart, a British expert on zionism, and many others that there any number of good and honest people among Jews. We believe him. But he was the first expert to agree with our verdict that the Brahminical people are indeed the "Jews of India".

It is these twin hate-mongering micro-minority peoples with the power of their media in the West and India who are poisoning the entire atmosphere with their theory that Muslims are terrorists and their eradication is the condition precedent to establish "democracy" and "peace" in the world. Obama has proved them wrong.

Huntington's hate theory: We thank Obama because as the world's most powerful leader he had the courage to set fire to this hate theory. And more than anything he went down in history as the first Western leader to boost the morale of Muslims in their life and death war against zionists — and also some stupid Christians who unnecessarily antagonised the Muslims by getting corrupted by zionist brainwash undertaken by people like Samuel Huntington. Christians and Muslims have always lived together in peace (Richard W. Bulliet, *The Case for Islamo-Christian Civilisation*, Columbia University Press, New York, pp.187, 2004).

The fight used to be mainly between Christianity and Judaism. The zionists first tried to kill Christianity because the church stole their Jewish king of Jerusalem and made him the founder of Christianity. The zionists managed to see that all the churches in England and parts of Europe are closed down. But every synagogue

is active even to this day. Now they are instigating the Western Christian rulers to "tame" Muslims. This is the current problem. These zionist forces made the Christian rulers to hate Muslims exactly for the reason that Muslims have higher values.

Zionists created communism: The zionists created communism to destroy the Christian Czarist rulers of Russia (DV Jan.16, 1993 p.3: "*Marxism, a zionist invention to dominate the world*"). Having succeeded they later created the market-driven capitalism. But no Muslim country fell into their net and hence do not face financial crisis because Islam is driven not by interest and market economy which are the creations of zionists. Remember, no Muslim country in the world suffered so much from the current "financial crisis" except 2-3 tiny Gulf Emirates. The Muslim society might have produced some corrupt dictators like President Mubarak of Egypt but he is hated by the entire Muslim society. There are rich and poor in all Muslim countries but Islam directs all the rich Muslims to set a part of their wealth to the poor.

The Muslim society is also free from racism while Israel practices racism against its own Black Jews (*Falasha*) and those Jews from India.

Vatican in zionist pocket: The zionist Israel itself is a racist and religion-based state like of which is not found anywhere in the world. In Iran hundreds of Jews are living happily and refuse to migrate to Israel despite all temptations.

Israel, despite all the poison filled in its body, commands so much of power and influence because it has simply subjugated the Western Christians. The entire Vatican is in its pocket.

Christian countries killed all their finest values by getting corrupted by zionism.

The zionist-controlled Big Money forced the American Christian Govt. to undertake reckless industrialisation which needs oil and gas and to get these natural products it forced the stupid zionist dummy George W. Bush to invade oil-rich Iraq and launch his war against Saddam Hussein, manipulating all sorts of lies against the Iraqi ruler. He failed and was rightly booted out.

India's false democracy: The Western Christian rulers boast about their democracy and cite India as the "Asia's largest democracy". But we the Untouchables, Tribals plus Muslim etc. forming 65% of the population know what type of

democracy is practised under this Brahminical dictatorship.

Brahminical India admires West and particularly USA because it loves its corrupt market-driven society that produces Harshad Mehtas, Ketan Parekhs, Ambanis etc. — all products of a culture of corruption.

But the Muslim world is free from all these vices — though some Westernized Muslim youth are falling prey to such corruptive tactics. Sex, drink, stock market, conspicuous consumption, luxury living, cheating and gambling, entertainment are a total taboo under Islam.

Zionists also created the corrupt "globalised world" of which WTO is the by-product but the Western globalisation is no comparison before that single, borderless, transcendent Muslim *ummah* (world) — comprising over 1.4 billion people.

David Selbourne verdict: A bitter critic of Muslims and Islam, David Selbourne, a British historian of Oxford University, a noted journalist and author of the famous book, *The Losing Battle with Islam*, gives the demographic strength of Muslims in the West. He says the Western world with all its financial, military and industrial power is no match before this resurgent and revolutionary *ummah*.

The Western and India's Brahminical rulers are driven by one single engine of materialist greed — not ideological cravings. That is how the zionists and Brahminists are found mostly dominating the financial sector. To them money is the be all and end of all life. The financial world helps them to make money through manipulation but Islam is driven by its interest-free ideology which permits no manipulation.

The familiar argument of the enemies of Muslims is Islam is not democratic. America is hailed as the ideal democratic state by enemies of Islam. But it is America that produced its worst tyrant in George W. Bush. If America is a "model state" how can 2% Jews hold its neck?

Democracy is one among the several forms of govt. It is not the most ideal form. Hindu India's democracy is a shame, enslaving over 85% of its population.

They say China is a communist dictatorship. But the UN, the World Bank or other international bodies did not say that China is anti-democratic.

China could not have become the world's No.1 financial power by oppressing its people.

Turkey not admitted to EU: The capitalist America is interested in "democratising" the Islamic countries not out of love but out of its greed for the oil and gas under the Muslim land. If the West is so much in love with democracy, why it always supports the most undemocratic Saudi regime and the dictatorial Hosni Mubarak of Egypt? It was the "democratic" West that was so furious with Turkey when it democratically elected the Islamist govt. with an overwhelming majority. Still Turkey is kept out of the "democratic" "Christian Club" of European Union.

West has no right to preach democracy to Muslims.

Obama knows all this. He has made a deep study of all these problems of which he was himself a victim as a member of the revolutionary Rev. Jeremiah Wright's church.

Who triggered "Islamic terrorism": He also knows that the so-called Islamic terrorism has become a world-wide phenomenon. He also knows all the weaknesses and mistakes of the West but he can't say all this because of his present position. But we know that "Islamic terrorism" is a Western allegation though the overwhelming Christians in the West do not hold this opinion. The allegation may be partly true. But what is the origin of the "Islamic terrorism"? Did it exist before the zionist state of Israel was illegally established in 1947? (DV June 16, 2009, p.13).

World's first rogue state: Israel does not observe a single international law. It has become the world's first rogue nuclear power — flouting every international rule. Yet it wants Iran to stop its nuclear efforts.

Obama also knows that it is this world's first rogue state which is asking US to curb Iran's nuclear ambitions.

As long as the United Nations, US and the Western powers are not able to cut Israel to size what right have they to advice Iran?

Obama also knows that the tremendous surge of Islam cannot be controlled by military power. Already Muslims are registering the world's largest population boom compared to any religious groups.

According to David Selbourne Muslims had

risen from 12% in 1900 to 20% by the end of 20th century. By 2025 they will be some 2.3 billion, he says and warns those who believed in the power of democracy to defeat demography or in the power of gun to defeat the force of "faith" (Ibid p.474).

Obama knows all this. And when he was addressing the exclusive Muslim audience in Cairo on the doorsteps of Israel, he was actually warning the next-door zionist state about all the above cited dangers without spelling them out.

Obama as a Black, Christian and also a Muslim has made a study of both the religions. He also knows why the revolutionary Blacks in America are attracted to Islam. As a victim of zionists, who moved heaven and earth to see that he was defeated, he has also made a study of their philosophy.

Mustadafeen & the art of dying: That is how he knows that in the current "clash of civilisations" (which he in his speech rejected outright) between zionist-driven Christianity, the values of Islam and the much talked about "philosophy of democracy", human rights, free market are connected.

He also knows that no faith has given the highest importance to the liberation of *Mustadafeen* (DV May 16, 2009, p.5) and the "art of dying" (suicide bomb), the supreme sacrifice. These are the two Islamic concepts before which all other faiths fade into oblivion.

Christianity went to Africa and created the Apartheid South Africa. It came to India but failed to liberate the oppressed. But it is Islam that not only liberated the oppressed but made them the most militant all over the world.

The Western world is militarily the most powerful, richest, highly advanced in every respect. But can the West face the above two values of Islam: priority to the liberation of *Mustadafeen* and the art of dying (suicide bomb), the highest form of sacrifice?

West stands defeated: People who love property and position can never face those driven by such highest values.

Obama knows all this.

That is why he rejected the Huntington bogey of "clash of civilisations" because he knows that in this clash the West (& the Brahminists) stand defeated.

In other words, Obama knows that Islam cannot

be defeated by use of force or cannot be purchased by bribe or any other temptations.

Osama neither caught nor killed: George W. Bush fixed the highest price on Osama bin Laden's head but even after hunting for eight long years the West could neither kill — nor even catch him. What a pity. On the other hand Bush loved by the Jews and the "Jews of India" was booted out and history condemned him as America's most hated President. The US lost everywhere — defeat in Iraq, Afghanistan and even in Pakistan. China emerged as the world's super power and the Brahminical India squirmed like a worm.

The Christian West for nothing invited the curse of Muslims and the whole world by selling its soul to zionists.

The West has finally lost its war on "terror" (meaning Islam) and this is evident from the American withdrawal of troops from Iraq, Afghanistan and all other varieties of engagement.

Dalit Voice was the first to predict all this and prove right: "*West Losing War on Muslims* (DV Aug. 1, 2004) and "*How America got defeated in war on terror*" (DV Aug. 16, 2007, Reprints available. Rs.5 each).

