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## Should Bhattacharya remain Chief Minister Of West Bengal ?

By Satya Pal Dang ~~veteran CPI leader and~~ (former MLA)

Should Budh Dev Bhattacharya remain Chief Minister of West Bengal?

In view of the 'Singur' fiasco and Nandigram tragedy in West Bengal -----a state where the ballot has been returning the CPI (M) government to power for more than a quarter of century, many reforms under the leadership of Jyoti Basu former CM have been instrumental in improving the lives of people in this state --- However the same welfare for the people of the state can hardly be seen in the governance of the present incumbent!

The statement of a top-most leader of the party in power and its general secretary that the 'CM should stay' despite such callous decisions that went against the interest of the people has come has a shock and created serious doubts about the credibility of the party in power.

In the larger interest of the country other Left Parties supporting the government took the step in disassociating themselves from the course followed CPI (M) which ---though a step in the right direction, seems to be 'inadequate'---

The left parties could have taken a stronger stand and disassociated themselves from governance and made a declaration to the effect "that they would support government from outside on "issue to issue" basis". That would have served the interest of the country and also of left parties".

It was an ill-conceived decision of West Bengal Government to uproot thousands of peasants in 'Singur' depriving them of their land for 'Tata' to set up an industry to manufacture small cars for the upper sections of middle classes - in the name of developing industry and creating employment, forgetting that while industry is necessary, so is agriculture!

It was argued that those deprived of land were given compensation which holds little comfort for land owners. Peasant needs his land the most, for the livelihood of his family and his coming generations.

The most shocking part in this entire episode is that 'banjar' or infertile land nearby was available to be given to 'Tatas' to set up the car industry, pointed out by Mamta Banerjee.

However no explanation came forth as to why that 'infertile land' was not utilized for car industry even as 'Tatas' said they would have the site allotted.

The same story has been repeated in 'Nandigram' for another top industry, on bigger scale, with more tragic results. In reply to massive resistance by the

people, repression was resorted to. It was first reported that sixty people had been killed later a section of the media reported that the number of those killed was <sup>possibly</sup> more than three hundreds including men, women and children. ~~possibly actual figure was more~~ <sup>have</sup> been killed

This tragedy not only aroused outrage all over the country but attracted world-wide attention. Some even compared it to the Jallianwala Bagh tragedy.

It can only be a solace that West Bengal Government dropped the earlier policy bowing to the will of the people in an announcement not to further pursue the 'depraved' policy.

However, vital matters have been swept under the carpet:

- No one has owned the responsibility for ruthless, uncalled for and unjustified repression and loss of so many lives.
- No one has been punished – neither any from the police nor from Government offices responsible for tragedy e.g. any Magistrate, nor any ~~other cadres~~ <sup>authority or</sup> ~~might have~~
- No one has unearthed the covert "arrangement" that the company had with the government
- ~~No hand of the powers that be have been exposed in giving orders causing deaths of many.~~

Be that as it may, the Chief Minister should have at least owned moral responsibility and resigned. But view expressed by topmost leader of the CPI (M) its General Secretary that "Chief Minister will remain in saddle", comes as shock!

It can be safely presumed from this uncalled for support for CM that neither any police officer nor anyone else will be punished as not even a judicial inquiry has been ordered.

Worst perhaps is the fact that no help for the families of those killed has been announced – either in the form of jobs, compensations or grants.

It fills me with a sense of shame that such a great tragedy should have happened in the left-ruled state; however it is a comfort that CPI and other left partners of the government have openly disassociated them from what the Chief Minister was doing! Tragedy is however manifold that according to some reports "neither the cabinet nor the party was taken into confidence about projects in 'Singur' and 'Nandigram'.

One can only hope that these would be a really serious debate inside the CPI (M) to introspect on this serious matter. This is desirable not only in the interests of the CPI (M) and but for the entire left and the country as a whole because CPI (M) is the biggest and strongest left party till date.

A strong left is the vital need of the country to counter both the BJP and Congress.

Satyajal Dany  
 24-3-2007  
 25  
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1+1=2 Articles/Pieces

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Dr. V. S. Rao  
FN N2

Satyopal Dang

Samachar

According to Hind ~~Samachar~~ of 6-4-2007 (an Indian daily)

published from Jalandhar/Delhi, as many as 375 candidates for elections to Delhi Municipal Corporations are illiterate.

Immediately after independence, when Constitution of India was framed, there was a proposal that there should be a minimum candidate for education for contesting an Assembly election. This was rejected in the then prevailing conditions. Undoubtedly, sixty years after independence, candidates have radically changed. Not only literacy but even education upto ~~at~~ higher levels has made considerable ~~excess~~ progress — even amongst working people. Secondly, it is high time that education <sup>up</sup> to middle stage should be made free and compulsory — students from poorer classes being given stipends. There should be only one type of neighbourhood schools in which all students, poor ~~and~~ not so poor and well off ones should study.

Teachers job is to teach. Steps must be taken to ensure that from schools up to universities, all teachers do their duty and students study and not waste their time. This disease is quite <sup>wide</sup> spread ~~at~~ at ~~low~~ higher levels. This has given birth to: (i) private tuitions ~~industry~~ industry and (ii) mass copying. Recently ~~some~~ news have appeared in the media that in some places parents have demands <sup>ed</sup> that their wards must have the right to copy. Obviously, it not only very bad and <sup>highly</sup> objectionable. It is harmful for our national interests and future of our country.

Short-sighted policies <sup>and methods</sup> of the ~~Government~~ Government & ruling politicians) as well as <sup>of</sup> ~~the~~ ~~Government~~ ~~at~~ ~~top~~ are doing

doing great damage to the vital interests of the country to which are ~~off~~ in which don't meet any resistance from even the best bureaucrats are playing ~~having~~ havoc. For instance, right now in Punjab in the month of April is in the month of examinations etc, teachers have been given the job of short-listing the ~~jobs~~ families which would be ~~given~~ provided ~~atta~~ at 4 Rs. a kilo and ~~dal~~ <sup>dal</sup> at 20 Rs a ~~half~~ kilo. And ~~one can~~ And given the extent of ~~corruption~~, ~~one can be sure~~ prevailing corruption, one can be sure that ~~in~~ some who <sup>are</sup> do not really entitled will get the benefit — while ~~a~~ <sup>most</sup> ~~part~~ of ~~them~~ those who deserve could be left out. A really services government with the cooperation and help of all ~~part~~ recognised <sup>parties</sup> could have worked out a really good and practical scheme to help the poor.

many

II ~~As~~ regards the MLAs belonging to the ruling parties ~~MLAs~~, majority seem to be most concerned to be appointed Chairman of various Boards and Education. Motive should be obvious to anyone. It is not to ~~make~~ serve the people, even their own constituencies but ~~to~~ to mint money.

Unfortunately, our Chief Minister Shri Badal does not seem to have the will to resist ~~such~~ ~~tendency~~ tendencies. Former Chief Minister Amindar Singh carved out many new districts. Shri Badal has begun with carving out new divisions. We may ~~soon~~ <sup>have</sup> new districts <sup>too</sup>. No principles would be followed as were ~~by~~ by Shri Amindar Singh. Will of narrow vested interests would prevail. Lehrogaga has already been given the status of sub division. More may follow soon. Such measures don't help to resolve the real problems of the common people, of the toilers and of

~~the poor.~~

the poor. In fact, the Chief Minister has not ~~even~~ made even any passing references to the problem of workers, agricultural labourers, the urban poor, those without any roof on their heads, and women, ~~and~~

III Badal ~~has made~~ promised atta at the rate of Rs. 10/- per kilo and Dal at Rs. 40/- per kilo to one and all. It was clearly an attempt to fool the people to get votes somehow. Every one knows that for pulses (Dal), Punjab has to import from other states. Traders are not going to oblige the Govt. If there was any honesty and seriousness in making the promise, the least that should have been done was to nationalise trade in food grains - paying ~~reasonable~~ ~~prices~~ remunerative prices to the growers and then supplying wheat or atta to consumers at fixed rates - if necessary subsidising from the State exchequer. Obviously Badal Sahib had no such plan. Hence soon after he came to power, he began ~~at~~ changing his stand - from atta at Rs. 10 per kilo to all it came down to the poor ~~of~~ soon it would be proved of the poor and that too on paper. While Govt officials are carrying out surveys, private traders have started buying wheat which has started coming to the market and soon will flood it. There are no signs <sup>yet</sup> even as yet of the Govt having the intention and determination to ~~make~~ make massive purchases and store the stocks, it really has the intention to fulfil his promise at least to some extent. And price of atta in the market has gone up instead of going down. It is now selling at Rs. 14/- per kilo or perhaps more.

If the poor in the state want <sup>to be certain that they will be able to get</sup> ~~to get~~ atta at prices within their reach, they must unite and fight

III for ~~the establishment~~ strengthening of the public distribution system, ~~for~~ for forcing the Govt to ban hoarding of big stocks of wheat by traders as well as by landlords and rich peasants. Govt must right now enter the market and buy all the wheat which is brought for sale, etc. etc.

