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Combat

Truth on the Scaffold

Patriotism Re-asserting

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Notrs & News

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*All that is necessary for evil
 to triumph is for good men
 to do nothing*
 - Edmund Burke

**PROMOTING COMMUNAL STRIFE AND
 DISTURBING PEACE**

The strident and increasingly provocative evangelisation and propoganda for and propagation of Christianity in a competitive way by several sects of it, is going to rend the society in Andhra Pradesh. Thousands of very well paid and equipped persons are engaged in the preaching and distribution of pamphlets and haranguing to people, especially among those congregating at temples. In almost every village and town, there is widespread resentment of this aggressive and offensive propagation of Christianity. Gangs of men and women with literature and photos are knocking at the doors of people and are aggressive in wanting the ladies in the homes to listen to them. They are encountering abuses and resistance. These physical activities are in addition to the propoganda in the electronic media over many channels. They are supplemented by scores of NGOs with alluring and misleading names like World Vision claiming to deliver welfare to the "unreached"(i.e those not yet Christianised).

2. These furious offensive and provocative activities remind us of the record of Christianity in its initial years in Europe as well as the following sentences from the Gospel of Luke.

51 "Do you suppose that I came to give peace on earth? I tell you, not at all, but rather division.

52 "For from now on five in one house will be divided: three against two, and two

New testament of Bible:

53: "Father will be divided against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother.

-Ch 12: Gospel According to Luke

3. The fulfillment of the gospel attributed to Jesus Christ, (Luke's Gospel) is unfolding in many places in Andhra Pradesh. Some of my relatives took to Christianity. When they were in distress, they were enticed to change religion

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by gifts of money and words of consolation. But the wife and children refused to convert to Christianity. The home is now a divided one and the family is breaking up!

4. There are instances when an entire family converted. They are shunned by their brothers, sisters and relatives. Thus, the community itself is being torn. Islam is also a proselytizing and converting religion but its activities in this regard are almost nil now in India. Most of the conversion to Islam happened in countries that were totally conquered and subjugated by Mohammedans. India is an exception. Though many parts were ruled or dominated by Muslims, few Hindus converted; not even all the so called "untouchables". That is because of the strength of the culture of Bharat and the general prosperity in the country and the cohesiveness of the Hindu people. The Christian conversion activity is now of a totally commercial and marketing nature. Thousands of crores of rupees are clandestinely coming into India for the conversion agencies and a number of NGOs funded by unsuspecting Christians in other countries. Advertisements, men and women transported for Kootamis, Hindu-imitating Jaataras and Mary Mata Utsavas, appropriating the Samskrit bhajans and slokas by substitution of

Hindu names of gods and goddesses by those of Jesus and Mary and many other ways are resorted to in every city, town, village, caste and slum.

5. This organised commercial nature of conversion campaigns are naturally drawing resentment and then resistance of Hindus. When this conversion aggression increases, there could be widespread disturbances. This activity of converting Hindus to Christianity is similar to what happened in the first 3 to 4 centuries after Christ in the Roman Empire. There were riots between non-Christians described as pagans and Christians and their missionary merchants. Disturbed and frightened by the break-down of law and order because of the violent confrontations between the christianising missions and the non-Christian population (pagans) and in exasperation and as a last desperate measure of restricting strife the Roman Emperor, Constantine embraced Christianity. Soon thereafter non-Christianity was wiped out and no other religion was tolerated. The church drew Europe into its blackest history. This story is described in the book titled, "**AD 381: Heretics, Pagans and the Christian State by Charles Freeman; published by Pimlico in the year 2008.**" We are reproducing the ***Introduction*** to this book .

If India is to be saved from the future calamity (earlier there were only Hindu – Muslim riots) of Christian- Hindu cleavage and riots (followed by triangular fights), **it is necessary that organised full time conversion activity as it is of the commercial nature now, should be banned.** The conversion market is subversive of communal harmony and peace in the home, in the families and in the communities.

Introduction: to AD381

"In January 381, the Christian Roman emperor Theodosius issued an *epistula*, a formal letter, to his prefect in the Danube provinces of *Illyricum* announcing that the only acceptable form of Christianity centered on a Trinity in which God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit were seen as of equal majesty. Theodosius went on to condemn all other Christian beliefs as heresies that would be punished by both the state and the divine judgment of God. By July, the law had been extended across the whole of the eastern empire and then, in the 380s, to the west. Within a few years Theodosius had also moved to ban most forms of pagan worship, in effect challenging the religious and spiritual activities of the majority of his subjects. (Like in India specially in AP science year 2004)

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It was a pivotal moment in classical and, indeed, European history. Never before in the Greek or Roman world had there been such a sweeping imposition of a single religious belief alongside the active suppression of alternatives. The only precedent comes from ancient Egypt when the Pharaoh *Akhenaten* replaced the mass of Egyptian deities with the single sun-god *Aten* in the fourteenth century BC – and even this policy was quickly reversed by his successors. Theodosius' decrees were especially startling because less than sixty years earlier, in 313, the emperor Constantine had issued, with his co-emperor *Licinius*, an Edict of Toleration in which he promised 'that no one whatsoever should be denied freedom to devote himself either to the cult of the Christians or to such religion as he deems best suited for himself'. As late as the 360s, the principle of freedom of speech and thought was being proclaimed by the court orators as essential to a healthy society.

Theodosius was not himself a fanatical Christian, and despite the harshness of the language in which his decrees were expressed, he showed some restraint and flexibility in the way he applied them. In a vast and administratively unwieldy empire, any law lost its impact as it filtered down into the provinces, and some may never have been systematically enforced. However, this worked both ways- a law might be ignored,

or it might be imposed with brutality by a local enthusiast. Several of Theodosius' Christian officials, particularly those he brought with him to the eastern empire from the west, acted with a ruthlessness that the emperor could not condone. Many launched violent attacks on pagan shrines and their occupants. Whatever the emperor had intended, the free discussion of spiritual matters was constrained in the Christian world for centuries to come. The Roman legal system was adapted so as to be able to target and remove dissidents, whether pagan or Christian. With the collapse of the empire in the west, the Church took over the powers of the state in which it had acquiesced under Theodosius, and by the twelfth century, Church and state were again united in suppressing freedom of religious thought. One has to wait until the seventeenth century before the principle of religious toleration, so deep-rooted a part of ancient society, was reasserted in Europe".