D.V. REFERENCE TO "WAR ON TERROR"

- DV Feb.16, 2009 p.9: "DV proved right on Palestine".
 DV Edit Feb.1, 2009: "Blood thirsty zionists can't defeat Hamas".
 DV May 1, 2008 p.7: "More bad news for Israel".
 DV April 1, 2008 p.6: "Hamas bravery rattles zionists".
 DV Jan.1, 2008 p.5: "Arab surrender to zionists?"
 DV Aug.16, 2007 p.18: "Hamas may grab West Bank".
 DV July 16, 2007 p. 12: "DV supports revolutionary Hamas & assures victory to Palestinians".
 DV July 1, 2006 p.19: "Abbas as stooge of Israel".
 DV March 1, 2006 p. 5: "Israeli tail wags US dog".
 DV Edit Feb.16, 2006: "Shift Israel to America" Zionist state threatened by deadly enemies all around" & p. 5: "Hamas victory a death blow to Israel".
 DV Feb.1, 2006 p. 5: "Curse of Muslims kills killer Sharon".
 DV Jan.1, 2006 p.9: "More on racism within Israel".
 DV Dec.16, 2005 p.8: "Racism within Israel?"
 DV Sept.16, 2005 p.21: "Palestinians attract world attention".
 DV Edit Aug.1, 2005: "Thoughts on London bombing: Terrorism will continue until Palestine problem is solved".
 DV March 16, 2005 p.7: "US-imposed peace pact collapses".
 DV March 1, 2005 p.5: "Palestine-Israel peace pact bound to fail".
 DV Jan.1, 2005 p.15: "Abbas disappoints Palestinians?"
 DV Aug.16, 2004 p.6: "Palestine: Meaning of New World Order".
 DV April 16, 2004 p.9: "Palestine must get ready for wholesale *jihad* against zionists".

Brahminical racists deserved Australian kick

DENNIS WALKER, 1/1 - EDNEY COURT, NOBLE PARK, MELBOURNE-3174, AUSTRALIA

There is a strong feeling against Indians who speak Hindi, Tamil etc. in public places. This is cultural intolerance in Australia. And Anglo racists are assaulting Indians, Sudanese and Arabs. Some Hindu (upper caste) immigrant professionals are trying to assert their superiority over ordinary Australians in hospitals etc. where they work. For instance, when they invite born Australians to their houses they serve snacks and soft-drinks but only pretend to sip from their own mug. Thus there is some fault on both sides. There are traces of the racism on both sides.

Dr. Goldie Osuri, Dept. of Critical and Cultural Studies, Macquarie University, North Ryde, NSW 2109, adds: I am not surprised by the racist attacks on Indian students in Australia. Who should be targeted on a racial and/or religious basis appears to change depending on specific economic, social or political conditions. During the Howard years, Muslims of all nationalities/ethnicities appeared to be a favorite target. In recent years, there is an influx of Indian students, who have been recruited as full fee paying international students, are attractive for Australian Universities. Among certain segments of domestic student

That Hindu India is the world's original racist country is a fact of history. The Indian Untouchables complained about it at the Durban conference of the UN Human Rights Commission. But India's Hindu Govt. joined hands with Zionists and US and scotched our efforts. South Africa demolished Apartheid long back but India's Hindu Apartheid is going strong.

populations, and even staff, there are expressions of resentment against these students as they are seen to be 'taking over' universities. At the University of New South Wales (UNSW), I know of at least one student group (composed of domestic and international students) which has campaigned against the specific kind of racism which targets international students. Students from countries like China, Hong Kong, Singapore and other Asian countries also face racism—so this is not unique to Indian students.

Racism inside India: Students from India must examine how racism functions inside India. An insular view that we need to be concerned with racism only when it affects us will not help in the long run. For example, the recent documentary on call centres in Gurgaon, diverted to Delhi, shows a call centre instructor in India educating students about Australian culture saying that only the Lebanese and Chinese in Australia are involved in drugs or violence and that Australians (meaning White Australians) are really friendly. Trading in racist stereotypes and screaming racism when we're affected is not the answer if we are genuinely concerned about racism.

*Brahminical rulers have no right to complain of racism in Australia. Why did those Hindu racists go to Australia to study when India has over 250 universities run by their *Jatwalas*? Repair your house first before complaining that the Australian house is leaking.*

The racists deserved the kick and got a taste of their own bitter Brahminical brew — EDITOR.

Achutanandan's new party?

Trivandrum: According to *Malayalam Manorama* online edition, a senior member of the CPM came up with a serious allegation against Chief Minister Achuthanandan who is facing a volley of charges following the party's defeat in Lok Sabha elections.

CPM state committee member C.M. Dinesh Mani allegedly disclosed that there was a plan to form a new party under the leadership of Achuthanandan when the party ticket was denied to him in the run up to the Assembly elections. He said the planning was done at a meeting held in the house K.Chandran Pillai.

Fisheries Minister S. Sarma was also present during the meet. There was also a plan to start a new newspaper, he added.

*Achutanandan is hated in the party only because of his caste though the fact is it is because of him alone CPM gets the vote. The *Ezhavas*, who form about 30% of the state population, are mostly with the CPM because of him. When he is not wanted by the *manuwadi marxists*, we welcome his move to form a separate party of the oppressed castes — SC/ST/BCs and Muslims — EDITOR.*

Siddaramaiah: victim of caste hatred

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Bangalore: Hinduism is the other word for casteism, meaning hatred. Karnataka Congress leader Siddaramaiah (61) with the largest following is the most hated man for its three upper caste rulers. That is why they are bent upon keeping him out, fearing that if this angry man is allowed to come up they would be the first to be kicked.

The ruling Brahmin, Lingayat and Vokkaligas — the state's three upper castes who own the property and their gods — hate him because of his caste. Powerful but Backward Caste — Kuruba (shepherd). This is the simple truth behind keeping the state's most popular leader without giving him any position. It was only on June 7, 2009, he was reluctantly made chief of the state Cong. legislature party.

Caste greater than party: The *Brahmana Jati Party* (BJP), which is controlled by the Lingayats and Brahmins, is ruling the state with devastating effect. It came to power because the upper castes in the Congress refused to allow Siddaramaiah to lead the party.

What does it mean? The Congress upper caste leaders do not mind their party defeat as long as they keep Siddaramaiah out of power. The Congress suffered a second

defeat in the recent parliament election. To them caste is greater than the party — or even the country.

Casteism means hatred: Now that he is finally, but reluctantly, given a position, will his caste enemies tolerate him? No. Casteism means hate. It is the hate that leads the Hindus. They know that if he is given a free hand he will become more strong and finally become the chief minister. They also know that the first to be kicked will be the Lingayats and Vokkaligas. So the Brahmins who are managing the show will see to it that he is curbed at every stage.

How can a society progress with so much of hatred guiding all the Hindu actions?

Hindus are not ready to give up their caste system even when it is proved that it is killing the country.

DV Dec.16, 2007 p.12: "Siddaramaiah alone can kick casteists & cause Congress victory".

DV Nov.1, 2007 p. 20: "Siddaramaiah must quit Congress, revive Ahinda & start own party".

DV Aug.16, 2006 p. 9: "Siddaramaiah earthquake".

DV March 1, 2006 p.9: "Dalit show shocks upper castes".

DV Feb.16, 2006 p.12: "Karnataka caste war".

DV Feb.1, 2005 p.9: "Pejawara swami provokes Kuruba mass uprising & helps caste consolidation".

DV Sept.16, 2004 p.11: "Kuruba caste consolidation gets a big boost".

Everything is decided on caste: Assam

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Bangalore: *Dalit Voice* was the first in India to announce that everything in "Hindu India" is determined by caste (our ethnic identity). The recent Parliament election is the latest proof that caste is the guiding force for every action. Our international award-winning book, *Caste — A Nation Within the Nation*, our exhaustively deals with this question. Take the case of Assam: The country's premier Brahminical daily, the *Hindu*, says everything in Assam is decided by caste. But the Brahminical people, who are our rulers because of their caste, say they hate caste and tell us that caste is dead. They say everything should be decided on the basis of "merit", even as they hang on to their caste.

Of the 13 Chief Ministers since independence, all but one are from the Congress or from the Congress stream, and

only one belonged to a SC. He became Chief Minister by accident and default, during the chaotic politics of the post-Janata Party headed by Golap Barua, and lasted all three months and seven days. Of the rest, the first was a Ganak-Brahmin, six were from the decidedly upper caste Kayasta-Kalita stream. Three Ahoms, including the present incumbent Tarun Gogoi, one Muslim and one Koch, a community that was once seen as being in transition from a tribe to caste. The Ahoms, once part of Assam's ruling dynasty, are now seeking ST. Status. However, the state has never had a ST Chief Minister though its ST population even now, more than three decades after the reorganisation of Assam (170-72) when the Tribal majority districts of present-day Meghalaya and Mizoram were separated, accounts for 12.8%. In 1961, it was 17.42% (*The Hindu*, June 4, 2009).