A proper policy must be framed immediately in relation to dal. Govt must seek the cooperation of all parties in this matter. At the same time the Chief Minister ~~must~~ should know that in this matter (of atta & dal) Left Parties can help most because BJP cannot & will not ~~fight~~ be taken the interests of the Big traders while ~~many~~ big chunks of his own party ~~to~~ will not have the will ~~to~~ to hit the ~~or~~ selfish interests of the landlords.

IV

Efforts have started the lost glory of Cricket. # A suggestion has been made to float a new organisation to be called: "India Cricket Cricket League". Measures are also being suggested to ~~cut~~ ensure that cricketer's lust for heaps of money is controlled by ensuring that "scandalous .50 match fixing" is put an end to ~~and~~ and paying them reasonable amounts ~~are~~ for playing for playing.

None of these and similar measures of this type can bring back to its old glory. Only way is to ensure that it regains ~~for~~ reasonable popularity is to bluntly tell cricket players that cricket is a game & must be played as such. It is sports and they must have sportsman spirit. IT MUST NOT be considered a means to earn money. IT MUST NOT be a ~~profession~~ cease to be a profession.

Best players who bring many bring honour to their states or their country can be suitably honoured. No Minister or even politician should head the Cricket Board. As far as Shri Pawar is concerned, it is high time that he looks after Agriculture rather than Cricket. Or can he does not agriculture, he can request the Prime Minister to change his portfolio.

9-4-2007.

Catyopal Singh

Parwana ji

FN NZ

Octoroi - A matter still hanging?

For decades Octoroi was the main source of urban local bodies. It yielded much more income than House Tax (Tax on land and Buildings). Taxes like Cycle tax and Professional Tax had already been abolished long ago. However, Octoroi in the very nature of it, was not a good tax. It hindered trade and also involved considerable delay in transport of goods.

Many state govt's found ways & means to do without it. In Punjab however, it was continued for very long though with the promise that an alternative source of income is found.

When Shri Amrinder Singh became the Chief Minister of Punjab, he acted "boldly" and abolished it. After all he was/is the son of a Maharaja. He ~~wasn't~~ did not forget the employees who would be rendered unemployed. He assured them that they would be given alternative jobs. ~~It~~ they would be shifted to other departments. However, there were not so many vacant posts. So, these employees had to be paid their salaries without doing any work. ~~etc~~ This naturally would not be just to the tax payer/public. Not only that. It did not satisfy even all the employees formerly on duty at charges or in connection with some aspect of work in or related to Octoroi. Reason was that a number of employees in the Octoroi department had been perhaps been having extra income. ~~which~~ In the very nature of things Octoroi tax is easier to earn more money than your salary — by charging less money than due for consideration and by pocketing the ~~max~~ consideration money.

I have been informed by someone who would know that three Writ Petitions are seeking reimposition of Octoroi are pending before the Punjab and Haryana High court.



one of these was filed by a BJP councillor  
of Bhatinda Another was reported to have been  
filed by the Amritsar Municipal Workers Union the  
third was filed perhaps by the Union of Municipal  
workers of Hoshiarpur. Next date to hearing is

16-7-2007.

I have been told that an interesting thing  
had happened on one day right in the Court and  
within the hearing of presiding dieties (judges).

The Advocate of one of the clients told said to  
the latter (within the hearing of the ~~just~~ Honble judges:  
"Give me my full fees and I will get Octroi reimposed.  
(I am told that one of the parties had paid only Rs. 25,000/- against  
the settled amount of Rs. 50,000/-).

Satyopal Dary

9/4/2007

Redm 1/14/7/2007

Articles  
Not SPAs

## An Emotional Journey through Lahore and surroundings

Prof. Chaman Lal

I was trying to go to Lahore on 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2006, seventy fifth martyrdom anniversary of Bhagat Singh. I had a wish that Indian and Pakistani people should together commemorate this historic event. That could not materialize due to various reasons. But this year an unexpected invitation came. This was to present paper on Dr. B.R. Ambedkar on his birth anniversary at Lahore on 13<sup>th</sup> April. The invitation came from Ganga Ram Heritage Foundation. The name of Sir Ganga Ram is well known in this part of Punjab and Delhi. Delhi, like Lahore has Ganga Ram hospital, quite known for its service. Sir Ganga Ram, a well known Architect, apart from Bhai Ram Singh, had designed the most beautiful buildings of Lahore. He had designed some buildings in Patiala and Amritsar too. But Ganga Ram Foundation should hold a seminar on Dr. Ambedkar, it was little perplexing to me. In any case I accepted the invitation and prepared my paper and sent in time. The other participant from India was- V.T. Rajshekhar, editor of 'Dalit Voice' from Bangalore. There were participants from U.K., Nepal and Pakistan as well. This was also known after reaching Lahore that not only in Lahore, there was another seminar on Dr. Ambedkar at Karachi on 14<sup>th</sup> April. In Karachi seminar too, some Indian Dalit scholars had participated.

I was born and brought up in Indian part of Punjab, that too after partition. My forefathers had been living in village Mehraj of Bathinda district, so I had no particular reason to be excited about Lahore or west Punjab. I am an atheist, so there is no religious reason also to go to Pakistan. Yet I had felt an excitement. Perhaps, for two reasons. One, I have been involved with the study of Bhagat Singh and his movement, Ghadar movement and Kartar Singh Sarabha, also have been centre of my attention. Both these national heroes were executed in Lahore jail. Bhagat Singh's life and activities were centered more in Lahore, so I wanted to visit the locations of his activities. The other reason was that I had read and heard about Lahore that 'One that has not seen Lahore, he or she is not born'. This folk saying of Punjabi is title of well known Hindi play by Asghar Wazahat, which incidentally has been staged in Lahore twice. If going abroad for first time in life could also be considered a reason for excitement that can also be counted one. But as it turned out later, not for a moment, I felt that I am in

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sent earlier, I think

SPD  
15/7/07

an 'alien' country, where I should move carefully as a 'foreigner', particularly when the relations between two Governments, though at thaw, are not in the best of friendly terms. Frankly speaking this reasoning did not work at Lahore and I was so freely moving in Lahore, at any point of time in day or night, as any 'Lahoria' would be moving. In spite of the fact that after just landing up at Lahore airport, I was in store for a minor trouble. I was issued visa in the category of Sikh pilgrimage, the jatha for Baisakhi coincided with these dates. But the four copies of visa forms, which I filled up at my own, had listed eight different places to visit, including Taxila, Faislabad (Bhagat Singh's birth place), Islamabad, Peshawar etc. Pakistan High Commission office in Delhi did not return me two copies of that, which was obligatory to submit at airport, after arrival and departure. However visa stamp was put on my passport, that was of Sikh pilgrimage. I was little apprehensive about it and had twice checked up with the concerned official at Pakistan High commission, who kept on assuring me of 'no problem'. The young duty girl at airport, who was made to return from Delhi airport for the same reason, was adamant that in absence of those two papers, I must be 'sent back' by return flight. Even this situation did not unnerve me. She called her senior officer. I told him that if they want to send me back, they may. My tickets were sent by my hosts and they were waiting outside with 'Rose Garlands', as is the practice in Lahore to receive guests. They were rather more worried than me and sent message through some security personnel. I told them not to worry, since I strangely felt confident to handle this situation. I told the airport officer and duty girl, addressing her as 'beta' that I had come for a seminar and was among those, who want Punjabis on both sides to meet more frequently and want friendship among people. I showed them my invitation papers etc. I talked to them in chaste Punjabi, rather than in Urdu or English. Officer was convinced of my sincerity, even the duty girl was no more hostile and I came out of airport after forty five minutes or so, relieving my hosts, who welcomed me so warmly.

We were put up in hotel-'Holiday Inn', which is perhaps third biggest hotel of Lahore. The seminar was also to be held in the hotel conference hall. I reached 12<sup>th</sup> April night and seminar was on 13<sup>th</sup> April at 5.00 p.m. On 13<sup>th</sup> morning, as my usual practice in Indian cities, I came out for a morning walk, though I did check up with hotel people that if I need to carry my passport with me. They assured me that there was no need and I could just mention hotel name, if someone enquired. As it turned out, that not even once, during my eight days stay, I was checked by any police or security person. So I took a walk towards 'Ferozepur road', reaching 'Luxmi Chowk', without of course knowing the place. I returned from the front of Punjab Assembly, that too I

did not know. Marvelous Allama Iqbal memorial building was in front of the hotel and 'Al Hamra', the cultural centre of today's Lahore was just few steps away, so was Mall road and Lawrence Garden or Company bagh, now given the name 'Bage-Jinnah'. Amritsar and Lahore both had these similar gardens in similar name-Lawrence gardens or company bagh in popular parlance. I wished, to go out for a while as the seminar was in the evening, but could not. So the next best thing I did was to change my Sim card in mobile and take Pakistani sim temporarily, to be in touch with acquaintances in Lahore and at some other places. There was no problem of currency. Though I had taken some dollars at Delhi airport, every one has told me that Indian rupee is accepted everywhere. It proved to be true; I did not spend a single dollar during my stay and spent them on duty free shop at Delhi on return.