The story, as this book hopes to show, is well documented, but an alternative narrative, that the Church itself came to a consensus on the nature of the Godhead, is still the dominant one in histories of Christianity. The 'consensus' approach glosses over the violent antagonisms the debates over doctrine aroused and the pre-eminent role the emperors played in their resolution. Again there is seldom any mention, in this 'alternative narrative', of the

other intellectual and spiritual traditions, many of which were rooted in the use of reason, that withered as a result of the emperors' interventions. The 380s were truly a turning point, and the story of how freedom of thought was suppressed needs to be brought back into the mainstream of the history of European thought. This is what this book aims to do.

Why Grieve over Babri "Masjid"?

How About Somnath and Thousands of Other Temples?

- Dr T H Chowdary

On the 6th of Dec 1992 tens of thousands of exasperated, frustrated emotionally insulted at the existence of a humiliating structure on the very site where hundreds of millions of Hindus believe Lord Rama was born, tore down the dilapidated structure going by the name of Babri Masjid where for decades there had been no prayers of Muslims. Ever since 1528 when one Mir Baqui, a soldier of the invading foreigner, Babur built a mosque after razing to ground an existing temple, Hindus have been trying to take possession of the sacred site repeatedly and many were the dead in the process. Various Hindu organisations had since before Independence and thereafter tried to convince their Muslim brothers that they should allow Hindus to re-construct the Mandir on the Ram Janmasthan and that they would help and assist Muslims to relocate the "mosque" elsewhere. Muslims did not and even now do not, agree. On the other hand, outrageous

questions like the following are posed.

2. What is the proof that there was a historic person called Rama; proof that the spot claimed to be the Janmasthan was indeed so; proof that there was a temple, proof that the foreign soldiers of Baqui pulled that temple down; proof that on the very foundations of that temple, the mosque was built. These questions insult the faith and belief for thousands of years of hundreds of millions of people. They are unlike no Hindus questioning the historic existence of any Prophet or their miracles like being transported from a particular place on a horse by a messenger to a god and that he brought a Holy Book etc. Prime Ministers and men of goodwill tried to settle the Rama Janma Bhoomi issue amicably but in vain. The failure was not only due to the unreasonable stand of some Muslims but the passionate support that Marxists, self-styled "eminent" historians and intellectuals and peculiarly Indian "secularists" arguing on behalf of unbending and un-compromising Muslims that the Hindu mythology about Rama and temple was false. It does not occur to the opponents of the Hindus that in 1527 there could not have been a large number of Muslims in Ayodhya, that there was no space for a mosque excepting that either on the very site believed to be the Janmasthan of Lord Rama or adjacent to it; that the structure was built solely with the aim of incessantly humiliating the

vanquished Hindus and to tell them that they are impotent.

3. It may be recalled that Spain was once overrun by Muslim armies and ruled for over 700 years by them. All the churches there were razed to the ground and on those very foundations, mosques were built. And people were converted, mostly by force from Christianity to Islam. In the 15th century a number of Christian kings and knights united together to attack, defeat and drive away the Moors, the Muslim rulers from Morocco. The Christian rulers pulled down all the mosques and restored the churches which existed before the Muslim conquest. Besides, they also told the people that if they did not reconvert to Christianity, they would have to leave Spain. Over 95% reconverted to Christianity and the unwilling people went away to the lands from where their conquering, converting ancestors came.

4. When Russia conquered Poland, a cathedral was built in Warsa for the Russian Orthodox church. When Poland gained independence, the cathedral was pulled down and a Catholic church was built as the Poles did not want to be reminded of the humiliation of defeat and destruction. After the communist rule was ended in Russia, the cities that were named after Lenin and Stalin got rid of those names and restored their original names, St. Petersburg for Leningrad and Volgograd for Stalingrad. Almost all the statues of Lenin and Stalin had been pulled

down. Similarly, countries in East and Central Europe which were subjected to imperial Soviet communist rule, the national governments that succeeded the dissolution of the communist rule pulled down all monuments which reminded them of the humiliation of imperial domination and national shame. The most telling act of tearing down a monument for national humiliation is the pulling down of the infamous Berlin Wall on the 9th of Nov 1989. This wall was a standing monument to the inhumanity, cruelty and destruction of freedom practised by the erstwhile Stalinist communist regimes. This wall was in particular built to prevent the fleeing of the oppressed East German people under Communist dictatorship to the freedom and democracy of the Federal republic of Germany.

5. People who have gained independence and thrown out the shackles of foreign imperial exploitation and rule have, in assertion of their self-respect and national pride, discarded the memorials to the conquering hordes. For eg: the people of what was called Gold Coast, the name given by the British colonists renamed their country as Ghana; Rhodesia became Zimbabwe; Burma became Myanmar; Ceylon became Sri Lanka; Cambodia became Kampuchea; Siam became Thailand; Madagascar became Malagasy; Peking has become Beijing; Canton has become Guangzhou and so on. Uncharacteristically, it is we in our country that are

retaining the name of India whereas for millinia we called our land Bharat and our people Bharatiyas. Without any self-respect, we are describing our country **India, that is Bharat** instead of saying Bharat that was India.

6. As though some calamity has happened to Muslims and some monstrous act had been perpetrated by Hindus, many Moslem organisations various brands of Marxists, Communists and fellow-traveling, self-styled "eminent" historians, sociologists and fundamentalist secularists and de-Indianised people of this country are observing 6th of December as the Babri Masjid Destruction Day, wanting to tell the world that Hindus had destroyed a famous place of worship belonging to a minority community. It is incomprehensible as to why it does not occur to them that thousands of temples had been razed to the ground by Muslim invader as recorded by Islamic scholars and historians and scribes who accompanied those invaders. It does not occur to them as to why just by the side of Krishna temple in Mathura, there should be a mosque; why just by the side of Lord Siva's temple in Varanasi, there should be a mosque. Were there no other sites available for the construction of mosques in those cities? Why had they to be built just by the side of and even encroaching upon the temple lands of Lord Krishna and Lord Siva? Was it not to remind the defeated Hindus, of the humiliation that

they had suffered, their impotence and the might and invincibility of the Islamic conquerers? Can any self-respecting nation and people suffer the continuance of such monuments to their humiliation, to their subjugation and relegation as second class citizens? Hindus had been prepared to forget about the thousands of temples that had been razed to the ground and the mosques built on them: Rama, Siva and Krishna are the most venerated divinities of Hindus. On the very places where temples had been built for them, the existence of mosques built by invader conquerors, iconoclasts, is an insult, continuation of wounds inflicted upon their civilization, their faith and their psyche. Without absolutely any concern for their sentiments and beliefs, Marxists, Muslims and the Macaulayans (people who are only in blood and colour Indian but unIndian in all other respects), and "secularists" are observing the 6th of December as the Babri Destruction Day to tell the world that Hindus have done some unpardonable act of destruction, of sacrilege.