DEBATE ON BUDHISM

Brahmins die for Brahminism but we die to save our enemy

ANIL RANGARI, BHARTI APTS. GURU NANAK NAGAR, DURG - 491 001

Brother Er. Ram Awtar Ram, Lucknow, wrote in DV (Nov.16, 2008, p.9) that: (1) *Vipassana* is the real Buddhism. Without it the society will go astray and become characterless. But Babasaheb Ambedkar did not practice *Vipassana*. Does it mean Dr. Ambedkar did not become real Buddhist and he was characterless because he did not practice *Vipassana*?

(2) He said that he was from a scientific background and an experienced person on *Vipassana* and that those who did not practice *Vipassana* were telling lies.

Does it mean Babasaheb always told lies but only *Vipassana* guru Goenka was telling the truth?

I have repeatedly cautioned the people about *Vipassana* and its worst effects. But our hypnotized Buddhists do not want to learn a lesson. S.N. Goenka is an upper caste Bania and once a big industrialist. Why he does not want to teach *Vipassana* to his own upper caste industrialists who live under tension?

Killing our anger: Buddhism is based on morality, equality and justice. Why Goenka is not teaching this to his upper caste millionaires who are growing richer by drinking our blood? Goenka wants to destroy all revolutionary work done by Babasaheb.

Brahmanvadis, RSS, Goenka and their counter-revolutionary army are using *Vipassana*, *yoga*, religious *karmakands* etc. to kill our anger, hatred and revolution against Brahminism and capitalism.

Prof. Hardayal warning: Prof. Hardayal said:

"Metaphysics (including Rajnish and Goenka's *Vipassana*) had been the curse of India. It has blighted her history and compassed her ruin. It has converted her great men into miserable quibblers, and led them into useless channels of inquiry and efforts. It has been the dangerous will-o'-the-wisp of Indian intellect during many centuries. It has elevated sophistry to the rank of an art, and substituted vain fancies for a knowledge. It has condemned Indian intellect to run the same old roove for hundreds of years. It has blinded her seers and led them to mistake phantoms for realities... Arrogant, pretentious, verbose and purblind, it has taken its cackling for an oracle and its fantastic word towers for solid piles of thought masonry...."

"... The Upanishads claim to expound that by knowing which a very thing is known. This mediaeval quest for the absolute is the basic of all the superior

metaphysics of India. The treatises are full of absurd conceits, quaint fancies, and chaotic speculations. And we have not yet learned that they are worthless. "Samadi" or trance is regarded as the acme of spiritual progress. How strange it is that a capacity for swooning away should be considered the rank of wisdom. It is very easy to lose consciousness if one has strong emotions and a feeble intellect. That is why ladies faint so often on the slightest provocations. But in India Samadhi is the eighth stage of yoga, which only *Paramhans* can reach. These be thy gods, O, Israel. To look upon an abnormal psychological condition produced by artificial means as the sign of enlightenment was a folly reserved for Indian philosophers. (BAW&S Vol.5, p.137).

Vasant Moon warning: Most of today's Buddhist literature is anti-Buddhist. Already Vasant Moon the great editor of all the works of Babasaheb, has warned about this but nobody is listening.

Know the Hindu Mind: Buddhism is not only mere *Dhamma*, it is also a revolutionary movement (*saddhamma*). It teaches how to live a righteous life effectively and at the same time it teaches to fight injustice, inequalities, exploitations, tyranny, and discriminations. Without this there is no Buddhism.

Why our people do not want to understand Hindu-Brahmin mind? Read carefully *Know The Hindu Mind* by Editor V.T. Rasjhekar.

Henpecked DV readers: Buddhist *paramitas* are the basic conditions and effective virtues of socio-religious workers (*bhikkhus*) for Buddhist movement but no Buddhists want to understand its real revolutionary meaning and follow accordingly. DV is the movement of Buddhism. It brings revolution in the minds of its readers. When the minds of Dalit-Bahujan Samaj boil and revolt, it shakes all centers of power (knowledge, socio-culture, politics, bureaucracy, judiciary land, financial institutions, media etc.).

But our readers are henpecked, slaves enjoying their slavery. Mental slavery is worse than all other tyrannies. They do not want to take pain, responsibility and lead the movement and die for it.

Brahmins die for Brahminism. But Dalit-Bahujans die to save our enemies. This is the tragedy of the Moolniwasi Bahujan Samaj. How to remove this mental slavery of our "educated" Dalit Bahujans? The Editor is deeply worried.

Goenka & Nichiren cults not suitable to India

DR. V.D. CHANDANSHIVE, COTTAGE VAISHALI, SHAHU NAGAR, NANDED - 431 602

The DV Debate on Buddhism, and particularly on the Japanese Nichiren sect and *Lotus Sutra* has been going for quite some time. The Debate has been oscillating between two poles of active and passive Buddhism. As such the writers either concentrate on Nichiren's active and offensive cult or on Goenka's passive and defensive cult. The participants in this Debate seem to have lost sight of Ambedkarite Buddhism which unequivocally claims that in the Indian context it is Buddhism alone that can counter Brahminism IF the followers of Babasaheb honestly care to tread the guidelines given by him.

Outside India wherever Buddhism is practised, it doesn't have to face the challenge of Brahminism. So in whatever form Buddhism is practised in other countries, mostly it is used by its adherents to generate inner peace by emphasizing such techniques as meditation and Vipassana.

Defects of monks: But in India Ambedkarite Buddhism has been assigned an altogether different mission which people outside don't have to bother much. We must remember that Babasaheb was not very happy about international Buddhist brotherhood. Neither he wanted his Indian counterparts to follow Buddhist monks

of Buddhist countries. He had very clearly aired his views about monks when he had visited Sri Lanka. Again in 1954, at Kathmandu (Nepal) he had touched upon the philosophical differences between Karl Marx and the Buddha. In his opinion Marxism was replacing Buddhism only because of the passivity and lack of vision on the part of the community of monks which constitutes the backbone of Buddhist mission of propagation.

Babasaheb introduced Buddhism to his followers in India and abroad with a purpose, with a mission. This mission cannot be accomplished by following Nichiren cult or by following Goenka cult. But the mission of defeating Brahminism can be materialized by following the guidelines given by Babasaheb through his writings and speeches. It will indeed be beneficial if writers in the DV Debate on Buddhism become vocal on Ambedkarite Buddhism instead of giving so much space to Nichiren and Goenka. In fact we have no concern with them.

Goenka has intentionally brought the meditative cult of Buddhism which is absolutely unsuited in the Indian context. So, why don't we have a rational, balanced and lively debate on Ambedkarite Buddhism in DV? ■

DEBATE ON PRIESTHOOD

When Dalits failed to liberate Bodh Gaya, how can they capture temples?

DR. G GANESH, AKANKSHA APTS, RING ROAD, TRIMURTI NAGAR, NAGPUR - 440 022

This refers to Brother Kuldip Kumar's question "Why Dalits must capture temples?" (DV April 16, 2009, p.25). He says Dalits being "Hindu", they have every right to capture the priesthood. But the Editor has rightly reminded him the statement of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar that the "Untouchables are not Hindu and were never Hindu". Dalits who embraced Buddhism as directed by Dr. Ambedkar could achieve at least something. Only those who follow Babasaheb Ambedkar but are not Buddhists but believe in Hinduism, may be willing to be temple priests. Babasaheb wanted to seek assimilation of Untouchables with Hindus. But in vain. Those Dalit castes who were co-opted to serve the Hindus were

misguided by M.K. Gandhi. Why they did not follow Babasaheb to Buddhism? Only such castes may be eager to become priests. Brahmins never allow Dalits even to enter temple but Kuldip Kumar is thinking of making them temple priests. Brahmins will not permit it because priesthood is their bread and butter. The Govt. of India should nationalize all the temples, masjids, churches, Jain mandirs, *gurudwaras* and Buddha Vihars just as it nationalised the banks. However the priesthood may continue with respective religious group. Even to this date Bodh Gaya temple, where Buddha achieved enlightenment, is still in the hands of Brahmins. So how can we think of priesthood of Brahmin temples without bloodshed. ■

Indian Muslims not revolutionary being Dalit & sudra converts

DR. MOINUDDIN CHISTY, 43/36 - C.N. ROY ROAD, CALCUTTA - 700 039

This refers to your Editorial in response to Com. Ayyankali's call for armed struggle (DV May 1, 2009). Rationalists and philosophers hesitate to act for want of deep faith. They do not believe in the Almighty and the life after death. They dare not sacrifice their property and life as they have no faith that the prophet and his true followers can do this.

Abraham, Buddha, Jesus and Mohammad made supreme sacrifices and brought about the revolution. After the downfall of Buddhism in India Islam came with a prophetic mission under the leadership of Mohammad Ghorri, Kutubuddin, Ikhtiar Uddin, Mohammad bin Bakhtiar to free the people from the bondage of Brahmin and Kshatriya rulers.

Slave king: Kutubuddin was a slave. Ghorri taught his slave and made him a scholar, organiser and fighter. Kutub freed himself from bondage by his wisdom and service. He became the slave of God and fought in his cause and God made him king of the Brahmins. Brahmins were dethroned within a year. He fed people through donation. He invited his master, Khaja Kutubuddin Kaki to come to Delhi to free the people from Brahminism. Religious, social, political and military campaigns were his weapons.