Malwinderjit Singh Waraich had given me contact of his village mate Wassey Khan, who came from his ancestral village- Ladhewal Waraich in Pakistan. The man became so emotional at receiving my call that he drove for two hours in his car to reach for the seminar. He wanted me to visit his and waraich sahib's village, which I could not. Chief Guest of the seminar was Governor of Punjab-Khalid Maqbool. The seminar started nearly in time and the Governor came when I was speaking. The first speaker of seminar was Surender Valasai, President of Scheduled Caste Federation of Pakistan, from Karachi. He spoke in detail about the conditions of Dalits in Pakistan, which were given reservation in jobs at one time, like in India. Reservations were withdrawn at some stage and Dalits in Pakistan are demanding reintroduction of reservations for them. Dr. Ambedkar is quite popular among Pakistani Dalits, many of whom are Hindus and Christians. Dr. Rukhsana Sidiqi, a woman scholar from Lahore was to speak next. Suleman Asif, UN representative in Islamabad was the next to speak. Asif has bold me out with his 'shudh Hindi', the earlier night during dinner. The man was so much exposed to Hindi and Sanskrit literature that I just wondered at our ignorance about Pakistani people. Dr. Shyam Katuwal from Tribhuvan University was next to speak. Dr. Faqir Mohamad Bhatti, a Pakistani historian from U.K. spoke after me and V T Rajshekhar before the Governor. Earlier Dr. Yousaf Bukhari, Director Ganga Ram Foundation has welcomed the speakers and spoke about the aims of foundation. V T Rajshekhar and I both spoke about the closeness among people of both countries, while I spoke little emotionally about Lahore city and Bhagat Singh. Apart from speaking about Dr. Ambedkar's humanist philosophy, I told audience that the earth of Lahore was as pious for me as was for them, since this earth had the blood of martyrs like Bhagat Singh, Kartar Singh Sarabha etc. in it. I

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also said that the earth of Jalianwala Bagh was also as pious for them as it was for us, as the blood of Hindu-Muslim and Sikh martyrs was part of it. I told my audience that Bhagat Singh belonged to them as much, as to us, since he was born and worked there mostly and was martyred at Lahore. I almost admonished them for not owning him, while we have made him our national hero. I also spoke about the mad and criminal act of communal frenzy created by vested political interests during 1947, causing untold sufferings to lakhs of people on both sides and of all communities. While the past may not be forgotten, yet lessons can be learnt from it, that was my plea to my Punjabi brethren (and sisters) on other side of the fence. Governor Khalid Maqbool spoke very rationally and paid tribute to Dr. Ambedkar. After the programme was over, so many people came and warmly hugged me, they were touched by what I said about our common cultural bonds. At dinner, I met representatives of Dalit community in Pakistan. Most of them from Christian background and were members of Punjab Assembly or District Assembly. Pakistan has evolved a system of assembly from Tehsil level to national assembly. Lt. General (Retd.) Zulifkar Ali Khan was also present at this occasion. He is chairman of Evacuees property trust board. This is interesting to know that Pakistan Government has allowed the formation of Ganga Ram Foundation and also Dayal Singh Research and Cultural Foundation in the last two-three years. Ganga Ram foundation is located in Aggarwal dharmshala in Aggarwal street. The dharmshala was in bad shape and now it is being revived. Many members of Sikh jatha were also staying in that dharmshala in those days. Pakistan Govt., on this Baisakhi day celebrations, which were organized by Dayal Singh foundation at Lahore itself has also announced the setting up of Guru Nanak University at Nankana Sahib or Taxila. Governor Punjab had participated in that programme also, which was attended by Indian jatha.

I was in Lahore till noon of 21<sup>st</sup> April, when I took my flight back to Delhi and I wanted to utilize my stay there in most fruitful way. My purpose was to meet writers/scholars, like minded people and to visit historical places. I began with tourism kind first. The first stop was Lahore Museum, quite well known. The section attracted me most was photographs, of course black and white, of freedom struggle. In Lahore, it was Pakistan freedom struggle, for me it was a mixed struggle. I saw the photographs of national leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Subhash Bose and Baldev Singh alongwith Jinnah, Liaqat Ali Khan, Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan etc. Lot many photographs of Fatima Jinnah also. The photographs of Ratti, Parsi wife of Jinnah and their daughter Dina attracted my attention a lot. Then there was complete Gandhara Art section, having Buddhist tradition in art in

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NWFP area. There is now a complete section on Sikh art as well. Old 'Deorhies' (Front door of house) were too attractive to be missed. Renowned National College of Art is located next to Museum, but I could visit it later. I saw three books published by college recently, two being on Sir Ganga Ram and Bhai Ram Singh. It looks like slowly but steadily, Pakistan, particularly Lahore is owning up its traditional richness, even when it is not Islamic.

Having a lunch in bazaar, where you can never get a good vegetable cooked. Lahore is a heaven for non-vegetarians, where the food streets of Anarkali and Gwalmandi have become such a craze that Lahore remains awake all night. After visiting food street one night at 1.00 a.m., we moved to Shimla hills of Bage-Jinnah, where classical music programme was going on at 2.00 a.m. Farida Khanum had just completed her singing. Lahore is such a culturally alive city that one just wonders. I remembered my student days in JNU, when we used to go to Mavlankar hall for listening to classical programmes in late night. Those days are over in Delhi, but not in Lahore.

Visiting Shahi Qila (Royal fort) is not so exciting, it is not so well maintained, but the Samadhi of Ranjit Singh, who once ruled from this fort is almost part of the fort, which has Gurdwara of fifth Guru as well. Close by is Minar-e-Pakistan, built after 1947, which on its walls have the resolution of Pakistan, passed on 23<sup>rd</sup> march 1940. This resolution is carved in English, Urdu, Punjabi and Bengali.

Visiting sites relating to Bhagat Singh's activities was another attraction of Lahore. Accompanied by Zubair, well known progressive story writer of Punjabi, I first went to Bradlaugh Hall, which few people know now. Hall is in dilapidated condition and some training school is being run from there. From the shape of building, one can well imagine that it was a grand building once. Fortunately, the foundation plate is still intact. The foundation of this headquarters of freedom movement was laid by Surender Nath Sen in 1900. It would be better if Government of India could impress upon Pakistan Govt. to get it declared as heritage building. Lajpat Rai Hall of Lahore, which housed famous Dwarka Dass library, now in Chandigarh, is now held by fingerprint bureau of Pakistani police. I could not visit this place; neither could I locate National College, where Bhagat Singh was a student during 1922-26. I could not locate Khwasarian village, nearby Lahore, which was the abode of Bhagat Singh family for many years. Even river Ravi bank, where Lala Lajpat Rai and later the remains of Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev were cremated or Bhagwati Charan Vohra gave his life in bomb explosion, while testing, could not be located. Ravi has perhaps dried up and people say it has become a 'nallah'. They also say that India has stopped releasing water to river Ravi. However I could easily locate the place of

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Saundras killing and DAV college hostel nearby. There is not much change in that area, except that DAV College and hostel have turned into Govt. Islamia College and hostel now. But the SSP office remains the same as was during Scott's time. I was also able to visit 'Phansighat', execution spot of Lahore jail, which has now been demolished and Shadman Chowk or 'Fountain Chowk' instead has come up. It is a residential colony now, with no trace of jail or its historicity, where hundreds of freedom fighters were hanged. Democratic Pakistani activists do gather on 23<sup>rd</sup> March at Shadman Chowk and burn candles. They also plan to put a plaque nearby, indicating its historicity. Bhagat Singh lived in many houses of Lahore during his underground days and people still talk of those houses. One such house is said to be on Jail road. Najam Hussain Sayeed, well known Punjabi writer lives on jail road, but he has no idea of that house.

I could go to birth place of Bhagat Singh with newly met local friends, who arranged a car, which took us first to Waris Shah's mazar at Jandiala Sheikh. We crossed through Sheikhpura town, quite known and from distance I was shown 'haran magar', beautiful place built in memory of a deer, which got killed during shikar by Prince Salim. Visiting Waris Shah mazar was an experience, where every year competition of singing 'Heer' is held and it starts with singing of Amrita Pritam's "Aaj Aakhan Waris Shah nun.....". From Jandiala, we moved to Nankana Sahib. It is a small town, but the access road is huge. Pakistan has paid more attention to its roads and correctly boasts of its motorways from Lahore to Peshawar. But Pakistan lacks in railway services. Nankana Sahib has eight Gurdwaras in its vicinity, including the main one, where in February 1921; morcha was started against Mahants, who were polluting the pious place. Mahants, supported by British colonialists had killed nearly two hundred Sikhs, before vacating the Gurdwara. Inside the Gurdwara, there is 'Shaheed Jand(tree)', where one protestor Lachhman Singh was burnt alive. In Nankana Sahib, most of the Gurdwaras relate to Guru Nanak's childhood stories—where he was born, where he played, where he studied etc. I took 'langar' with my Muslim friends of Lahore, who had accompanied me there.