7. This **type of vilification of Hindus shall not go unanswered, unchallenged and rebutted**. We would like to remind our countrymen of the most unpardonable barbarism, and brigandage that was indulged in by some Islamic rulers of foreign origin and native converts in this country. We would not talk of the tens of thousands of temples as destroyed; of the hundreds of thousands of

heads of defeated Hindu soldiers that had been exhibited pyramids; we will not talk of the lakhs of defeated soldiers and their children taken to the slave Bazars of Bagdad and sold as slaves; we will not talk of the thousands of Hindu women who had been abducted, molested, forcibly converted and consigned to the harems of the conquerors; we will not talk of the thousands of proud Hindu women who immolated themselves lest they should fall into the hands of lascivious and ravishing victorious soldiers of a foreign faith. Since Babri mosque has become to the detractors of Bharat, an instrument of calumny against Hindus, we would like to take up just one instance, namely that of **the destruction of the hallowed Somnath temple in the year 1026AD by Sultan Mohammed of Ghazni**. There is absolutely no denial of this fact. It is near this place in Prabhasa where Lord Krishna cast off his mortal remains near Dwaraka. The fiendish, sacrilegious, blood-thirsty and looter deeds of Md. of Ghazni were recorded by the historians accompanying him. Somnath is one of the most revered Jyothirlingas sacred to Hindus. The Somnath Temple was constructed no one knows when. It was getting renovated for hundreds of years before . Tens of thousands of devotees assembled there every year to worship Lord Siva. Thousands of priests and Sadhus who were standing in its defence were slaughtered like sheep. Immense quantities of gold and diamonds and other precious

stones had been looted and transported by caravans of camels out of India to Ghazni.

8. The Somnath temple so sacred to Hindus and so much a part of their psyche was first destroyed by Mahmud of Ghazni in Jan (6 to 8th) 1026. 50,000 Hindus defending it were slaughtered. The Shiva Linga was broken to pieces and taken to Ghazni where the pieces were laid as steps to a mosque so that could be contemptuously trodden upon by Moslems. Immense quantities of gold, diamonds and other precious wealth was looted and carried off on a few thousand camels. Abi Raihan-Ali- Biruni; the noted Arab chronicler vividly described (1030 AD) the iconoclastic zeal of Mohamed. He wrote, "Mahmud utterly ruined the prosperity of the country and performed there wonderful exploits by which Hindus became like atoms of lust scattered in all directions.... their scattered remains cherish the most inveterate aversion towards Muslims". (Romila Thapar and "eminent" historians of the Marxist Madrassa, innocuously known as Jawaharlal University negating the truth say that Mahmud's assault on Somnath was motivated by loot for treasures rather than Islam and iconoclasm). The defenceless Hindus offered ransom if Mahmud saved the temple; Mahmud refused. Here is the record:

"The Linga he raised was the stone of Somnath, for soma means the moon and natha means master, so that the whole

word means master of the moon. The image was destroyed by Prince Mahmud, may God be merciful to him! AH 496. He ordered the upper part to be broken and the remainder to be transported to his residence, Ghazni with all its coverings and trappings of gold, jewels, and embroidered garments. Part I of it has been thrown into the hippodrome of the town, together with the Cakrasvamin, an idol of bronze, that had been brought from Taneshar. Another part of the idol from Somnath lies before the door of the mosque of Ghazni, on which people rub their feet to clean them from dirt and wet.

- Al Biruni's India
by E.C.Sachau

Obviously, the tribe of "eminent" historians of Marxist faith and "secularists" are indulging in the crime of **negationism of history.**

9. The Somnath temple was rebuilt soon after the fury of Mahmud dissipated itself after his hasty retreat to Ghazni by a devious route via Sindh, Kutch and Sindh in fear of the onslaught of Param Deo, "one of the most powerful Rajas of Hindustan had to be met on the way (he came by); he (Mahmud) did not consider it to be advisable to fight with him at that time under all circumstances";...as noted by the historian Ibnul-Athir. The temple was reconstructed in 1169 A.D by Kumarapala (emperor of Gurjaradesha who

ascended the throne in AD 1144). Somnath was **destroyed a second time** by Alaf Khan, a General of Alauddin Khilji. It was rebuilt again between AD 1325 and 1351 by Chudasama, King of Junagarh. In AD 1469, Mahmud Bedga (Sultan of Gujarat at Ahmadabad) defeated the King of Juangarh, **Mandalik** (who shamelessly converted to Islam to save his life), removed the Shiva Linga from the Somnath temple and converted it into a mosque (Just like the Babri in Ayodhya). Soon after, Hindus replaced the Siva Linga there and continued to worship it. In AD 1706, under Aurangzeb's orders, Prince Mohammed Azam (the 39th Vice-Roy of Gujarat) destroyed the Somnath temple (4th destruction) "beyond possibility of repairs". From 1705 the Marathas attacked the Mogul power in Gujarat; in 1758, they took Ahmedabad. In 1759, Saurashtra too came under Maratha Power. In AD 1783 Ahalya Bai Queen of Indore, finding the ruined temple unfit for restoration, built a new temple to Somnath, a little distance from the original site. The original site and structure was converted to a mosque under Aurangzeb's orders and it remained so till the time of Independence August 1947. The Marathas lost to the British. The Maratha paramountcy over Junagarh was taken over by the British. Dwaraka, Prabhasa (where Somnath is) remained part of the Junagadh state.