Beef-eating: Today's Dalits and *shudras* do not like to be freed by gaining knowledge and wisdom. They do not like to be Kutubuddins. They do not like to eat beef. They don't like to cut the extra skin of their sex. How they will fight their enemy? They do not like to be militant because they are inwardly cowards.

Even Dr. Ambedkar hated Islam for its militancy. Unless you are militant, unless you have your own personal law, unless you hate marrying fair-skinned Brahmin girls, unless you have separate society and separate political party, separate

electorate, separate religion like Islam you can do nothing.

Muslims of India also failed to liberate themselves from the clutches of Brahminism because they were originally Dalits and *shudras* before conversion.

Pathans and Turks were fighters. All the early *sufis* were also fighters from Afghanistan. Now they have lost the original Islam.

Of late Muslims are awakening from their deep slumber. They are emerging as fighters. They will free the people of the globe. Because they have faith in the Almighty and life after death. They believe in the revealed scripture; they believe in all the prophets who were fighters. They can sacrifice their lives for the emancipation of themselves and the humankind.

The Tamil Tigers failed because they were bound to fail. Nepali Marxists also failed. Pakistanis and Bangladeshis are also failed people.

Don't close down DV: Turks, Iranians, Arabians, Afghans will never fail due to the Quran and Mohammad. Mohammad was not a philosopher and rationalist. We should be the follower of the Prophet to win the race. They should be men of action.

The Editor of *Dalit Voice* himself has to be changed first and so also Com. Ayyankali. If they are unable to rise to the occasion, then wait for a man on the horse back.

Don't close down DV. Pearls will grow from the Editor's tears. If the people are not aroused, they will be doomed. They will be thrown to the fire after their death. But the fighter for the Almighty Allah will go to the heaven. Be the true servant of Allah just like Mohammad, you will be the saviour of your nation in this world and will go to heaven for this great deed.

This is our answer to Com. Ayyankali.

Did DV fail in its mission?

KULDIP KUMAR, HISAR, HARYANA

This refers to Com. Ayyankali's blunt attack on DV and its Editor: "DV failed to inspire people to fight Brahminism" (DV May 1, 2009, p.6).

I agree that DV failed from its very inception because it is read only by those English Dalit *babus* who would simply give a look at it and then forget it. At the most a few "Ayyankalis" would write in it, get kudos and that is all.

DV never became a paper for the masses. It is confined to the so-called "intellectual group". Most of its readers are retired and, also, as VTR says, tired persons. I do not know if VTR ever tried to sell DV to the young. Had DV been a paper of masses, particularly students, by now many of us would have been facing civil and criminal cases for writing such "provocative matter against public peace and order".

Only thing that DV has achieved is that it has made connections or made known Dalit writers of the world to each other.

I think this one achievement can wash off all other failures of DV.

So far as VTR is concerned I have known him since he wrote the book, *Why Godse Killed Gandhi?*. He is one of very few persons whom I revere. Another one, Kanshi Ram. I admired Mayawati also till she joined hands with BJP to become the CM. Like Kanshi Ram, VTR never deviated from the mission. His Editorials, his books never repeat, never overlooked the Dalit cause. Had he decided in the 80s to compromise, perhaps, today he would have been the super chief editor of some toilet paper earning

millions, moving in luxury cars, residing in spa villas. He sacrificed every bit of his life for our mission. And still we allege failure on his part.

VIPASSANA

If we the so-called Budhists claim *Vipassana* is real Budhism, should Budha be blamed for it? If we the Ambedkarites join BJP should Babasaheb be blamed for it? If we failed to achieve our mission, it is we who are to be blamed.

VTR warned and forewarned us at every step of our life. He has kept the Ambedkarite torch burning with his blood. If we failed to see the holes on the road it is our fault. Why blame our fatherly figure?

I fully endorse the criticism of Com. Ayyankali. But the Comrade's theory

DV is shock proof rock

RAM PARSHAD, DR. AMBEDKAR WELFARE MISSION, 436, PH-4 (SECTOR-59), SAS NAGAR, MOHALI - 160 059

This refers to Ayyankali's article (DV May 1, 2009, p.6). I am not only surprised that rather paid to read it. He is puring his immature advice. Please do not take it to heart. *Dalit Voice* is firm and stood like a mighty shock proof rock of the himalayas.

of armed struggle appears to be impractical for the following reasons:

(1) Who will launch the armed struggle? (2) Against whom? And (3) how to do armed struggle?

(i) Every one will tell you to hit back but who will do the hitting? Our people are enjoying their slavery. We are completely brahminised. We do *Vipassana* but our youth merrily chant *Ganapati Bappa Morya*. Can Com. Ayyankali destroy these socio-cultural mindsets and habits through gun?

(ii) A majority of our literate people dare not disclose their caste. Most

of our Dalit *babus* carry false surname. Will they take to armed struggle?

(iii) There is a very big segment of our population who have not even heard the name of Dr. Ambedkar or Budha. Barely 5-10% of our people know what Ambedkarism and Budhism is. And those who practice it can be numbered. So who is there to launch the armed struggle?

AGARWAL COLONIES

Look at our youth. Many of those who make it to civil services or plum posts desire to or actually marry upper caste girls and settle in Agarwal colonies. Most of them remember Babasaheb only when they fail to get promotion through reservation.

Mayawati desires to be PM. She is not only ready but has in fact joined hands with our age-old foe i.e. Brahmin and the *Brahmana Jati Party*. Can Brahminism exist without the Brahmin? See the record of our Dalit legislators. How many of them have not defected to other parties for the sake of ministry?

The founder of Dalit Panthers is now in some RSS party.

Will these time-servers carry arms for the cause of Dalits?

I have serious doubts if Com. Ayyankali can get enough numbers to start an armed struggle. During the Kanshi Ram era (before joining hands with BJP) it was possible and feasible.

BHINDRANWALE ARMED STRUGGLE

(2) The second question is the more important. On what principles this armed struggle should be carried on? Supposing we get arms, against whom should we use them?

See what happened to Sant Bhindranwale armed struggle. What did he achieve by sacrificing lives of tens of thousands of Sikh youths? On the other hand, see the status of Brahmins of Kashmir. They exploited Kashmiri youths in Kashmir. Today they are enjoying super luxury in Delhi.

If Bhindranwale movement died without achieving anything what will be the fate of our armed struggle?

MEDIA CENTRE GLOOM

The third factor is how to carry on the armed struggle.

Besides manpower, it needs lots of money. We lack both. Due to lack of funds alone our Editor has not been able to start a "media centre" in Delhi. I offered my services but I have no money. He replied, "it is all gloomy". If VTR can think that a person, like Kuldip without money is all gloom, there is substance in it. Let us be practical.

No armed struggle of one group

against another has ever been successful. Examples of IRA, LTTE, Khalistan, al Qaida, Hamas etc. are before us. It is successful only when it is targeted against the state. Examples: Nepal, French Revolution etc.

KADGADHARI BUDHA

That is how Budha was always more stable and successful than Marx.

Can we wipe out all Brahminic forces through violence? Even Pushyamitra was not successful with his sword alone in wiping out defenseless Budhists. His gang infiltrated Bikhu Sangh and distorted Budha Dhamma from within beyond repair. What his sword could not achieve was achieved thru declaring Budha an *avatar* of Vishnu. S.N. Goenka is not using armed struggle.

We have not been able to climb the first floor: "Educate". Forget about "Agitate" and "Organise".

Kanshi Ram "educated" us a bit. But the *Dalit Voice* drive to "educate" our people in Ambedkarism is not meeting with success.

Let us first "educate" our people, then think of raising arms.

I believe Brahminism can be destroyed — only the way it destroyed us. We need "Budhas with swords". We will have to destroy their monopoly on priesthood. Kanshi Ram cracked their domain of political supremacy. He broke its legs. Now head has to be crushed. For this. Ayyankalis, Kuldips will have to play the role of Goenkas.

Let us start a movement: *jitni jis ki sankhya bhari utni uski hissedari*. Our constitution says we (Budhists) are Hindu. Let us claim our share in priesthood. Out of the four Shankaracharyas, three should be from among SC and BC. For the one post Brahmins, Banias, Kshatriyas may compete.

DV welcomes honest criticisms

The outright attack on DV started by Com. Ayyankali is part of an honest intellectual debate which we welcome. Even the dirty Ganga water gets cleaned and made

drinkable if it flows a hundred miles. Hence honest discussions are important. As Ambedkarites, we like honest criticisms and even bouncers — EDITOR.

Brahmins take fake caste certificate

KUMARAPPA, SOCIAL SCIENTIST, NEW DELHI

There is a new racket going on in India, especially Bihar and West Bengal. Upper caste people including Brahmins are faking SC/ST caste certificates and getting into educational institutions and jobs. I met one such person who was a Brahmin but now "converted" to Dalit — whether right or wrong. He said: "Fake caste certificates is no big deal. Even castes in the past were fluid. Many *sudras* became Kshatrya, Vaishya and Brahmin and vice versa. Many of the tribes were included in the *varna* order. So why all this fuss. I know of many people from Scheduled Caste who have a net worth of Rs. 100 crores and their children avail of

reservations. Caste-based reservation itself is a farce. So a farce within a farce is no big deal."

How to control this menace?