From Nankana Sahib, there was direct route to Jadanawala, though road patch was bad for few kilometers. Crossing Jadanawala, a tehsil town, we reached at the road leading to Chak No. 105, before we could ask someone on the way, a pleasant surprise awaited us. There was a tin board on roadside, painted with Bhagat Singh picture behind bars. Some Jasbeer Singh from Faislabad( Old name Lyalpur) had put this signboard, with his email address. It became easier for us. When we were reading the signboard, some people came close to us and seeing our interest in Bhagat

Singh told us the lane to his village. They suggested that before going to village, we should meet one Farhan Khan nearby. As it turned out, Farhan Khan is 32 year old gentleman, retired as Excise officer, having his factory named as Gulab Farm, adding Bhagat Singh town on the signboard. He belonged to Chak NO.107, Pathankot nearby. We reached his place and he welcomed us warmly. In his drawing room, there was old but framed, glass broken black and white photograph. The typical hat wearing popular photograph. Farhan Khan was too happy talking about Bhagat Singh family. He was five years old, when Bhagat Singh was martyred, Bhagat Singh' younger brothers, names he did not remember (Obviously Kulbir Singh and Kultar Singh), used to meet him. The man was such admirer of Bhagat Singh that I wanted to present him a copy of his writings, but I had no spare copy. I had taken few copies, recently published in English by Leftword and NBT. Farhan Khan got it photocopied, borrowing it for just one hour or so, the time, which we spent at house of Bhagat Singh. We moved to Chak no. 105, accompanied by the man sent by Farhan Khan. It was getting dark. The road to village was not very good. When we reached there, it was not the old house; it was now being shared by three Virk brothers. Pakistan have as many Virks, Randhawas, Sehgals, Bhattis, Cheemas, Waraiches, Gills or Sidhus etc, as much we might be having in our part of Punjab. It was almost four canal land area, which is now shared by Iqbal Virk, Sadiq Virk and Mushtaq Virk families- the three brothers, who were allotted this house after partition. They had migrated from Virk village from Amritsar. Out of the three, Sadiq Virk is no more, but his family lives there. When we reached there were few women working near Chullah, later on we could meet Akhtar Virk, son of Mushtaq Virk, who is now advocate at Faislabad. He told us that not only this house, they also acquired 17 acre Mango garden of Kishan Singh, father of Bhagat Singh. Asked about the value of this much land, we were told it was six lakh per acre, which meant that it has value of more than one crore rupees today. Though Bhagat Singh family also having garden at Chak no. 105, was not known earlier to us, yet it came as no surprise to me. The judge, who wrote judgment for the execution of Kartar Singh Sarabha, has clearly mentioned that Kishan Singh (father of Bhagat Singh) has contributed one thousand rupees (nearly one lakh rupees of today) to the cause of Gadar party in 1914 or 1915. The legend of Bhagat Singh and family becomes more fascinating, because their commitment to the nation overstepped their comforts in life. It is no wonder that Waqar Ahmad, a political science student from Peshawar becomes enamored of Bhagat Singh and reached me through mail, just to know more about Bhagat Singh. Waqar remained in touch with me on phone during my stay in Lahore and was hoping



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to meet me, as Peshawar University Teachers Association was trying very hard to get visa cleared for me, so that I could visit Peshawar. We had welcomed Peshawar University teacher's delegation recently in JNU. And it was also during my stay in Lahore, Raza Naeem, a columnist for Dawn, reached me through mail to get a copy of 'The Jail Notebook and Other writings' of Bhagat Singh, compiled and introduced by me and published by Leftword on this 23<sup>rd</sup> March, for reviewing it in 'Dawn'. I could leave a copy for him in Lahore, apart from talking on phone many times. Raza wanted to hold discussions in Karachi about Bhagat Singh.

Lyalpur was built by British officers as a planned city. This area has very fertile land, so the peasants from other parts of Punjab were encouraged to buy lands here, just as many Punjabi peasants had gone to Terai area to buy lands. Interestingly more people from Doaba went there. They were allotted lands in villages named as Chak with numbers. The families which shifted here attached the name of their village or area to these numbered chaks. Thus Chak no. 65 is Mukundpur, Chak no 67 is Gidderpindi, Chak no. 104 is Samra, Chak no.105 is Bange(From Banga of Doaba),Chak no 106 is Khurla, Chak no. 107 is Pathankot,Chak no. 109 is Bajajanwala and so on. These names continue after partition as well. Only the landowners and inhabitants of the houses have changed. We were told that prior to 1965, there were not many restrictions and lot many people used to visit these places. After 1965, restrictions increased, recent years, there again has been some relaxation and people are again coming to visit these places. We were told that a bus full of Punjabis from Canada had come to visit the place last year. After partition Lyalpur, renamed as Faislabad, became the centre of textile industry. It is now the third biggest city of Pakistan, after Karachi and Lahore. But the city has probably suffered the same problems as has been faced by Ludhiana. Faislabad cloth is rated high in Asian market.

From Chak no. 105, we moved to Faislabad, it was night now. After a while, we took the motorways from Faislabad to Lahore and reached in about two hour's time. Only limited vehicles are allowed on the motorways, so the traffic moves fast, smoothly and safely.

I wished to go to Taxila and Islamabad at least, but the time was short and I had to meet people in Lahore yet. So I stayed in Lahore for the remaining days. I shifted from five star hotel to different locations. I spent one night with some young students, one of them Imran was teaching Urdu at Govt. College at Nankana Sahib. Another night I spent at the guest house of a NGO-South Asia Participation, who organized a talk with its researchers and staff as well. SAP Deputy Director Irfan Mufti offered me to take to

Bulle Shah's mazar at Kasur in one of the evenings. That was a pleasant invitation, which I readily accepted. Though the road to Kasur, which was under reconstruction, was somewhat irritable and sixty kilometer journey on car took almost three hours, yet the atmosphere at mazar made it just forget. At about eleven at night, the mazar was full of people, singing, dancing inside and outside the mazar. People were offering flowers, but the women were not allowed to go inside the sanctorum. They would give the flowers to the caretaker and watch inside from windows. That was unlike Bulle Shah, but everything else was just like Bulle Shah. People dancing traditional folk forms like Jhummar and singing Kafis of Bulle in most fascinating voice and with sweetest of musical chords.

After visiting Nankana Sahib, Waris Shah and Bulle Shah's places and talking to cross sections of people, I felt that partition had paralyzed the Punjabi body of cultural oneness. Both sides of Punjabi people have strange kind of thirst for each other, which I could realize in Lahore that both are missing vital and healthy part of each other and inside feel incomplete without each other. The overwhelming emotion on both sides for each other, (perhaps more on West Punjab side), speaks volumes about the cultural losses, which both parts of Punjab have suffered due to this completely irrational division of one complete cultural unit, consisting of three major communities- Muslims, Sikhs and Hindus, due to partition for purely political reasons of gaining political power. I think all Bengalis and Punjabis must be cursing the politicians on all sides of borders, for making their cultural units as sacrificial goats to obtain political power. Pakistani Punjab is almost three times bigger than Indian Punjab. The population of Pakistani Punjab is nine crores, which is more than half of total population of Pakistan. It is true that Punjabi language and literature has developed more in Indian part of Punjab, but the overall scene of Punjabi culture is still more alive in Pakistani Punjab. The ridiculing saying about Punjab culture that 'it is just agriculture', is contribution of post partition Indian Punjab, which has built no strong cultural centre of its own, whereas Lahore was always considered as one of the most cultured cities of undivided India, the tradition which is still alive in Lahore. Lahore has developed tremendously after partition, now its population has grown to nearly one crore, whereas, prior to partition Amritsar and Lahore were just like twin cities. Amritsar, has just shrunk and lost its eminence, except in religious sense, after partition.