10. The Nawab acceded to Pakistan at the time of Independence in 1947. The people rose in revolt. The

Nawab and his Dewan Sir Shah Nawaz Bhutto (the father of Julfikar Ali Bhutto) fled to Pakistan. He sent a request through a British officer Mr. Harvey Jones to Sri M N Buch the Regional Commissioner of the Government of India for Saurashtra States, to take over the administration. After a referendum it was integrated with India. Sardar Patel who was the Dy. Prime Minister and in charge of the integration of Indian states visited Prabhasa and Somnath and declared that Somnath Temple so sacred and so much a part of India's memories and legend and song and story and life, would be reconstructed and restored. Jawaharlal Nehru's cabinet took a decision that Somnath should be fully rebuilt and reconstructed and brought to its greatest glory. Then Gandhiji advised the government that not a single rupee of the tax payer's money from the budget of the government should be spent upon the reconstruction and restoration of Somnath. Then a Trust was formed and tens of millions of rupees were donated to the trust for the restoration of Somnath temple. **This is in contrast to the same Gandhiji insisting that the Government of India should spend money from its budget to repair and renovate the mosques that were damaged or destroyed in Delhi in the aftermath of Independence.**

11. Sardar Patel died before the reconstruction and consecration of Somnath Temple was completed.

Kulapati K M Munshi, a Minister in the Cabinet of Nehru was directing these operations as Chairman of the Trust. **Jawaharlal Nehru accused Sri K M Munshi of Hindu revivalism!** Munshiji wrote a devastating and disarming letter, to Nehru. The substance was that Nehru was calling the patriotic, self-respecting, non-violent actions of Hindus as communalism while he himself was promoting Muslim communalism by various measures of appeasement. Justifying his work for Somanth's reconstruction and defying Nehru, Sri Munshi wrote to Nehru, "*It is my faith in our past which has given me the strength to work in the present and to look forward to our future. **I cannot value freedom if it, deprives us of the Bhagavad Gita or uproots our millions from the faith with which they look upon our temples and thereby destroys the texture of our lives.** I have been given the privilege of seeing my incessant dream of Somanatha reconstruction come true. **That makes me feel, makes me almost sure-that this shrine once restored to a place of importance in our life will give to our people purer conception of religion and a more vivid consciousness of our strength, so vital in these days of freedom and its trials.**"*

12. Despite Nehru's displeasure, the crumbling mosque (just like the Babri in Ayodhya) which was sitting on the very site of the destroyed temple of Somnath was

removed to a near-by place and Somnath temple was reconstructed. K.M.Munshi invited the President of India, Dr. Rajendra Prasad to come and ceremonially consecrate the deity, Lord Siva. He also told the President that he should think of Jawaharlal Nehru opposing his visit of Somnath before agreeing to his request. **Rashtrapati Rajendra Prasad disregarded Nehru's objections and went to Prabhasa and carried out the consecration of Somanth.** He made an excellent speech explaining as to why he did that and that **India is a secular state but not an irreligious state.** He said, he would gladly go to the reconstruction ceremony of any mosque or church with the same reverence as for Somnath. To Dr Rajendraprasad and Sri Munshiji and to true Hindus and Bharatiyas, secularism means either equal treatment of all religions or the state not having anything to do with any religious activity. Jawaharlal Nehru, the "secularist" ordered that President Rajendra Prasad's speech should not be printed in any government publication or broad-cast over All India Radio! On the death of Sardar Patel in December 1950 **Jawaharlal Nehru ordered that no minister or government officer should attend the funeral of Sardar Patel! N V Gadgil, Munshi and Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant defied Nehru and went to the funeral in Mumbai.** Nehru also saw to it that Dr. Rajendra Prasad was not

cremated or a memorial built for him in Delhi. No wonder that Nehru's successors did not allow a memorial for P V Narasimha Rao in Delhi). That is Nehruvian "secularism" and decency!)

13. We are reproducing Kulapathi K M Munshiji's short narration of **the Somnath Affair** in his book,

"Pilgrimage to Freedom".

"When Junagadh fell, Sardar Patel, as Deputy Prime Minister, pledged the Government of India to the reconstruction of the historical Temple of Somnath. The Cabinet, Jawaharlal presiding, decided to reconstruct the Temple at Government cost. But Gandhiji advised Sardar not to have the Temple reconstructed at government cost and suggested that sufficient money should be collected from the people for this purpose. Sardar accepted this advice.

The government of India appointed me as the Chairman of the Advisory Committee for the reconstruction of the Temple, and I had also a hand in preparing the trust Deed and participated in implementing the scheme.

Jawaharlal, more than once, criticized me for working for the reconstruction of the temple, and I had to point out to him in a long letter that everything was done from the very beginning in accordance with the decision of the Cabinet taken under his guidance.

My correspondence with the Prime Minister was no secret to Rajendra Prasad. He promised that he would come and install the deity, whatever the attitude of the Prime Minister, and added: "I would do the same with a mosque or a church if I were invited". This, he held, was the core of Indian secularism. Our State is neither religious nor anti-religious.

My foreboding proved correct. When it was announced that Rajendra Prasad was attending the inauguration of the Somnath Temple, Jawaharlal vehemently protested against his going to Somnath. But Rajendra Prasad kept his promise.

His speech at the time of the installation of the deity was published in all the newspapers. (Under direction from Jawaharlal Nehru the speech was cut out from the official organs like the All India radio) The speech is a masterpiece of literature by any standard. It briefly traced the role which the Temple had played in the past, analysed the true role of religion and took a pledge for the future".

I shall give here only two passages which I have translated from the original Hindi:

"Even as the Creator of the Universe, Brahma, resides in the navel of Lord Vishnu, similarly in the heart of man reside the creative urge and faith, and these surpass in power all the armaments, all

the armies and all the emperors of the world.

In that era, India had been a treasure-house of gold and silver...centuries ago, the major portion of the gold of the world was in the temples of India. It is my view that the reconstruction of the Somnath temple will be complete on that day when not only a magnificent edifice will arise on this foundation but the mansion of India's prosperity will be ready- that prosperity of which the ancient temple of Somnath was a symbol."

Historian Muhammad Nazim in his book: The Life and Times of Sultan Mahmud of Ghazni, Cambridge 1931.

What motivated Mahmud of Ghazni to destroy Somnath:

The destruction of the temple of Somnath was looked upon as the crowning glory of Islam over idolatry, and Sultan Mahmud as the champion of the Faith, received the applause of all in the Muslim world. One poet outdid another in extolling the iconoclasm of Mahmud. Shykh Faridu'd Din Attar said that the Sultan preferred to be an idol breaker rather than an idol seller. While rejecting the offer of the Hindus to ransom the idol of Somnath with its weight in gold, Mahmud is

"Those who carry on great public schemes must be proof against the most fatiguing delays, the most mortifying disappointments, the most shocking insults and what is most of all, the presumptuous judgement of the ignorant." - A message from the famous Cadillac Company

supposed to have said "**I am afraid that on the Day of Judgment when all the idolaters are brought into the presence of Allah, he would say: bring Adhar and Mahmud together, one was the idol maker, the other idol seller**". Adhar or Ezra the uncle of Abraham, according to the Quran, made his living by carving idols.