(kkumar@yahoo.com)

Brahminical people can commit any crime but who can punish them. But Dalits if they migrate from one state to another, they cease to be SC. What we have in India now is not the rule under the constitution but the rule of Manu. As long as we don't fight it out, the rulers will continue their highway robbery — EDITOR.

Letters to Editor

Gopal Gurung, Founder-President, Mongol National Organisation, Kathmandu, Nepal, PO Box-2828: I am attracted by the article, "Brahminism destroying Assam: Upper castes poisoning our culture" (DV May 16, 2009, p.25); by Monsur Rahman Khan, Principal DAHSS, Dekachang, Kamrup - 781 136. He is close to my viewpoint. Bahuns of Nepal are not upper caste. How a beggar as well as destroyer can be born upper caste? We the alms-giver *Mulniwasi* (indigenous) people of India as well as Nepal are superior as well as upper class. Caucasian folks entered India in 1500 BC and Nepal (1495 AD). They are from Caucasus. After the attacks of Haiti, they came in 1900 BC and spent nearly 400 years in different parts of Iran. There are only three main races in the world: Mongol, Negro and Caucasians. We are all Mongol and *mulbasi* or indigenous people and whatever may be the religion they adopted later. Sikh Gurus Nanak, Gobind Singh, Teg Bahadur fought the Aryan oppressors of indigenous people. Mahatma Phuley, Dr. Ambedkar, Kanshi Ram too fought the Aryan (Hindu). Whatever may be the name of the political party the Aryan Brahmins have their vicious network against our indigenous people. They know if the 85% indigenous people come together the mere 15% Aryan (Bahun-Chettri) will be nowhere. So they always play the divide-and-rule policy. So long as we, the Mulbasi people fight and hate each other, we remain as victims. BJP (*Brahmana Jati Party*) RSS, Shiv Sena are our common enemies. We must think of our secure future. We should be politically conscious and capture the master key of all locks. There are only three original races in the globe and hence only three religions: Buddhism, Christian and Islam. Buddhism is the oldest. Hinduism is not a religion. Hinduism is introduced as religion only in 1928, just to root out Buddhism. There are only two races in India and Nepal. They are Aryan and Mongol. Aryans entered Nepal as refugees in 1495 but after 450 years they became the owners of Nepal. We are all Mongols and need our own party. In Nepal, I have founded such a party in 1989 while I was in jail. The Aryan rulers did not recognize my MNO party for 18 years. Because the name was Mognol but after 18 years the A and B class Hindu rulers were compelled to recognize and got registration last year. The brave dies only once but a coward dies a thousand times before his death.

Dennis Walker, Australia (donxa@hotmail.com): We all value the contribution that you have made over

decades to the struggles and liberation of the oppressed people.

Dr. Javed Jamil, (doctorforu123@yahoo.com): There are many good parts in Obama's address to Muslims, which will be welcomed as well as debated at length in days to come. But I will like to ask just one question on the basis of the following part in his speech:

"We will, however, relentlessly confront violent extremists who pose a grave threat to our security. Because we reject the same thing that people of all faiths reject: the killing of innocent men, women, and children. And it is my first duty as President to protect the American people."

America can avenge the killing of 3,000 Americans by killing 2 millions of Muslims. Tell me how Muslims can and should avenge the killing of 2 million Muslim innocents by Americans? And remember, America killed Muslims not only after 9/11; it is directly or indirectly responsible for killing hundreds of thousands of Muslims even before that (First war against Iraq, helping Saddam against Iran and Israel against Arabs). Are only the citizens of America human beings, not Muslims?

Mlecha, Sanfranscisco, USA: I read your recent *Dalit Voice*. It is all very inspirational. I'm learning a lot. I agree Hitler stole his Aryan philosophy from Brahmins. I will tell you a story I found insightful. In the 1970s, our govt. infiltrated political organizations. It was known as **cointelpro**. It infiltrated the Black Muslims, the Black Panthers, the American Indian Movement, etc. However, in all cases, infiltrating the leadership of these organizations was impossible. The Black Panthers were destroyed when the founder of the Black Panthers became paranoid of one of his most loyal leaders; Geronimo Pratt. Pratt was once in the American Army, so the founder automatically thought Pratt was an infiltrator. Cointelpro got the founder paranoid, but Pratt was innocent of wrongdoing. The Black Panther founder's fear destroyed the Black Panther movement. Cointelpro was effective because it created mistrust. The leadership didn't need to be infiltrated, as the fear of infiltration created the same affect. Brahmins will certainly use the same tactic, creating mistrust among allies. Muslims, Dalits and Tribals should all be allied against very evil and wicked people. The Dalit-Adivasi movement is the most important movement in the world. Problems in Africa, Australia, and Latin America also concern me, in fact much of Asia as well, but the Dalits really will be the leaders of any true world freedom movement. It is a movement to inspire

us *Mlechas* worldwide (I say this with pride in being a *Mlecha*) against the neo-Brahmins of the world, the evil out-of-touch power elites. I suppose I could call them *Navabrahmins*. I am reading Dr. Ambedkar and it is true it will take some time to fix, because it is such a vicious poison to the Dalit mind. His comparison/contrast of Buddha and Marx is brilliant. Before reading this, I never knew Buddha believed it was justifiable to fight for Truth & Justice. I am a passive person, but some things are worth dying to defend.

Dinesh Shende, New Jersey (dinesh_ps78@yahoo.com): The Congress made Meira Kumar a first lady Lok Sabha Speaker and recorded a history in the name of Congress. I feel that this is a counter-revolution started against the Mayawati/BSP in fact SC/ST/OBC to snatch the Dalit and SC/ST/OBC votes. History is a witness which tells us what was Jagjivan Ram and his love for Hinduism and Gandhi's Congress. Mayawati should also learn that it is not good to distort the philosophy of Budha, by converting *Bahujan Hitay*, *Bahujan Sukjay* into *Sarvajan Hitay*, *Sarvajan Sukhay* just for the interest of handful of Brahmins. In fact this distortion is the idea of Brahmins only but not of Mayawati. It seems like the king is following Chanakya's directions. The BJP also made Kariya Munda, a Tribal as the Deputy Speaker to get the votes of Tribals and make them slave and convert to Hinduism or kill them by making them naxalites. So this counter-revolution is started by Congress-BJP hand-in-hand. Rahul Gandhi is doing a great job of making SC/ST/OBC slaves of Congress/Brahmins/Hinduism very sincerely with lots of hard work round the clock. He seems to be an exact replica of Mohandas Gandhi. When it was the time to make President of India, Manmohan and Congress chose Mrs. Pratibha Patil but if you compare Meira Kumar and Pratibha Patil then any rational person would conclude that Meira Kumar is far superior to the Patil even if the criteria of "merit" is applied. But they could not make Meira Kumar President though she is in Congress since long time with high profile of academics and IFS officer. They even did not let Sushil Kumar Shinde become the President when it was time. Thanks they did not have any choice at the time of Dr. K.R. Narayanan. We cannot blame only the Brahminists. Major fault lies on our side. Our SC/ST/OBC/Dalit leaders and laymen have no wisdom, no self-esteem, that's why they like to become slaves of Brahminists. We willfully forget and ignore the warnings given by our father, his

teachings, his philosophy thoughts, his sacrifice, his fighting against these people.

Anup Anans, ru Monsenhor ivo Znlorenzi, 3847, Curitiba - 8210000, Brazil: I live in Brazil. At the moment here in Brazil there is an Indian craze going on. I would like to take advantage of this opportunity and write a book about the discrimination, suffering, pain and all wickedness that the Dalits go through. I want to open the world's eye and show the world that India is rich and big because of the Dalits. I was wondering if you could provide me some articles about a daily routine of a Dalit, types of discrimination and suffering that they go through. Probably someone from Brazil has already gone to India to write an article or documentary about this. (anupanand123@hotmail.com).

Opinion Master (opinionmaster@live.in): This is in response to the violence in Punjab following an attack on a Sikh *guru* in Vienna, Austria. The large-scale emotional upsurge allegedly in response to atrocity committed in a far off place begs a serious consideration by the government. Reports from various quarters indicate that a prominent *guru* of Dalit Sikhs was killed by members of another sect within the Sikhs. Sikhism which rose to combat the widely divided Hindu religion and to stem the growing influence and the decadent practices of the Brahmins, spoke a voice of equality and brotherhood. The *Guru Granth* containing verses by Kabir, Tulsidas is a testament of this assertion of oneness. Unfortunately the events clearly display the versatility of Brahminism which has pervaded deep into radical anti-Brahmin religion like Sikhism, Christianity and to some extent Islam too (there are Dalit Christians, Dalit Muslims and Dalit Sikhs). Animosity displayed against the Dalit Sikh *guru* arises out of a "conflict of interest" existing between sects within Sikh religion. This conflict of interest is well among the same lines as observed among Dalits and Hindus outside the Sikh religion.