I could not move around Androon Lahore (Inner city) and see its twelve much known 'Darwazas' (Gates). About some of the gates, Yashpal has vividly depicted in his epic Hindi novel-'Jhootha Sach'. Shahlmi gate, the worst

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centre of communal riots in 1947, Mochi gate, Bhatti gate, Hathi gate, Domoriya gate (Like domoroyia bridge in Jalandhar). But the last three night stay in Punjab University Lahore's guest house gave me a little feel of my student days in Panjab University Chandigarh in 1971-72. The little market on new campus has that touch of Chandigarh market, though Chandigarh market is more developed. The hostels, where I took my morning tea and breakfast are almost similar to PU hostels in Chandigarh. The name of University has been changed to 'The University of Punjab' Lahore, after partition, yet buildings like Library, cafeteria carries the same old name- Punjab University Lahore. In Indian Punjab, the spellings of university were changed to 'Panjab University', to differentiate from Punjab University, Lahore. The visit to Oriental College in old campus of the University, which houses- Urdu, Persian, Punjabi and now revived Hindi deptt. as well was again interesting. To see the names of Dr. Mohan Singh Diwana or Bhai Santokh Singh to Sadhu Ditt Singh in Punjabi deptt. office was an experience. That Punjabi deptt. of Punjab University is as old as 1879, is perhaps not even known on this side of Punjab. Interestingly, the only one teacher working on temporary basis in Hindi deptt. in Punjab University Lahore turned out to be my student from Punjabi University Patiala. She is Shabnam Riaz, who migrated to Lahore from Malerkotla, after marriage and after doing her M.A. in Hindi from Patiala. Incidentally Lahore is known for its educational institutions. Falling prey to privatization, it has almost twenty five universities located in Lahore city itself, including one women university. Even the Govt College has been turned into Govt. College University, an odd name.

Meeting people was an enriching experience for me. I had already some contacts and also many references. I was keen to meet Salima Hashmi, daughter of legendry poet Faiz Ahmad Faiz, who along with Faqir Aazijudin, both well known artists and art scholars of Pakistan had recently visited Fine Arts deptt. of Punjabi University Patiala, in context of a seminar. So one evening I spent with Hashmis at their Model Town house, where once Faiz lived. Prof. Salima hashmi is now Dean, Visual Arts of Beaconhead University Lahore, after retiring as Principal of famous National Art College of Lahore. Her husband Prof. Shoib Hashmi, retired Economics Professor is columnist for some dailies and jolly person. Their daughter is named as Meera and granddaughter as Anya. Salima told that Faiz Ahmad Faiz had heard shots of firing on Saundras, as he was somewhere close to DAV College that day. These shots were also heard by legendry Communist leader of Pakistan late Mazhar Ali, this was confirmed by his wife and mother of famous writer Tariq Ali—Tara Mazhar Ali, whom I met at her house and presented Bhagat

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Singh's writings, she is also among those, who celebrate Bhagat Singh in Pakistan. Tara Mazhar Ali, at the age of 82 years and Salima Hashmi, both are active in democratic movement of Pakistan. Salima had taken part in a women's rally during my stay. Leftist activists in Pakistan are called 'Surkhe'(Reds) in popular parlance. One such 'surkha', I met by chance at Fictionhouse bookshop, a progressive publisher and bookseller of Lahore. Fictionhouse has published almost all books of eminent historian Mubark Ali, both in Urdu and English. As I had taken some photocards of Bhagat Singh and Dr. Ambedkar to distribute in Lahore and I handed over one such card to fictionhouse owner, an old man present there asked me to give one card to him also. Then he introduced himself as Aslam Raheel Mirza, Communist Party of Pakistan's worker. He said that we celebrate Bhagat Singh day every year. There is no ban on Communist party in Pakistan these days, but leftist forces are quite weak. These are splintered in group's like- National Workers party, Mazdoor Kisan Party, Labour Party, apart from Communist Party, which has strong base in Hyderabad Sindh.

About Communist movement of earlier times, I heard lot of stories, mostly true, in the company of Prof. Manzoor Ahmad, Prof Aazijudin Ahmad, Tehseen Ahmad, by whose courtesy I was invited on dinner in this company. 82 years old Prof. Manzoor Ahmad is considered Gandhian by his friends. Though no one agrees with his defense of Gandhi, everyone loves this genial man. I heard the fascinating story of Pran nath Seth, industrialist of Lahore, who refused to leave Lahore in 1947. Pran Nath Seth was the son in law of Lala Harikishan Lal, first time minister of Punjab in Fazal ul Hussain ministry. Pran Nath Seth was briefly arrested during 1965 Indo-Pak war. He came to India for some time and fell ill. He declared that he can't live without Lahore. He returned to Lahore and became all right. During his underground days, Sajjad Zaheer, well known Urdu writer, who had gone to Pakistan in 1947, to organize Communist movement, took shelter in Pran Nath's house under assumed name. When once police raided his house to arrest Sajjad, though he had already escaped, Pran nath, aristocratic in his habits, got angry with police for raiding his house without informing him, as DIG was his personal friend. Then he was told that the person he was keeping in his annexe as some Professor was actually underground Communist leader. These were the days, when Sahir Ludhianvi had also come to work in Pakistan Communist party and stayed with writer Ahmad Rahi.

I enjoyed listening to pre partition and post partition stories from these grand old men. I also benefited a lot by meeting Mubark Ali, the historian, who could say true things about Jinnah and offend people. One of the most fascinating meetings was with F.E.Chaudhary, 98 year old first

photo journalist of Pakistan. Chaudhary worked with Faiz Ahmad Faiz, who took over as editor of 'Pakistan Times', in place vacated by 'The Tribune'. Earliest photographs of Pakistani leaders have been shot by F.E. Chaudhary, a Christian. He is the one, who shot the pictures of Central Jail Lahore, when it was being demolished in 1960's. He has kept that file of photographs, which includes the photographs of 'Phansighat', where Bhagat Singh, Sarabha and so many other freedom fighters were executed. I tried to capture these photos through my ordinary camera, but did not succeed. But I understand that Daljit Ami has shot these on his video camera, few days earlier. And what was the wish of Chaudhary, who is living with his son, Principal of a Christian school in Lahore, a most pleasant man to talk? He wanted to locate his friends of pre partition days, who had migrated to Delhi, mostly photographers. One name he mentioned is of C.L.Soni and co., another Shankar Dass and Co. There were three brothers of this family-Sunder Dass, Harish and Jagdish. One of them was in photography profession and others in some other. The man remembers so many stories of his early twenties, when all Hindu, Sikh, Muslim and Christian shopkeepers of Lahore lived in complete harmony and in deep friendship. The nostalgia of past lingers on in Lahore; this is getting even transferred to younger generations, who have only heard about the places from their elders. One Pathan family migrated from Ludhiana became very friendly with me. A waiter in hotel, while talking about his ancestors coming from Ludhiana, became so emotional that he brought bucket full of fruits and pastry, just to show his emotion. 'Aap Hamare Mehmaan Hain'(You are our guest), is so common refrain in Lahore that one starts feeling guilty that we never speak of being host and never take care of people coming from other side of border as much, as Lahoris do.

There are many more things, such as attending 'Friday Sangat' at Najam Hussain Sayeed' house at Jail road. Twenty plus Punjabi writers/scholars, including 4-5 women gather there every Friday evening, read Gurbani and the Najam interprets it. Later they have dinner together before dispersing. Najam is known in East Punjab as well for his enlightened writings. He is the one, who had refused to accept 'Shiromani Punjabi Sahitkar'(Videshi) award in 2004, when Pakistani Punjab chief minister Parvez Ilahi was present in Punjabi University Patiala, at the time of 'World Punjabi Conference. The refusal was just on principle and for no other reason. Najam's wife Sajda has sung Sufi songs beautifully. One can go on talking about Lahore endlessly, but I shall conclude with the story of an interesting coincidence.

Nawab Mohd Ahmad Khan was a prosecution witness (Sarkari gawah) against Bhagat Singh and his comrades in Lahore Conspiracy case. He rose to become an honorary magistrate in Pakistan. He was murdered at the same place in 1970's, where Bhagat Singh was executed i.e. Shadman Chowk. Further coincidence is that Zulifkar Ali Bhutto was trapped for the murder of this man by Zia ul Haq and hanged in Lahore jail in 1977. Now everyone in Pakistan say that Bhutto was framed in this case with US complicity. Also every Pakistani says that Zia ul Haq's eleven year rule was the blackest period of Pakistan history, worst than all other military rulers like Ayub Khan, Yahya Khan or Parvez Musharf. Zia regime completely smashed the secular, liberal and democratic fiber of Pakistani society and had thrown it into prolonged struggle to regain its democratic freedoms back. At this moment Pakistani society has awakened and is now struggling to overcome the most poisonous effects of Zia regime. Let us wish and hope that they succeed.