"Secularist" Jawaharlal Nehru negates truth:

On the other hand, Jawaharlal Nehru, in a speech at Panjim, now Panaji, Goa in 1963, observed that the conflicts with Islam in north India specially were not religious conflicts, but political conflicts of kings wanting to conquer India. Religious conflicts were hardly any and Islam also began to be accepted as a religion of India!

In a letter dt. 26-04-1932 Jawaharlal Nehru wrote to his daughter, Indira:

"You will find that after Islam began for many hundred years Musalmans lived in all parts of India **in perfect peace with their neighbours**. (What a lie! Muslim-Hindu riots and battles raged in India for hundreds of years, when Nehru was writing his "Letters to his Daughter). They were welcomed when they came

as traders and encouraged to settle down.

The works and views of Prof. Nazim as well as those of Al-Beruni leave no doubt that Mohmud Ghazni was driven by religious fanaticism. That greed and cruelty were only accompanying motives. Why should Nehru, a Hindu and a Brahmin to boot, conceal the fanaticism of an invader, whose own people like these scholars are candid in their praise of the desecration in the cause of Allah? Surely Nehru's contention was anti-Hindu.

(Source: Hindu Masjids by Praful Goradia, former Rajya Sabha Member)

14. The question that must be now asked is how was the restoration of the Somnath temple considered **self-respecting and a matter of historic justice then and why is the restoration now of Sri Rama's temple at his Janmasthan in Ayodhya facing so much obstruction and difficulty**. The reasons are simple. The Muslims then ie soon after Independence (1947) were clearly seen as guilty of asserting that they were a separate nation and that India should be partitioned to create the Islamic state of Pakistan as a home-land for them. They could not deny the fact of desecration by Islamic rulers in this country of thousands of temples, the most living one being Somnath which

was repeatedly razed to the ground by Muslim rulers as repeatedly as it was restored and resurrected by resolute Hindus. At that time, the great patriot and strong national leader who was not shy of saying that he was a Bharatiya, a Hindu Sardar Patel was alive and was the Deputy Prime Minister and the entire Congress Party stood by him despite Jawaharlal Nehru's vacillations and doubts bordering on hostility to the reconstruction of the temple. Mahatma Gandhi also blessed this project as a matter of national honour. Secondly, at the time of the Independence, communists and their fellow travelers were discredited for the support they gave to the two-nation theory and creation of Pakistan. Much worse, they took to arms to overthrow the newly independent Government of India, characterizing it as a stooge of Anglo-American imperialism. They could not dare to oppose the restoration of Somnath. That was why the "mosque" that was built on the very site of the idol could be removed and relocated at another place and the Somnath Linga could be reinstalled and the shrine reconstructed with glory and love with contributions from all over India. Sardar Patel's death (15 Dec 1950) and the progressive **debasement of the idea of secularism to one of pleasing and appeasing Muslims for their votes and the rise of the casteist regional parties all of which are competing with the Congress party for the votes of the minority**, the hostility of

Muslims to Hinduism and to the true statement of their history and their restoration of the desecrated and destroyed temples, are the reasons why Hindu Masjids (i.e temples on the destroyed sites of which Masjids had been fashioned from some of the temple parts themselves) are still standing, as memorials to the conquests of Islam and defeat of Hindus. Also, although the communists are splintered into eight or more parties and groups, they are entrenched in several universities, electronic and print media and in government departments and some of them have infiltrated into some Ministries. They are consistently with Muslims in everyone of their actions opposed to Hindus heritage, culture, dharma and nationalism. That is why the reconstruction of Rama's temple in Ramajanmasthan in Ayodhya has become difficult and delayed. The report on the deep penetration radar survey of the ground on which the "Babri" structure once stood, carried out by the Archaeological Survey of India is with the Allahabad High Court. It is believed to establish the existence of ruins of temple(s) below the floor. If the court ventures to bring the report into public view, then the monstrous deed of Mogul soldier Mir Baqui will go to condemn the desecrators and the falsifiers of history and the treacherous stand of "secularists" and resident non-Indians (RNIs). As surely as Somnath was rebuilt, so would a glorious temple for Rama come up notwithstanding the

black flag demonstrations and breast beatings of some elements in this country.

15. As long as Muslims and disintegrationists go on observing 6th of Dec as Babri Mosque Day, we would want the people of this country, the hundreds of millions who believe in dharma and have respect for Bharath, for native faith, belief and culture to **observe 5th of Dec as Somnath Day so that we will not forget the injury that has been inflicted upon Hindus not only at Somanth but in tens of thousands of places.** A nation that does not recall its history and learn right lessons from it, will be doomed to disintegrate. Hence is this observance of the **5th of Dec as Somnath Day.** We hope that loyal and patriotic citizens of this country will realise and remember the enormity of the crimes that were committed by the invaders in order to destroy the native faith, belief and culture.

16. Disintegrating forces and resident non-Indians (RNIs) are at work to **negate history, to fictionalize facts and establish falsehoods as truth.** The same old attitudes and belief and purposes which propounded the two-nation theory and the descendants of Direct Action (Aug 16, 1946) for the division of this historic land of Bharat and Razaakars who wanted to turn Hyderabad into an Islamic state and the same Marxist and communist faithfuls, then and now too allies of Muslim separatism and their fellow traveling "eminent" historians, "progressive" writers

and human (Maoist) rights advocates are at work to denigrate Hinduism, Bharat, its culture, its heritage and destroy its integrity. **Somnath is a symbol of our very existence. Brahma, Vishnu, Siva, Rama and Krishna are the breath of our life.** Babur was an invader; he belonged not to this country; he did not want to be buried here; he was, by his wish buried not in our Bharat but in his land of birth, outside India. Have we to memorialize such a person or his progeny and his desecrating deed? **We can't, should not, memorialise those who conquered us, who desecrated and destroyed our temples, who looted our wealth, who imposed zezia on us for not converting to their faith, whose converts disowned our nation-hood and still place their faith above the good of this country's people and their land which they derive their sustenance.** We hope and pray that all who are born in Bharat; irrespective of their faith and past history of their forefathers, do not repudiate or denigrate their millennial heritage and acclaim Sri Ram as Imam-i-Hind and allow the restoration of Sri Ram's temple and do not glorify a foreign invader who didn't even want to be buried here.

17. May the undying spirit which repeatedly frustrated the alien, iconoclasts' resolve to root out our temples and our Dharma, the spirit that inspired us to rebuild and restore Somantha, the Shrine Eternal and the spirit of resolve that

defied even Jawaharlal Nehru (who characterised Somantha's restoration as Hindu revivalism), inspire us to preserve Bharat, to protect Dharma and remember and revere our heritage to build a prosperous, powerful, intellectual and ethical nation as a Jagatguru once again.