Dr. R. Ganesh, Akanksha Apts., Saraswati Vihar Colony, Ring Road, Trimurti Nagar, Nagpur - 440 022: I am very much proud of you that since 1981 you have been audaciously publishing DV fortnightly without fear of death. Really DV is the "Voice of the Persecuted Nationalities Denied Human Rights". You were arrested four times and your passport was impounded for 20 years (1986-2005). Also attempts on your life. I am a DV member since only a year but writing you for the first time. When I met you at the DV silver jubilee function on March 15, 2009 at Nagpur, you did not appear to be a "dangerous

person". I heard you and found your ideas most suitable and helpful to eradicate Brahminism. You have also rightly said that Brahminism cannot exist without the Brahmin. So those with Brahminical wicked brains may be exported to another planet so that the people on the earth could live peacefully. We the BSC (BC/ST/SC) and MSC (Muslim/Sikh/Christian) comprise 85% of population. Since thousands of years we are facing the tyranny of Brahminism. Dr. Parvez Khan (Germany) rightly said in DV that the Hindus in India are the "slumdogs". S.W. Ashutosh Thakur warned you that DV is not writing on the gruesome conditions of the Namasudras. He would not like to be DV member. But you have honestly told him that DV would be too glad to publish his problems. That shows your heart is with Dalits. You have praised the *Abhinav Bharat* as they are a set of honest Brahmins. During your long journey of about 30 years in DV you have put up a historic fight against Brahminism and also predicted that "caste" can't be abolished as it is the identity of an individual. Your thesis is right. If different caste people, while continuing their identity, unite themselves to fight their common enemy, Brahminism, then we can surely win the battle. I am convinced DV is the only journal saying this and I am sure your prediction will prove right.

T.K. Kidwai, 529-K/39 - Khurram Nagar, Lucknow - 226 022: This refers to your Editorial on election. A rabid communalist in this over ripe and rotten age, dreaming dreams of Indian primeministership, has his dreams shattered, and that is only comfort election results have provided us. BJP's defeat neither signals rise of secular forces nor defeat of Brahminical forces. Both have strong presence in the Congress. Brahminism is eating into every political party. Advani has had more foes in his own party so that he didn't need outside forces to eliminate his political career for ever, leaving this poor man with no choice but to take *sanyas* from politics. The best service he could render to people of India is: retirement from politics, dirty politics which he played and fell victim at that point of time when he was more than hopeful of becoming India's PM. UPA will perform without leftist brakes, economic reforms, in plain words plunder, loot and scoot, will accelerate at maximum speed to ensure that list of Indian billionaires has new names. Quarter of a billion Indians are pushed below poverty line. *Jai ho* reforms. I was surprised that no ministry of Disinvestment was created to accommodate Arun Shouries of the Congress. I guess our PM is more

capable of selling PSUs at throw away prices.

Dr. Anil S. Sutar, Associate Prof., Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Deonar, Bombay - 400 088: I am a Dalit from Karnataka. We were impressed by your writings and DV when we were studying in the Karnataka University, Dharwad, way back in 1996-2000. Then afterwards I joined this Institute. Here also I was delighted by seeing the copy of *Dalit Voice* in the Institute Library. Though, we liked DV very much, we did not involve in any meaningful way to support it. Those days, I was bit busy with my Ph.D work. Still I feel this is not an excuse for not being one with DV family. But I enjoyed reading DV as it is the only forum in India where our viewpoints, perspectives get importance. In fact, DV has given us an alternative forum vis-vis that of the Brahminical journals. DV is not only just a journal but a movement against the evils of our system. DV helped us on several occasions to come out of a depression and pessimism. I strongly believe that we need to support DV and I am touched by your appeal in this regard. I will write you in detail about in what way we can help and support DV. The media excitement on election is a deliberate show that something historical has happened. It has been dubbed as the victory of democracy, inclusive growth and at the same time the defeat of all evils- be it small parties, BSP, and the left. Interestingly, the defeat of NDA and especially that of BJP has not figured at all and it has been debated as if the UPA has won elections defeating the Left and BSP. Every effort has been made to show, how Rahul Gandhi, Manamohan Singh are heroes. However, there are several issues that have emerged out of this verdict, which might cost heavily our society in general and democracy in particular in the coming days. At the outset glorifying the victory of the Congress as the defeat of such parties which have been committed to the principles of secularism and social justice gives strength to the communal forces. In fact, it is openly being talked that even the BJP is happy about the situations meted out to such parties. And, indeed, it is the first election, wherein BJP has not come aggressively criticizing the Congress for using money and vote banks to win the elections. There is a possibility that the leadership of third forces might get weakened and the cadres of such parties might think of joining saffron parties to fight the Congress. Looking at the kind of analysis; one wonders whether the Congress is fighting BJP or the parties led by OBCs and Dalits. Going by the logic, it appears that the main target of the Congress is to finish the Dalit and OBC leadership and thereby

to convert them once again into vote banks and rule the country as they did during the first four decades of the independence. And every body in this country is well aware of the inclusive policy of the Congress wherein, the dominant castes in the respective states, be it, Reddies of Andhra Pradesh, Marathas of Maharashtra, Lingayats/Vokkaligas of Karnataka, are given realm of the state politics and in turn their support is taken to ensure the Congress Government at the centre. The people from the lower strata of the society and minorities have been used as daily wage political workers by the Party. The same trend might start taking place for which Rahul Gandhi calls it, the organization of the Party. The defeat of small parties like PMK, RPI, and TRS has been hailed as the success of democracy. But, one of the strengths of the parliamentary democracy is to give representation to all ethnic groups and, in plural society like ours, cheering at the defeat of the small parties representing certain ethnic groups is not a welcoming one. This might alienate such groups from the mainstream and there is potential threat of violent groups such as naxalites exploiting such a situation. There have been reports about RPI activists coming to the street and expressing their anguish in

Maharashtra and they have been planning of counter movement which might result into destabilization of societal order. The number of youths entering into Parliament is no doubt a good sign but literally there is no discussion about their background. Almost all of these young members elected to Lok Sabha are the children of the political heavyweights and precisely because of this they have been elected. What is there to feel proud about this from the democratic viewpoint?

Beside all the reason you have given there is yet another most important factor behind this Brahminical jubilation. That is: The Brahmins want to groom Rahul Gandhi by using media publicity, praising his "youthful leadership" and his ability to kill the caste-based and regional parties. They want to make him into a blood-thirsty fascist. It is our considered opinion after having traveled round the country many times that our Dalit academics are a spineless lot. We found this recently in SNT Women's University, Bombay. One Dalit lecturer wanted to cheat and make money out of us. Brahminism has killed the best of our brains. To this day, we did not find a single, revolutionary Dalit academic. What about your TISS? — EDITOR.

BOOK REVIEW

Ravidas, the only Dalit saint, murdered by Brahmins

DR. K. JAMANADAS, "SHALIMAR", MAIN ROAD, CHANDRAPUR - 442 402

Kuldip Kumar, a law graduate and CA, a bank employee, under suspension since 1998 for giving loan to Dalit clients, an Ambedkarite and a staunch worker of DS4 and BAMCEF, is a noted author in Punjabi language. The book under review on Saint Ravidas is projecting him in new perspective. The author raises many questions about Dalit saints:

- (1) Can our saints be called Hindu.
- (2) Is their work domain limited to religious field?
- (3) Is their teaching limited to Dalit castes?
- (4) Who limited these saints to our own castes?
- (5) Why Ravidas talks of type of political rule he wants?

The author wishes to draw our attention to these points and claims that he has, probably, for the first time dealt with these questions. Guru Ravidas is unique in two

respects: (1) He appealed to Dalits to regain their lost political rule and (2) he was the only Dalit saint who was murdered. There were two reasons for his murder: (1) He gave *diksha* to a widow Rajput queen which was no less than a great revolution. (2) He asked for political powers.

The author refutes the Brahminic claim that Ravidas was a *bhakt*. Ravidas was no *bhakt*. He was a propagator of *shraman* tradition and compares his teaching with those of the Budha and Dr. Ambedkar. To call the Dalit saints as *rishi* is also an insult.

Sikhs insulting Ravidas: Ravidas was a great *guru*. The word *bhakt* is as insulting as *Harijan*. The tenth Guru of Sikhs, Guru Gobind Singh, compiled the *bani* of all the saints from all over India and put it in the

Guru Granth. Then he declared that the *granth* is the *guru* in future. Thus he raised the status of the saints whose *bani* is in the *Granth*, to the status of the *Guru*. The author claims that those Sikh leaders who describe these saints as *bhakt* are insulting the *Guru Granth*.

Meerabai murdered: Ramanand was no *guru* of Ravidas. On the contrary, Ramanand himself calls Kabir as his *guru* and pathfinder. Guru Ravidas and Kabir were no followers of Rama or Krishna. No Dalit saint could be the followers of such characterless fellows.

Neither Ravidas mentions Ramanand as his *guru* nor Ramanand mentions Ravidas as his disciple. None of the saints whose *bani* is mentioned in the *Guru Granth* has claimed any relation between Ramanand and Ravidas. Rani Jhali found only two *gurus* in Beneras: Ravidas and Kabir but no Ramanand.

Rani Meera's *Girdhar* is none other than her *guru*

Ravidas. Rajput princess Meerabai was murdered by the Brahmins for the sole reason of making a Chamar as *guru*. The Brahmins later made false propaganda that "she entered the solid image of god", a feat impossible for even great *gurus*.