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## Upsurge of Democratic Movement in Pakistan Chaman Lal

Just look at this front page banner headline of 'Daily Times' from Lahore on 20th April 2007—'Civil Society rallies against extremism' with the sub heading 'Thousands march in blistering heat in Lahore. Protests also in Islamabad, Karachi and Peshawar'. Accompanying colour picture from Peshawar shows burqa clad women of a human rights group demonstrating against religious extremism. There are two cartoons also pasted in the picture showing the abject surrender of President Musharraf and Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz before Lal Masjid's extremist mullahs. Front page of the paper also carries a box item from Islamabad—'Extremism concerns minorities'. The news refers to All Pakistan Minorities Alliance (APMA) in condemnation of students of Jamia Hafsa and Lal Masjid administration to impose 'Talibanisation'. Page two of national news of the paper again carries banner headline—'Peaceful rallies against violent Mullahs' with the upper sub heading in red letters—'Mullahgardi band karo'. Apart from news there are two colour pictures, in one of which women are carrying banners like-'No to religious extremism Yes to life'. There are women in salwar-kameez without any burqa, many with bobbed hair at Islamabad. Karachi picture shows women and men together protesting. The other report from Peshawar says—'Women demonstrate against Islamabad clerics'. These were the days when issue of Chief Justice of Pakistani Supreme Court Iftikhar Mohamad Chaudhary's case, being referred to judicial council, was hotting up. Lot much news in the papers was presented, including on front page about Chief justice's issue as well.

I was in Lahore from 12<sup>th</sup> April to 20<sup>th</sup> April 2007. This was my first ever visit to Pakistan or to any foreign country, in connection with an international seminar on Dr. Ambedkar, which was held on 13<sup>th</sup> April. There was another international seminar on Dr. Ambedkar in Karachi as well on 14<sup>th</sup> April. In Lahore another seminar on Baisakhi on 13<sup>th</sup> April itself, in which large number of Sikh pilgrimage from India participated. In both these seminars in Lahore, Governor of west Punjab was present. I am referring to these events to show that Pakistani society is not exactly like, as being projected in Indian media. In fact during my stay and extensive meetings with different strata of people in Lahore and surrounding areas, I did not feel much difference in Pakistani society than Indian society. I watched Pakistani TV, listened to Pakistani radio and scanned Pakistani newspapers and I have no hesitation in saying that standard of Pakistani newspapers is much better than our newspapers, leaving aside the exception of 'The Hindu' or 'The Tribune' like papers. From media and from exchanges with people, this is my firm observation that there

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is a definite urge for democratic structuring of Pakistani society among people, particularly among urban intelligentsia.

In Lahore, I used to read 'Dawn', founded by Mohammad Ali Jinnah from Karachi, which now has editions from Lahore and Islamabad as well. Presumably 'Dawn' is the best daily published from Pakistan, keeping in view its news content and quality of views expressed through editorials/edit page articles and even through letters. This is the only daily of Pakistan, which devotes almost three quarter of a page to letters of readers, some of which are in the size of small articles. Presently edited by Abbas Nasir, 'Dawn' can be compared to 'The Hindu' of India. I wonder why these two papers have not entered into an exchange arrangement, as The Hindu has with The Guardian. Both the papers should give serious thought to this as both have serious concern in promoting democratic institutions in their respective countries and due to historical reasons, developments in both the countries deeply affect each other. Exchange of news and views among The Hindu and Dawn, particularly exchange of views, can certainly help in strengthening of democratic movements in both the countries and societies.

Another paper I keenly watched in Lahore was 'Daily Times', edited by Najam Sethi, who is well known in India for his democratic credentials. This paper can be compared to 'The Tribune' of Chandigarh, which itself was major paper of Lahore in pre-partition days. Probably Daily Times and The Tribune should also enter in exchange of news and views, as both are representative papers of both sides of Punjab. Particularly Punjabi readers of east and west Punjab and Delhi will be too happy to be enriched by this exchange of views.

Another major paper published from Lahore and other centers is 'The News', published from Lahore, Karachi, Islamabad and London. This paper can be compared to our The Asian Age. 'The Nation' is another English paper from the group of 'Jung' group of publications. One more paper 'The Post', which I could not scan in Lahore, but about which I was told as being a good paper. After my return, I scanned it on internet and found the observation true. I could not read Urdu, so I can't make any observation, but 'Jung', 'Ausaf' and many other Urdu papers are quite popular in Lahore. I was not able to check whether any Punjabi daily was published from Lahore. It should have been, as Pakistani side of Punjab, called west Punjab is three times bigger than Indian side of Punjab, called east Punjab. The total population of Pakistan is around 17 crores, out of which Punjab alone counts for nine crores, more than half of total population. After the split of Bangla Desh from Pakistan, it is now left with only four provinces-Punjab, Sindh, NWFP(North West Frontier Province) and Baluchistan. Sindh is the second largest province and its capital Karachi is number one city of Pakistan in terms of population. Lahore with population of nearly



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one crore, is second largest and Faislabad (Earlier name Lyallpur) is the third largest city of Pakistan. While Lahore is capital of pre-partition and post-partition Punjab, Faislabad has developed into an internationally renowned textile city of post partition Punjab. Lyallpur is the district, where Bhagat Singh was born in village Chak no. 105 Bange of Jadanawala tehsil.

Moving again to newspapers after this interlude. As all papers carry city supplements from where they are published, Lahore city supplement of 'Daily Time' of 20<sup>th</sup> April carries another banner headline—'Thumbs down on Talibanisation'. More than sixty percent of the page is devoted to this and related stories and it carries five color photographs of Lahore demonstrations alone, in which men including some very old, women including some very young girls, carrying banners like-' No to Taliban culture' are given prominence. Some box items read like-'We were n't in the rally but we reject Talibanisation', 'Students reject extremism with one voice'. Five short comments given in box item, include that of Prof. Salima Hashmi of 'Women's Action Forum'. Salima, artist/scholar daughter of poet Faiz Ahmed Faiz and Dean, Visual Arts faculty of Beaconhead University Lahore, says-' Providing rights to the people is necessary for peace and stability in the country. Conflicts can be resolved by limiting the involvements of 'hidden hands' in matters of national importance.' The editorial of the day advises Pakistan Government for 'learning from India and China'.

The same day (20<sup>th</sup> April) International 'The News' headline reads-' SC serves notices on president, SJC', which includes box item 'Nation will hear good news, says Bhagwandas'. On the right side color picture from Lahore is displayed with the caption-' Women Action Forum activists protest against rise in religious extremism in the country on Thursday'. Single column news from Lahore/Peshawar is given headline A 'Civil society group's protest extremism'. Ironically last full page of the paper carries photographs of Abhishek-Aishwarya marriage. In fact even the more respected 'Dawn' also made Abhishek-Aishwarya marriage as its first page colour story.

Some random headlines and photographs are being presented here from 'Dawn' of 13<sup>th</sup> April to 16<sup>th</sup> April 2007 to get the feel of Pakistani society in broad sense. On the second page (national) of 13<sup>th</sup> April Dawn, there are color pictures of Sikh devotees from India taking a dip at Gurdwara Punja Sahib in Hasan Abdal (near Taxila) and an elderly Sikh reciting Guru Granth Sahib. The same page carries another color photograph people from Khurram agency are protesting before Parliament in Islamabad against Talibanisation. Editorial page carries articles—'The essence of democracy' by Syed Sharifudin. 'Islamabad Diary' by Aiyaz Amir says-'your one 'no' has made you immortal'. This is appreciation of chief justice Iftikhar Mohammad Chaudhary of Pakistani Supreme Court, who had refused to submit to the

diktats of President Parvez Musharraf. At page twelve(national) there is a news item from Karachi 'Honor Killings show no sign of decline' This refers to murder of 1305 men, women and children during year 2006 in the name of 'karo-kari'(honor killing). This number includes 792 women and 34 underage girls. Largest number of honor killings takes place in Sindh(718 in 2006). Major cities of these tragic killings are- Karachi, Hyderabad (Sindh), Sukkur, Jacobabad, Lahore and Multan. A very touching serial on 'karo-kari' killings in Sindh was shown on Pakistani TV, few years ago. Metropolitan (Lahore) supplement of the day focuses 'Gateway to a life gone forever', regular feature on Lahore during 1947-2007. There is a new item about President Parvez Musharraf opening new block of Ganga Ram hospital in Lahore. Ganga Ram hospital is equally known in Delhi as well. In fact seminar on Dr. Ambedkar in Lahore was organized by Ganga Ram foundation.

14<sup>th</sup> April issue of Dawn carries front page story on chief justice related matters including 'Protest rallies in Islamabad'. On second page story from Karachi says 'Media men injured in clash with lawyers'. 'Journalists beaten by PPP MNA' (MP) from Karachi. On page four from Peshawar 'Solidarity with CJ expressed: Lawyers boycott court hearing'. In the 'Letters to the editor' page, there is an interesting letter from Tariq Mahmood of Peshawar 'Urdu and Hindi: different yet similar'. The writer has traced historic relation between two languages and informed the readers that University of Peshawar has proposed to introduce the study of Devnagri script in M.A. Urdu syllabus. Would the Hindutva hate agency like to open its eyes to such developments in Pakistan? The editorial page of this day carries Kuldip Nayyar's 'Letter from New Delhi', article by Tariq Fatmi's 'Iran's show of maturity', Irfan Hussain's 'Reaping what we sowed'. This is in reference to Mullahs role in attempting Talibanisation in context of Lal Masjid incident. The writer has criticized Musharraf by lacking 'the courage to take the bull by horns and tell the mullahs that while obviously Islam is the faith of the majority, Pakistan will be governed as democratic secular country.' Out of three editorial pieces, one is focused on 'Increasing disappearances', that is like our 'fake encounters'. On the letters page-Dr. Saeed Ahmed has written on 'Islam and Secularism'. On page twelve (national) there is news as well as photograph of 'Alliance for restoration of Democracy' in Karachi—'ARD rally vows-Struggle to continue till removal of Musharraf'. Photograph of huge rally is given side by. Other headline on the page includes 'Lawyers protest continues' and 'Attack on judiciary boomerangs' (both from Karachi).