Jai Somnath! Jai Sri Ram
* * *

Saudi Arabia Funds

"King Fahd (who died in August 2005) was proud of precisely what makes me nervous ---the support his government has given to Islamic institutions overseas, including some 210 Islamic centers, more than 1,500 mosques, 200 colleges, and almost 2,000 schools. The Saudis are confident that their faith is the true one and thus see no inconsistency in subsidizing their own religion abroad and at the same time prohibiting the practice of other religious at home.....During my meetings before 9/11, the Saudis reacted indignantly to any suggestion that Muslim terror networks were gaining strength. They viewed such allegations as an attempt to discredit Islam." (Pages 208 & 209)

- Madeline Albright in "The Mighty and the Almighty"

THE LIBERAL HINDU IS ON A GLOBAL HIGH

Tarun Vijay

(Courtesy: Times of India, 15/11/09)

A week ago i received an offer that was difficult to refuse. I was invited to speak to a distinguished audience at Taj Mumbai, which was partly destroyed during the 26/11 terrorist attacks. Nearly a year later, the hotel stands restored. In a way, it may be seen to represent the spirit of Hindu resurrection.

Its rise, literally from the ashes, could be seen in the context of the ancient Somnath temple, which was repeatedly destroyed by invaders and rebuilt each time. The audience was the great surprise of the evening. It was well-heeled and very keen to find out about the global Hindu footprint in the contemporary world. That's the 'new Hindu' — modern, rich, powerful and a staunch believer in pluralism and diversity.

This 'new Hindu' is everywhere today. Lakshmi Mittal, one of the world's richest people, now lives in London. Molecular biologist Venkat Ramakrishnan, who shared this year's Nobel prize for chemistry with his colleagues, is based in the US. Pranav Mistry, who works at MIT's tech lab, is the founder of the futuristic techno invention SixthSense which may change the way we live. Indra Nooyi, PepsiCo chief and ranked by Forbes magazine as one of the world's 100 most powerful women lives in the US. The list is endless. All of them are players at the global level; they make waves in their

respective fields and force the world to sit up and take notice. They are a force to reckon with; they are difficult to ignore.

Till a few centuries ago, the Hindus were confronted by marauding Muslim invaders and proselytizing Christian missionaries. But they showed extraordinary resilience. Their rise to great heights is this millennium's incredible saga of resurrection.

These 'new Hindus' are taking the religion to new lands, which would have been unthinkable just a little while ago. This is why Shanghai celebrated its first Diwali with businessman Vijay Chaudhry from Jhunjhunu in Rajasthan. Swaminarayan temples world wide are turning into Hindu awareness centres including the one at Muscat. Sri Sri Ravishankar was asked to spread the message of peace in war-torn Iraq.

Some little time ago, Time magazine's cover story was on the healing powers of yoga and chanting of 'Om'. This is the first year that Diwali was celebrated in that seat of world power, the White House. The Gayatri mantra can now be heard in Rome, New York and Beijing. All this thanks to the liberal and successful Hindu, who will never bomb his adopted country, but instead makes it home by importing a bit of his native land. In Paramaribo, Suriname's capital, the local river became the Ganga for

Indians settled there; in Mauritius' Port Louis, a water body was named Ganga Talab; in Bangladesh, Hindus have strengthened a movement to rebuild a Kali temple destroyed in 1971.

The point to note is that today's Hindu is different from before. He is more empowered, open to new ideas and adventures. His political affiliations may vary but he believes that India needs a revival with an unmistakable Hindu stamp. Spiritual gurus such as Sri Sri Ravishankar and Mata Amritanandamayee are among some of India's most globally admired Hindus. Unlike the fossils of Deoband and Raj Thackeray, they strive for the greater common good, which empowers India to be strong as well as punish the wicked.

The Rashtriya Swayam-sevak Sangh (RSS) has become India's largest non-governmental effort in hospitals, blood banks, eye donation, schools and the barefoot doctors' movement. This, at a time that it is threatened by a class of attacker known as 'the secular'.

Hinduism is the world's only living religion to be known for its compassion and wisdom, rather than its massacres. The challenge is to build a grand future that does not knock the sentiments and beliefs of the majority, which has been trying to rise after centuries of brutalization.

(The writer has just published *India Battles to Win* and is director of the Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation).

THE MEANING OF FREEDOM OF RELIGION

Proselytisation: a Challenge to Freedom and Peace

- Swami Nirliptananda

Conversion : a false concept:

Freedom is an essential characteristic of Hinduism. Every Hindu has a freedom of choice and freedom to worship. This is implied by the concept of "Ishta" (chosen deity). No one has the right to interfere, condemn, or impose his own beliefs on others. That is the general outlook of the Indogenic religions. That is why there is hardly any conflict among them.

But the proselytising religions have a history of religious wars because the followers of each try to impose their own system of beliefs on the others. The whole idea of conversion is based on a false premise. It is based on the perception that if there were only one religion there would be harmony and peace in the **world**. Apart from the proselytising creeds there are many freethinkers who hold a similar view, particularly in India. Such a viewpoint still persists in spite of glaring facts about inter-religious violence that one witnesses every day. In fact, inter-religious and sectarian violence is one of the basic threats to harmony and peace today. In view of the circumstances that now prevail we have got to look seriously at any article of faith that can be used to incite people to hate, to denigrate or to create situations that can lead to conflict. Since the declaration of the United Nations' bill of the freedom to convert, the **world** has changed immensely. Our **world** has become like a global village. There are large numbers of

multi-faith organisations among the civilised nations which believe in the principle of mutual coexistence.

With the changed circumstances presently, new laws are enacted to control those who take advantage of the old system to commit violence. Similarly new laws are needed to regulate the conduct of those who believe that they have a fundamental right to convert and dominate over others. It is one of the last vestiges of imperialistic rifle that still remains. The idea of "global village" is to adopt values of universal significance, values that promote unity and harmony and not values that influence divisions and conflicts.

In the view of this, we are of the opinion that the United Nations' declaration of the freedom to convert has over-lived its existence since it favours a concept that is linked with conflicts and wars. Our position is that a bill be passed to the effect that label conversion as a threat to peace and is dangerous to harmonious existence in the modern civilisation that is armed with powerful weapons of destruction. A fair proposal would be that "religious activity in any form should not be done with a motive to convert. If someone is satisfied that by adopting another religion in which he/she would find better spiritual satisfaction, then every one should respect that choice". Such a position would get rid of distrust and create an

atmosphere of harmony and peace among religions.