Was Ravidas a Hindu or a Buddhist? Saints like Ravidas and Kabir cannot be termed Hindu. They fought against Hinduism. A Marathi scholar, Baban Lavatre, has proved that Kabir was actually a Buddhist monk and had a Buddhist *guru*, Pitambar Pir. They used dress of *pir* and not of a *bhikhu* because of fear of persecution.

The author gives those 38 songs of Ravidas out of the 40 included in the *Guru Granth* with its meaning.

The book is one of its own kind. It is well laid out and of good quality with modest price, as Samyak Books always are. It is highly recommended for scholars and general public. ■

Anti-conversion law violates Dalit's right to choose his religion

AASTHA SUMAN, 2ND YEAR STUDENT, NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF JURIDICAL SCIENCES, CALCUTTA - 700 098

Hindu terrorist parties are trying to block the road of Dalits to liberation through conversion. All the Muslims, Christians and Sikhs are converts and liberated from Hinduism.

True, there have been mass conversions since 1956 but the spirit of conversions seemed to have been indented with political aspirations of some. Politics of numbers (vote bank politics) has become order of the day. Most conversions are made as a result of force or fraud and are politically motivated. Illiterate, impoverished and vulnerable; Scheduled Castes are being misled into converting to a particular religion. This is the major premise based on which anti-conversion laws have been passed in Orissa, Arunachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and now Rajasthan. Thus, though the aim of such acts was to prohibit forced conversions, it made even genuine conversions very difficult.

Reconversions welcomed: The recent Rajasthan Dharam Swatantrya (Religious Freedom) Bill (2008) has provisions that are very stringent and arbitrary. For instance, Section 4(2) of the Bill, states that if a society or trust is found to be "contemplating" the use of money for converting people, its registration can be cancelled. In addition, Section 5(1) makes it mandatory for anyone intending to convert to send notice at least 30 days in advance or face a fine of up to Rs. 1,000. It adds that the same requirement and penalty will not be applied to

a person wishing to "revert" to her or his "original religion" and so re-conversions are kept out of the ambit of the Bill. This is based on an unfounded assumption that a person who renounces a religion always does so out of some pressure or financial benefit.

Such legislations question the very act of religious conversions which have formed an important part of various religious communities for a very long time. Emperor Asoka had embarked upon this endeavour in the third century BC. Then Christ and his missionaries had done the same. Similarly, Dr. Ambedkar had directed the Dalits onto the same path. Then, were these people wrong in doing so? Could you have imprisoned and punished Dr. Ambedkar for wanting to convert Dalits to Buddhism?

As per the present anti-conversion laws of the various states, it seemed like he could as well be implicated for such acts. Then are such laws justified? Doesn't the preamble to our constitution speak of liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship? Then how can a leader directing a Dalit into conversion be convicted as an offender or how can a Dalit's right to choose his own destiny be curbed by a mere legislation? The right to faith and belief is an essential human right and an important fundamental right. One should be free to choose ones religion after weighing the pros and cons of various religions. Thus, there should be no place for anti-conversion laws in India. ■

COMMUNICATION

Muslims never thought of media

T.K. KIDWAI, 529-K/39 - KHURRAM NAGAR, LUCKNOW - 226 022

Muslims have never given a serious thought to the very fact that those who control the media, also shape and mould opinions, turn lies into absolute truths, black into white and vice-versa. Arabs have money, but neither own banks nor media (*Al-Jazeera* is an exception). What they own: grand palaces in American and European cities, fleet of limousines, an army of concubines and rest have left to the Americans and Europeans to manage for them, especially defence and foreign policy.

Syed Hamid, ex-VC of AMU, tried to raise Rs. 1 crore to start an English daily, but couldn't. That was in early eighties. Since then so much blood of Muslims has been shed, but nothing moved the community except call for prayers (*azan*), emotional outburst by political and so-called religious leaders on emotive issues. And thinking itself came to a complete halt.

Muslim intellectual poverty: Dalit-Muslim unity would have changed the political contours, political equations. Muslim leaders, mostly of the so-called *Ashraf*, treat our Dalit brothers as *Arzal* and never tried for Dalit-Muslim unity.

Rs. 3 crore to start a newspaper is not a big amount. Teheeka raised close to Rs. 2 crores. The weekly

published a list of 185 persons who donated Rs. 1 lakh each. There were few Muslims in the list. One can collect millions and millions from Muslims for construction of a grand mosque but never few thousand for a newspaper. Such is the sordid state of Muslim mentality.

You are absolutely right that it is enjoined on a Muslim to stand up against injustice to whomsoever it is done. Fight against the oppressor and help the oppressed. Unfortunately such a dynamic and revolutionary religion has been reduced to a set of rituals, and reverence for Prophet and Caliph. I remember a meeting which was organised to condemn Israel and express solidarity with Palestenians after the end of six-day Arab-Israel war. Noted speakers were Krishna Menon, Aruna Asif Ali, Shanti Bhushan, Asad Madani, Bhagwat Jha Azad. But when CPI and other leftists organised meetings to protest against US aggression in Vietnam, never a single Muslim speaker was there.

What can we expect from these *Ashrafs* to exhort Muslims to fight along with Dalits against upper caste oppressors as a religious duty as important as performance of any other ritual? I am totally disappointed and have lost all hopes. ■

Dalit-Muslim movement

MOHAMMAD SHAHANSHAH ANSARI, INDIAN DALIT-MUSLIM VOICE, USIA RESORT, QUEEN'S HOME, KOH-E-FIZA, AHMEDABAD PALACE ROAD, BHOPAL, MP

We are proposing a directory of those promoting Dalit-OBC-Muslims issues, specially Dalit Muslims, their address, phone/mobile, fax, email and website address. Details of literature dealing with Dalit-Muslims problems and the contact details of its authors.

Our new blog, www.dalitmuslims.com, is the voice against upper caste atrocities.

Your suggestions to evolve a common agenda policy and strategies for an all-round upliftment of Dalit-Muslims are needed.

We want to unite all Dalits irrespective of their religion.

To promote reservation for Dalit-Muslim/OBC Muslim separately and for the Centre as well as States to amend the Constitution.

Fight the false argument of "unity" among Muslims against reservation for Dalits. Where is the unity

among Muslims when Muslims as a whole suffer from socio-economic, educational and political backwardness?

The ruling/upper caste strategy to promote their interests and frustrate Dalit rights must be challenged. A great conspiracy has been hatched against all Dalits to deny justice to them.

For all political parties to see that the Sachar Committee and Ranganath Mishra Commission reports are implemented.

We are grateful to V.T. Rajshekar, Editor, *Dalit Voice*, Bangalore. Khalid Anis Ansari, Ashok Yadav, Irshadul Haque, Prof. Imtiaz Ahmad, Tanvir Salim, Kasheef (editor twocircles.net), Masood Ahmed Falahi, Altaf Ahmad, Adv. Irfan Engg. and many others for supporting this cause.

(shahanshah.java@gmail.com, <http://www.dalitmuslims.com>)

Hindu terrorists turning India into bloody battlefield

V.T. RAJSHEKAR

My speech coming immediately after an RSS leader's talk may appear shocking.

Mangalore city has suddenly hit the national headlines because of the RSS-BJP atrocities on churches and lately on Hindu women itself. Here we find a classic case of Hindu religion itself oppressing people.

As the Editor of *Dalit Voice*, we have been in the forefront fighting such terrorist forces for over 30 years.

But the Christian leaders of Mangalore never invited me — though I belong to Mangalore and my father was a distinguished student of this very famous college and later became a Collector of this district.

CHRISTIANS REFUSE TO SUPPORT MUSLIMS

When the same Hindu terrorist forces attacked the Muslims in Mangalore, our Muslim friends here asked me to request the Christians of Mangalore to support them. Mangalore has a fairly big Christian, particularly Roman Catholic, population. They are a very good people.

But when I requested them to support Muslims, under attack, they said, "sorry". They wanted to remain "neutral".

I asked them how on the question of Justice and Truth, there could be neutrality.

This time the Christians themselves came under very serious attack. And they called me seeking Muslim support. Then I told them that Muslims would like to be neutral. (*laughter*). Any way

Muslims stood by Christians.

Last evening I attended a big Town Hall meeting here, fully packed. The Muslims are getting ready to meet the Brahminical aggression.

BRAHMINISM AS OUR COMMON ENEMY

Muslims and Christians are not foreigners to India. They are all converts from the original inhabitants of India, namely SC/ST/BCs. We are all blood brothers. All of us have a common enemy. This is the enemy that killed even Gandhi, the "Father of the nation".

Dr. Ambedkar identified this enemy as Brahminism which today disguises itself as Hinduism.

My father studied in this very St. Aloysius Christian College, I also studied in a Christian school at

Speech delivered at the national conference on religion: functions and dysfunctions, organised by Aloysius College, Mangalore, Karnataka, on Feb.6, 2009.

Udupi, so also my son at St. Joseph's College in Bangalore. His children also went to Christian school.

But none got converted. L.K. Advani, Arun Jetly, Arun Shourie and hundreds of BJP-RSS leaders went to Christian schools. None got converted.

Christian services to the society and particularly to our Dalit people can be written only in words of gold. (*cheers*).

But our enemy says the only job of Christians is conversion. If what they are saying is true by this time

India should have gone Christian. But India's Christian population remains at a standstill — at 2.5%.