Metropolitan page carries the item 'Lawyers rally on the Mall' along with color photograph of procession. The news of Dr. Ambedkar seminar in Lahore is given with photograph.( This writer had participated in this seminar) Second page of the

Edition carries the news of fourth Indo-Pak theatre festival-'Punj Pani flows back in the annals of history'. The festival started on 18<sup>th</sup> April and continued up to 23<sup>rd</sup>. The title of festival was 'Reinterpreting History'. Indian theatre groups from Amritsar, Chandigarh, Delhi, Bhopal and Kolkata along with Pakistani groups participated in the festival, which attracted good crowds. Famous Urdu writer Manto's daughters came to watch presentation based upon Manto stories. Madeeha Gauhar and her husband Shahid Nadeem from Ajoka theatre are holding this festival regularly in India and Pakistan. They plan to hold festival of plays based on Bhagat Singh during martyr's birth centenary in September '07 at Lahore.

Dawn of 15<sup>th</sup> April carries report of workshop at Peshawar-'Extremism a threat to nation-workshop told'. On edit page, editorial takes to task the authorities over 'Whither Madrassa reforms' and 'Harassing students on the campus'- a boy and girl were beaten at Punjab University Lahore campus by Islamia Jamaite Tulba, a variety of ABVP or Bajrang Dal moral police. Kunwar Idris in edit page article has criticized political parties for 'Surrendering to the Militants'. Even the headings of letters are overflowing with democratic aspirations- 'Confronting the sectarian Threat', 'Let us be rational' etc. On page twelve (national) news items from Karachi says-'Dr. Ambedkar remembered', the seminar in which Indian scholars also participated. Religious affairs minister of Sindh province-Kishanchand Parwani was the chief guest at seminar. Another headline says 'Talibanization antithesis of freedom'.

International news coverage of Dawn is very rich. Two full pages plus news on other pages are devoted to world news.

Metropolitan supplement carries the news 'Lahore bar condemns the torture of journalists'. Sunday edition of Dawn carries twelve page book review supplement in Blitz size, titled as '-Books and Authors'. There is review of 14 books in 15<sup>th</sup> April edition, along with three general articles on literature. Books received and 'In Brief', four books are introduced. Book reviews are focused on English and Urdu books. There is an advertisement from Sang-e-meel publications of Lahore, which has brought 18 publications on 1857 to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the event. These books are mostly British records of those days, including-'The Mutiny Records'(1856-57) by Edward H. Hilton, 'The History of Indian Mutiny' by John Kaye, ' Punjab and Delhi in 1857' by J. Cave Brown( This book has also been published in India by Punjab Language Deptt. Patiala(Punjab) )etc. Incidentally there is not much enthusiasm in Pakistan to celebrate 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 1857 freedom struggle. There was more enthusiasm during 1957, at hundredth anniversary of the event in Pakistan. In contrast, India is celebrating the event at big level- both at Governmental and non-governmental level. Though Tipu Sultan is much revered in

Pakistan as Sultan Tipu, not many functions seemed to have been held in 2006, at the two hundredth anniversary of his glorious struggle against British colonialism. Bahadur Shah Zafar is also held in esteem in Pakistan.

Reviews on books relating to Jinnah and Fidel Castro have also been carried in this issue. On the whole book review section of Dawn is quite good.

The issue of 15<sup>th</sup> April of Dawn also carries some advertisements like-'Are You Ready?' which says-' Are women ready to confine to their homes?' ' Are women ready to wear unislamic shuttlecock Burqa?' ' Are Female students ready to be deprived of their right to education?' This is call for rally against Islamic fundamentalism at Karachi on 15<sup>th</sup> April by MQM. Another interesting advertisement of 15<sup>th</sup> April is-'Divine Divas' on city Fm 89 on Sunday, which include mix of melodies by Lata Mangeshkar, Noorjahan, Asha , Runa Laila and Abida Parveen. All Pakistani Women's Association (APWA) has also given advertisement in support of Karachi rally by saying-'Islam is a religion of love and peace' 'A Mosque is a place for worship, Not a Garrison, whereas a Madrassa is a seat for learning, not a repository of arsenal'.

I wonder if any Indian paper had carried such strongly worded advertisement against Hindu fundamentalists like VHP, Bajrang Dal. It would have led to an attack on the paper, if any paper had carried it.

Dawn of 16<sup>th</sup> April is full of news of democratic movements. Lead story says-'15 SHC judges attend reception for CJ. In Hyderabad CJ is shown waving to lawyers in color photograph. On left side of the front page, a color photograph of huge rally is given and the news item says-'Massive rally against 'Lal Masjid Sharia'. On page nine more photographs and news are carried. In one color photograph, large number of women protestors are sitting, including Salma Agha, heroine of popular Hindi film 'Nikah', listening to speeches. The news item says=' Massive turn out at Muttehida rally'. An interesting part of this rally was that MQM chief Altaf Hussain addressed the rally from London on telephone for almost 45 minutes. This day's editorial page articles include-' Enough of Military Rule' by A.Z.K. Sherdil and ' Towards the dark alleys of Obscurantism' by Mohammad Ali Siddiqi. Both articles espouse democratic views. Metropolitan supplement carries a front page color photograph of 'Sikh pilgrimage performing rituals at Ranjeet Singh Samadhi' in Lahore. News item ' Peasant groups formed to hold demos' is on inside page, also the feature story ' Baba Munshi still going strong at 120'.

By illustrating the news of democratic movements from the Pakistani newspapers of one week, one does not overlook the fact that there are undemocratic and oppressive streaks as well in Pakistani society, as has been brought out by the news of 'karo-kari' killings etc. However the emphasis on projecting news of

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democratic movements is to underline the fact that Pakistani people are yearning for democratization of their nation and society. In fact a lot of democratization has already been achieved due to the pressure of democratic movements. There is military rule in Pakistan, yet neither media is muzzled nor are processions or political meetings banned. Even the election process at various levels has not been stopped. Pakistani society has evolved a system of assemblies from Tehsil to national level. Thus people elect district assemble, state assembly and national assembly. The elections to various unions etc are also not restricted. Pakistani universities have more active teachers associations than even ours. There is no Pakistani University deprived of teachers association as Punjabi University Patiala and BHU, a central university of Benars have been deprived of teachers association since many years now. Electronic media is full of coverage of political events and sometimes suffer the attacks from vested interests, as Indian media too suffers, like recent attack on Dinkaran office in Madurai in Tamilnadu.

Not only media, even the intelligentsia in general in Pakistan is expressing their views quite freely. My meetings with Punjabi writers, artists, historians and NGO activists like Najam hussain Syeed, Zubair Ahmed, Salima Hashmi, Dr. Naazish, Prof. Manzoor Ahmad, Prof. Aijajudin, Prof. Mubark Ali, Dr. Tehseen etc. made me realize that Pakistani intelligentsia is free in their expression as are their Indian counterparts. Though I could not contact, but I was told that there is strong presence of Atheists in Lahore, like the presence of many rationalist groups in our country. All these individuals and groups wish to strengthen democratic institutions in Pakistan. Women's participation in shaping Pakistani society is also spectacular. Despite the killing of a woman minister earlier, Nilofar Bakhtiars have not been silenced. Mukhtar Mai stood her ground as much as Bhanwari Devi in India. But Mukhtar Mai has created a niche in Pakistani society, whereas Bhanwari Devi has been forced into oblivion. Women move in the dresses they like-jeans or salwars with bobbed hair if they wish, with or without burqas. They work in offices, professional institutions, even in political parties.

There is very little anti Indian feeling in Lahore or surrounding areas, in fact people are rather more friendly and affectionate towards Indians. Sometimes they do not even charge them by saying-Aap hamare mehman hain(You are our guests). People share the memories of their ancestral places, left in India by their elders or Indians talk about the places left by their elders in Pakistan.

It is in the interests of both the countries and societies to understand each other better. Even if the reality of partition can not be overlooked, both nations have more in common and less in difference; from language to culture. And on both sides, people do realize it now. This is time

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for the leadership in both the countries to make the borders 'meaningless' in the words of Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, which are echoed by President Musharraf in other context. On both sides people wish to do away with visa regime and want to restore pre-1965 open exchange of people. I am sure hundreds of Lahoris will rush to Amritsar for their morning 'Lassi' and hundreds of Amritsaris will rush to Gwalmandi food joints in Lahore for their night non-vegetarian delicacies, if the borders are really 'meaningless'. The distance of Lahore to Amritsar being just about 30 kilometers or so. And would the Prime Minister not like to visit his birth place as frequently as he wishes?