The violence in most countries is connected with the proselytising religions. We can take the Middle East, Indonesia, Philippines, Bosnia, Russia, China, 'Kashmir and Afghanistan, etc., as examples. But when we look at the Eastern religions such as Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism in India and Taoism in China there is relatively peaceful coexistence among them because they believe in certain principles that are of universal application. Both peace and violence are inherent in human nature. One is achieved through knowledge and self-control and the other because of ignorance.

Lifeline

It appears that conversion is the lifeline of the proselytising creeds and means such as freedom of speech, logic, dialogue and discussions to discover the truth which can lead to peace are not encouraged. Such principles are replaced by dogmas. In England for example the number of people going to church has drastically declined and there were many redundant Churches at one time that had been converted to other usages. This decline may be true also in other countries.

Hence various means are adopted to get hold of people even by tempting them which is contrary to their own doctrines. If the charity work they provide is properly scrutinised it will reveal that the motive is not compassion but to recruit people to fill the vacuum which otherwise the church would not be able to function.

Charity without compassion

The Churches' claim to be charitable cannot be sustained because whatever they do is done for the sake of some favour, namely to convert. A rich Charity in Jamshedpur (Bihar) used to run a 44-bed hospital. The beds were about two feet wide with a metal base on which was an inch thick mattress. To lie on such a bed must have been torturous. But beggars are not choosers and the poor had no alternative. If charitable work is not motivated by compassion, what else could be the reason?

The Bharat Sevashram Sangha started their leprosy project in the same area in a hospital made of thatched roof and mud walls. But the three feet wide beds with three inches thick mattresses which they provided were quite comfortable. Later, when they could afford, the Sangha established proper hospitals and the Charity's hospital was handed over to the Sangha. It is an indication that conversion happens only because of material needs. To take advantage of another's difficult situation cannot be called charitable. The objective of religion is to transform the exploitative instinct of man into the spirit of sharing and caring.

Temptation

To maintain their existences, some religions use conversion as a sort of commercial trade to get hold of people at any cost. It is like another kind of slave trade practised in a more subtle form. I was once targeted in the 1960s while in Britain and was offered a Parish church. I was told that I would be a good preacher. It was clearly a tempting offer but it was

declined because of my understanding of both Hinduism and Christianity.

It can hardly be denied that temptation is one of the main approaches used to convert ignorant and poor people despite the fact that temptation is regarded as a cardinal sin. But, for the purpose of conversion everything seems to be excusable and religious ideals become perverted in the process. Families are divided, countries are divided, brothers and sisters fight with one another, and properties are looted; all these find support under the cover of conversion. Some of the countries in Africa and elsewhere still remain poor although their populations have been converted.

Conversion will not stop by pleading

Conversion cannot be stopped by pleading but by duplicating the services offered by the missionaries and educating the Hindus about the greatness of their culture. If the services offered by them are provided by the Hindus there will be no conversion. People only change their religion because there is no alternative service being provided.

During a recent discussion with one of those who believed in conversion I was made to understand that there were fundamentalists in Hinduism. I refuted her statement and pointed out that the people she called fundamentalists were reacting to conversion and if it was stopped the reactionaries would simply disappear. But I was told that conversion could not be stopped. My reply was that she was the fundamentalist

because she thought that she had the fundamental right to convert others and they had no right to convert others and they had no right to resist.

Proselytisers are sensitive to conversion from their own religion

I know of a lady who embraced Hinduism and those who belonged to her former faith tried to get her back into their fold but she refused. Finally, twelve of them went to argue and convince her that it was wrong for her to leave her religion. They are very sensitive to conversion from their religion but do not think that others feel the same.

Conclusion

Compare the above with the tolerant Hindu with a universal outlook and one gets the message. They are like pawns in the hands of the proselytising creeds whose hidden agenda and motives are concealed under the cloak of charity. The question one may ask is: how can one reconcile the multi-cultural spirit with conversion? The fact is that proselytisers often use the multi-cultural organisations and platforms to promote themselves. Hindus who are by nature multicultural are easily taken in by the pretensions of the proselytising religions. As I mentioned earlier, conversion is so central to the proselytising creeds that it is impossible for them to renounce it without dire consequences. Therefore, those belonging to the non-proselytising religions will have to work out their own strategies to confront them.

(A talk given at the **World Congress** for the preservation of Religious Diversity held In New Delhi, India, from Nov 15th to 17th 2001)

THE COLLAPSE OF TRUST

(In order to terrorise the opponents of partition of India and creation of the Islamic state of Pakistan, the Muslim League led by Md. Ali Jinnah gave a call to Muslims of India to take to "Direct Action" from the 16th of Aug 1946. On that one day in the Muslim League - ruled state of undivided Bengal, in Calcutta its capital 10,000 Hindus were slaughtered and then the communal civil war erupted. This frightened the Congress and Hindus led by it, to submit to the demand for division of this country. The Calcutta killings were the first state - sponsored pogrom in India. The killings of about 4000 Sikhs in Delhi, the capital of India in Oct-Nov 1947 is a comparable misdeed. What happened in the aftermath of the burning of Hindu pilgrims in rail bogies in Godhra, Gujarat pales into insignificance in comparison to the Calcutta and Delhi killings. We reproduce below an extract referring to the Calcutta killing from "**The Great Partition: The Making of India and Pakistan**" by the historian Yasmin Khan.)

"The streets of Calcutta were verily empty on the morning of 16 August 1946. The Muslim League provincial government had called a public holiday to mark Direct Action Day. Three days later at least 4,000 of Calcutta's residents lay dead

over 10,000 were injured. The streets were deserted once again. Now the scene was one of carnage, buildings reduced to rubble, rubbish uncollected from the streets, telephone and power lines severed. Schools, courts, mills and shops stayed closed. A British official groped for an analogy, describing the landscape as across between the worst of London air raids and the Great plague. In the intervening days, the worst riots between Hindus and Muslims ever remembered in India broke out. What had once been violet, but almost theatrical. Encounters between politicised militias and activists, had burst their limits and had become targeted attacks on innocent civilians, including women, children and the elderly.