These upper caste Hindus say they are the only "merited" people and yet they are the most ignorant people. Recently in Bangalore RSS leaders held a seminar on conversion and I was present. I heard funny speeches.

The speeches made there expressed the fear that Christians and Muslims are going to soon take over India. The so-called Hindus are today living under a fear psychosis that Hindus will soon be a minority.

DALITS AS VICTIMS OF HINDUISM

The same Hindu leaders in another breath say that Hindus form 85% of the Indian population. If so why this fear?

As the Editor of *Dalit Voice*, the largest circulated English journal of Dalits, 30 years old, I want to repeat what Dr. Ambedkar said: "Untouchables are victims of Hinduism". SC/ST/BCs put together form about 65% of the population. They are the original inhabitants of India.

Such a large population comprising 65% of the population is persecuted not by the Christians, Muslims or Sikhs. They are all victims of Hinduism or Brahminism.

And that is why they are seeking salvation under liberating religions. What is wrong? The constitution gives the right to convert.

Dr. Ambedkar himself advocated conversion and became a Budhist.

I also got converted to Buddhism 20 years ago at Patna.

I am also not a Hindu.

If the Hindu religious and political leaders do not read the writings on the wall, India will cease to be a Hindu country in another 20 years. (*cheers*).

BANNING CONVERSION

We know that the current BJP Govt. in Karnataka is preparing to ban conversions. But a legal ban cannot prevent conversions.

And for your information the constitution of India does not ban conversions.

They say India is a Hindu country and Hindus form 85% of the population. If so why then the Hindu rulers are afraid of the minority Muslims and Christians?

Malaysia and Indonesia have also a big Muslim majority. They are not afraid of their minorities.

England has a small Roman Catholic minority but the Protestant Christians are not afraid of them.

But why only in India the "massive majority" Hindus are afraid of the micro-minority and

want to ban conversion? Does it not prove that the so-called massive majority is indeed a micro-minority? (*cheers*)

SALVATION THROUGH CONVERSIONS

Please read the Indian history, study its oppressive caste system, you will get the answer.

The intolerant Brahminical rulers are themselves forcing the oppressed SC/ST/BCs to seek salvation through conversion.

Today India has about 15% Muslims and 2.5% Christians. Did they come from Arabia or from Rome?

Are the Brahminical rulers ready to turn India into a bloody battlefield? We the Dalits, Muslims, Backward Castes and Tribals are ready. Because we have nothing to lose. It is the upper caste property-holders who have everything to lose. If you are ready, we are ever ready because we have nothing to lose.

MANGALORE CITY WILL COLLAPSE

As a Dalit writer and journalist, my request to Hindu religious leaders is: please don't convert this

country into a bloody battlefield. After seeing the packed Mangalore Town Hall last night, I am afraid this district will soon turn into a bloody battlefield.

Mangalore today is the second biggest city of the state after Bangalore. All this progress will collapse if the RSS-BJP Rama Sena rampage continues.

Up to my college days, I was in this district. We had no problem. All religionists lived like brothers and sisters. But today man has started hating the other man. Caste and religion have destroyed the once peaceful district.

If the RSS and the emerging super RSS, *Abhinav Bharat*, fail to heed this warning, I am afraid we will be in for more and more violence —with Dalits joining Muslims and Christians. (*cheers*).

For over 61 years, we have wasted our time and energy fighting, quarreling on Babri Masjid, conversion, cow slaughter, caste, all silly things. That is why India has become a laughing stock.

This is what I witnessed at the Mangalore Town Hall. Thank you for your invitation to St. Aloysius College.

Dalit UGC chief Thorat in trouble

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Bangalore: The first Dalit chief of the University Grants Commission (UGC), a JNU Professor, S.K. Thorat, is in trouble. As long as the sympathetic Arjun Singh was the Union HRD Minister, the Dalit UGC chief was protected. Now that Kapil Sibal has taken over, a dismissed Brahmin secretary of the UGC, Raju Sharma, has gone to the Vigilance Commission which has registered a case on misuse of funds in the Rs. 224-crore E-Governance project. Besides, the Govt. has also discovered a

big racket in recklessly granting "deemed university" status to many colleges all over the country.

Thorat is the author of the book, *Dalits in India, 2009*, Sage, (DV April 1, 2009, p.28).

Meanwhile, a Dalit Pune University Vice-Chancellor and a former Reserve Bank executive, Narendra Jadhav, is elevated member of the Planning Commission because he is a favourite of the Brahminical Social Order.

Times leads in Manuwadi media corruption

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Bangalore: *Dalit Voice* was the first in India to disclose the "Dirty deals of the Times of India", the largest circulated English daily of a Marwadi company (DV Feb. 1, 2008, p.7).

As almost the entire upper caste-dominated toilet papers, with minor exceptions, have become intellectually corrupt — like all other wings of the ruling class — who is there to catch the thief?

Here is a further elaboration of the big frauds in the *Times*.

(Source: <http://www.contentsutra.com/entry/419-times-private-treaties-under-the-spotlight-portfolio-erosion-investor-c/>)

In a country where it is not routine for media to report on other media houses (with rare and honourable exceptions), the **Private Treaties racket** of Bennett Coleman publishers of *The Times of India*, was the subject of two stories in leading national dailies on May 10, 2009. While the *Business Standard* (BS) focussed on the erosion in value of BCCL's PT portfolio, DNA raised broader concerns and quotes a number of named and unnamed stock market players, some of whom urge the intervention of capital markets regulator, Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi), into the practice. Private Treaties, a concept pioneered by BCCL and followed by other media houses such as the *Hindustan Times* and the Bhaskar Group, is an investment programme through which a media house picks up equity in a company in exchange for ads.

Ads are exchanged for products such as cars or apartments, in what has come to be known as a barter deal.

Conflict of interests: The ads-for-equities version is more controversial because of the obvious conflict of interests when a newspaper is reporting about a company in which its publisher has financial interests in. Media houses such as BCCL usually defend private treaties saying it doesn't influence editorial coverage. According to the BS story, the value of listed holdings in BCCL's PT portfolio, has declined 50%. The story quotes Private Treaties CEO, S. Sivakumar, as saying that the entire portfolio (including unlisted holdings) is down by 40% in value. BCCL has trimmed the PT division to 100 people, from 140. DNA focuses more on the rising concern among investors and market players about media houses practices such as PT, in the wake of the recent Sebi report on the Pyramid Saimira scam.

Promoters of Pyramid Saimira Theatre Ltd. were found to have forged a Sebi letter to fraudulently drive up the scrip.

Corrupt journalists: The interim order by the market regulator found that Rajesh Unnikrishnan, an assistant editor with *The Economic Times*, also appears to have facilitated the publication in the media of the forged letter. At the end of a detailed investigation that has come in for widespread praise from several corners, the report, signed by Sebi-member K.M. Abraham, had come to the following conclusion:

In view of the above, I have no hesitation in concluding that Nirmal Kotecha, Rakesh Sharma and Rajesh Unnikrishnan, have jointly played a key role in an arrangement contrived to defraud investors in the market, and derive illegal profits thereof.

Nirmal Kotecha, a promoter of Pyramid Saimira, was found to have benefitted from a forged Sebi letter asking the promoters to make an open offer, in a successful ploy to fraudulently drive up the scrip. Rakesh Sharma, an employee of the public relations firm Ad Factors, was found to have helped Kotecha publish the news of the open offer in the media, based on the forged letter. Pyramid Saimira is a private treaties client of BCCL, and Ad Factors, a joint venture partner in Tatva Public Relations, a PR firm. BCCL owns 33% in Tatva and Ad Factors owns the rest, according to reports in the media.

Stock advice on TV: DNA quotes several named and unnamed market players calling for Sebi intervention to bring in complete transparency and mandatory disclosures of interest along with every story where an invested company is involved.

Former Sebi chairman M. Damodaran whipped up a storm when he spoke out against anchor-investors, referring to experts who offer stock advice on TV, many of whom have interests in the scrips they are commenting on, but do not say so. With ethical lines critical to the practice of journalism blurring with each new innovative service being offered by media houses to advertisers, on whom they are almost entirely dependent, media will have a weak defence even if only a section is guilty when the government or a regulator steps in to curb its freedoms.

Interestingly, BCCL, which is shortly expected to launch business channel ET Now, has taken down the industry-wide portfolio from the Private Treaties website. The Google cache shows the list was available as on 6 May, but the link is now broken.



Prof. S. Singha Chowdhury

(Ramakrishnapally via Chandamari Road, DS Lane Post, Howra, W. Bengal - 711 109).

He reflects in the glory of *Dalit Voice* of which he is a family member. He is confidently the 1st in Bengal to voice loudly and fearlessly that

Hinduism has hanged the Hindu society on the cross of shame of casteism, which can be extirpated only by annihilation of casteism, the active and intellectual tool being strangely the "caste identity theory".

Hinduism makes hierarchy everywhere of which the caste hierarchy is the prominently foremost and fullest criminal.

CASTE IDENTITY

leads to
caste war
B
revolution

Prof. S. SINGHA CHOWDHURY

2009

Rs. 10

DALIT SAHITYA AKADEMY

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