Although there had been riots in Calcutta in the past, the violence of August 1946 was distinctive in its scale and intensity. Vastly different social groups and sections of the city amassed along religious lines. Jinnah's call a day of direct action on which a complete hartal would be utilized to demonstrate support for Pakistan undoubtedly triggered the violence. Jinnah ratcheted, the oratory, speaking of Congress as a 'Fascist Grand Council'. The day of direct action was clearly a strategic manoeuvre. Jinnah needed to

strength his own hand of Cartesian he unfolding dispute over the membership of the interim government which was taking place in New Delhi, and to show just how ardent the demand for Muslims representation really was. Jinnah called on his followers 'to conduct' themselves peacefully and in a disciplined manner' although his own usually precise and legalistic prose was vague enough to allow for violent reinterpretation.

A few days before Direct Action Day, the Calcutta district League set out its own plans; there would be a complete strike of Muslims workers in shops and factories, then numerous processions accompanied by musical bands and drums would converge from all over greater Calcutta— from Howrah, Hooghly, Matiaburz and elsewhere—ending in a mass rally. Leaguers were told to go out to the mosques, where they should tell people about the plans, hand out pamphlets and say special prayers for the freedom of India, the Islamic world and the peoples of India and the east in general'. Older networks of mullahs, mosques and pires were put to work, to spread the call for Direct Action in Bengal.

On the morning of 16 Aug, League supporters opened their News paper to find large printed advertisements inside them:

Today is Direct Action Day

Today Muslim of India

dedicate their lives and all they possess to the cause of freedom

Today let every Muslim swear in the name of Allah to resist aggression

Direct Action is now their only course

Because they offered peace but they were betrayed

They claimed Liberty but were offered Thralldom

Now Might alone can secure the Right

What 'Direct Action' meant, though, was wide open to speculation and distortion. During the build-up, handbills and fly posters using religious language urged Muslims to act and linked the earliest Muslims with the contemporary situation announcing that, **'in this holy month of Ramzan, Mecca was conquered from the infidels and in this month again a Jihad for the establishment of Pakistan has been declared.** This kind of Islamic populism drew on older myths and stories, reworking history and have the Mayor of Calcutta himself (a Muslim) commanded. **'We Muslims have had the crown and have ruled. Do not lose heart, be ready and take swords. Oh Kafir Your doom is not far and the greater massacre will come.'**

BE PROUD OF THE GITA

- Kulapati KM Munshi

The Gita has nourished, age after age, the urge to self-fulfillment, of men from Arjuna to Gandhiji, and is even now the strength to millions in the present generation.

Yet the modern educated mind in India is a timid mind. It has a subconscious feeling that if it is found relying too often on the Gita, the possessor – the arrogant modern-will be classed with the superstitious, the weak, the outworn.

It is a real fear amongst us. But if India is to continue its triumphant march to world influence, the fear must be cast out.

St. Paul in his letter to the Romans said: "I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ." Why should anyone be ashamed of the Gospel which Shri Krishna taught to mankind? No man is ashamed of his learning, of his artistic gifts, or of displaying power, however little it be. Why should he be ashamed of openly confessing the real source of power, the power which strengthens every one when he is feeble, inspires him when he is weak and upholds him when he is strong?

SARDAR VALLABHAI PATEL

(B 31.10.1875 D 15.12.1950)

LET WE FORGET

- Kulapati KM Munshi

It was Sardar who courageously accepted the Partition and short-circuited disruption. It was he who saved the country from the post-Partition catastrophe. It was he who, when the transfer of power came, evoked the unflinching loyalty of the civil and military services and gave us stability. It was he who liquidated the Princely order and

consolidated India as never before, while making the Princes his friends and loyal citizens of India. But for him, Junagadh would have been part of Pakistan and Hyderabad a hostile state in the heart of India. It was Sardar who solved the minority problems of the country in the Constituent Assembly. It was his genius which kept all the States together as a single team of strength.

The Kashmir problem would have been solved much earlier, without the waste of money and energy which it has involved.

If Sardar had been alive, we would have performances, not promises. He would not have planted the seed of disintegration by playing to linguism, but led us to a more integrated strength. And Chinese aggressors would not have dared to occupy our land.

(Source: Kulapativani, Bhavan's Journal, Nov 30, 2009 by K.M. Munshi))

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NOTES& NEWS:

INDIA'S ANTI-IRAN VOTE

Some leaders of a community and their Pavlovianly supporting communists, "eminent" intellectuals, and "progressives" and "seculars" are finding fault with India voting against Iran on the resolution of the International Atomic Energy Agency censuring Iran for its nuclear programs. The communists, idol and mentor, People Republic of China as well as the communists erstwhile fatherland, Russia have also voted against Iran. So, India finds itself in good company. Besides, it is not in the interest of India to have one more fundamentalist state besides Pakistan to have nuclear weapons.

It is untrue to say that Iran is a true friend of India. Every time the Organisation of Islamic Conference's (OIC) 48 countries condemned India for its "occupation of Muslim Kashmir", Iran voted against India. Here in Hyderabad, there is an avenue in Banjara Hills named after Ayatullah Khomeini the late fiery and violent religious leader of Iran. There is no avenue or street or a square named after Mahatma Gandhi or Jawaharlal Nehru or Rajiv Gandhi anywhere in Iran. What sense does it make for India to be unilaterally submissive and



accommodative to Iran? Such attitudes betray the latent "dhimmitude" that is, obsequious obedience to Muslim masters and rulers.

Switzerland approves ban on minarets

A referendum was held in the Swiss Republic on Sunday, the 29th Nov 2009 on the issue whether the construction of Muslims' minarets should not be banned in that country. 57.5% of the population voted for imposing the ban on the construction of minarets. The referendum was proposed by Switzerland's biggest party, the Swiss Peoples Party (SVP) which claims that "**minarets symbolise a political religious squint of power**". (In India, the insistence that mazaars and mosques coming in the traffic lanes of roads and mosques standing on destroyed Hindu temple sites should not be touched, is affirmation of the political-religious claim of Islamists to dominance and power and to demonstrate the importance of Hindus). The referendum for banning of minarets proposed by the SVP was opposed by the Swiss government but **the people overruled their government and therefore the ban on minarets will be imposed.**

Readers may recall what we wrote some time ago that the people and government of Greece rejected the request of Saudi Arabia to construct a mosque near the international airport in Athens at the time of the Athens Olympics. (Y 2004) saying that Greece would not like to give the visiting sportsmen and spectators the impression that Greece is an Islamic country. Hyderabadis would not fail to notice a mosque just in front of the Begumpet Airport. While India submits to every sentiment and wish of the minority lest there would be communal riots, some Christian countries are determined to preserve the Christian nature and culture of their states and peoples.

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