Democratic institutions in both the countries would be strengthened by the free exchange of people and in the age of globalization and liberal economy, it is the businessmen on both sides to earn immense profits by the open borders. Even though the globalized liberal economy is bad for the poorer people all over the world, yet it may be welcome to a limited extent, in this region if it can bring the people of India, Pakistan and Bangla Desh closer to each other.

Chaman Lal

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Pollution in Holy City of Amritsar

Bakopal Dang

Pollution level in Amritsar must indeed be very high. May be Ludhiana beats it and tops the list. That however should not be any consolation. Let the Gurmukhi Nagar be the first to make serious efforts to reduce it to the maximum possible extent. Given the will on the part of the people and the Municipal Corporation, good results can be achieved. Cars, I think are the biggest factor.

Ludhiana has perhaps the largest number of cars in the country. In Punjab, Amritsar may be the second. However there are factors which will help it to be the first to take effective steps to reduce it.

o/c Cars are undoubtedly the biggest factor causing pollution. Let the government and the Municipal Corporation take steps needed to ensure substantial reduction. Below are being given some suggestions.

- 1) No family, at least a nuclear family should have more than one car.
- 2) No one below the age of 21 should drive a car
- 3) Students should go to the colleges and the University on cycles. It will not only save petrol, reduce pollution but will also be good for the health of the students. Cycling is a good exercise as is well known. It is good for males as well as females. India needs to follow China in this respect. In France, I

32  
~~For Article~~

~~Pollution in Hilly~~

understand drastic steps ~~are~~ have been taken to reduce the use of cars

4. I was happy to see a news in some papers that Local Bus Service is likely to be revived. In any case this needs to be done as soon as possible. Fresh elections to the Municipal Corporation are due. Let not these be delayed unduly. And let the major contestants pledge during the elections when they come that Local Bus Service would be revived at the earliest. It will also help students, employees and workers who have to go long ways to their educational institutions and work places.

The above suggestions and others in the same line will produce another positive result. Cycle industry in Amritsar will get revived and will provide employment to many.

Let the authorities and the power that be consider the case for cycle seriously and on priority basis.

Satyajit Dary

6/5/2007

Copies: 1. The Minister Local Govt of Punjab for information & n/a please.

2. The Commissioner, Municipal Corporation Amritsar for information & n/a pl.  
Satyajit Dary



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Satyajit Dary

SATYAPALDANE

In some countries, the word 'secular' is considered to mean a person who does not believe in God ~~it~~ i.e. an atheist. Although in India it was ~~never~~ <sup>as an</sup> used <sup>as an</sup> equivalent of "atheist", ~~but~~ ~~it~~ ~~was~~ meant only keeping apart religion and politics. It was meant to be used and has generally (invariably in fact) has been used against misuse of religion and politics. In India, any person who is non-communal and is opposed to communalism of every hue is considered to be a secular. That would neither imply nor ~~it~~ would be taken <sup>to</sup> mean that he/she is an atheist. In short there is no contradiction between secularism and theism.

It is well known that British imperialist rulers misused religion and to ~~is~~ divided ~~the~~ ~~Indian~~ ~~people~~ Indians on the basis of religion leading to even "communal riots" in the country, to weaken our struggle for freedom. All patriots and progressive forces in the country fought back this with the slogan of secularism.

Imperialism now ~~but~~ having reached the stage of multinationals has not given up its aim of dominating the whole world, and in a country like India for the sake of widest possible unity against attempts, we have to guard ~~the~~ secularism as the apple of our eyes without letting any one to confuse us by ~~as~~ <sup>equating it with</sup> saying ~~is~~ atheism. To the extent that Believers as well as non-believers must be secular to the core to be able to unite for common vital Economic

and political interests. Any confusion and lack of clarity can do harm to more or less extent. We give below an example, to illustrate this.

Congress is undoubtedly a secular party, though even many of its followers & even some of its leaders may not be fully secular. ~~It struck me~~ I give one experience of ~~me~~ mine to illustrate the point I am trying to make. Shri Amindar Singh, predecessor of the present Chief Minister Shri Parkash Singh Badal during his term from 2002-07 as Chief Minister began issuing big advertisements in connection with religious ~~for~~ functions. It struck me ~~that~~ once a question arose in my mind ~~that~~ about the correctness or otherwise ~~of~~ of a State Govt ~~issuing~~ functioning under a secular constitution should ~~issuing~~ <sup>issue</sup> such Ads. I did however, I thought that the matter was not so important. Sometime later, some persons desired to discuss this point with me and that the (then) Chief Minister was not treating all religions equally. My immediate reaction was to tell that "we should not worry about such matters when there are bigger issues like rising prices of atta, dal and other essential things including education, etc." However, <sup>much</sup> later it struck me that it may be good to probe the matter. ~~on~~

On 2/3/2007, I sought information under the Right to Information Act 2005 regarding



and Christmas message - Day Message.

Merit of every case <sup>maybe</sup> is unquestionable. But some ~~are~~  
persons could & even did <sup>opine</sup> suggest that Ads should have  
been issued <sup>also</sup> on the occasion of Karva Chauth,  
Dussehra ~~& Deepawali, etc.~~ etc. In fact, the list  
~~can be~~ Dussehra, Deepawali, Id-el Fitan, etc. In  
fact the list can be very long.

This writer is of the firm opinion that  
it is not and should not be the function of a  
Secular Govt to issue Religious Advertisements.

Money thus saved may be used to publish authoritative  
biographies of social reformers in cases in which  
such biographies are not already available in the  
market.

19/6/2007

Satyajit Dasg

Parwanaji

urgent ←

this is for NZ

Please contact me  
on phone & discuss

SPD

To:

The Editor  
Nawan Zama,  
Jalandhar:  
Shrimaji

On 14-3-2007, Nawan Zamana carried a news headed: Day after day media is becoming a commodity for sale - view of Seminar.

It was a very good piece and very timely. I give below some examples in support of this view:

1) The view expressed above was of a Seminar held in Punjab University. It was attended by many intellectuals. And ~~yet~~ However, it was not reported by the other dailies which I read. These are "Dainik Bhaskar" (A&R) (Hindi) and The Tribune (English). I am sure quite a few other papers too did not report. Incidentally, The Tribune is owned by a Trust & not an individual.

2) For years and years, there was a tradition that there would be no advertisements on the first page which was expected to carry ~~an important~~ ~~new national news~~ of interest to the ~~country~~ only important news. Now Ads come there on the first page of many papers. Reason is that the rates for ads on first page are much higher and hence ~~an~~ yield more income & that swells profits.

3) Many papers give lot of space to matters which should have no place on a news page e.g. photos of children with the heading "Happy Birthday" and

Pb Election claims.

1. N2. 11-2 20/7: (Subhita) "Dainak Bhashan" (Hindi-ASR) recently carried <sup>on</sup> one days

such news about 4 birth days and three marriage anniversaries. All photos in coloured. It is certain that there were ads but it was not so indicated.

4) Following three important news reports in the "Trade Union Record" (a fortnightly organ of All India Trade Union Congress) of 23-2-2007:

(a) Management's attacks! Continuous All India attacks! Continuous All India strike (Central Bank) from 22nd Febr.

(b) "2. lakh jute workers strike continues in West Bengal."

(c) "Strike in Indian Bank against IPO"

I don't think this news of vital interest for the country as a whole appeared in any of the daily newspapers of Pujale though - at least not in most dailies.

(e) There was a time when even English dailies would also carry news of workers, poor peasants and agricultural labourers (all almost all non-English speaking) because these were of importance for the national or state economy. Now a days for our English news papers (except rarely) these classes don't exist because they are not their customers & hence cannot contribute to their profits.



(d) These days any number of Ads. appear (~~clearly Ads~~) but but without any indication that they are ads. This seems to be deliberate and an intention seems to be ~~to exclude~~ ~~not to hide the source from the~~ such ads to exclude the income from such ads ~~to~~ from the income to be shown in income-tax returns, etc. . .

d) During the recent Assembly elections to the Pujale Assembly, any amount of publicity in the ~~to~~ ~~some~~ some candidates while some others (even of recognised political parties) were blacked out. Publicity was given to some candidates even in the form of life sketches & by it written by their wives. When some blacked out candidate or his representative would complain to a correspondent of some newspaper, reply as frank reply sometime was that "those who gave paid Ads would get publicity but those want publicity only for news as news — even though important — need not be paid any attention. — such are our instructions."   
A. S. K. S. K.

These examples are enough to show that the view of the ~~article~~ the seminar held ~~is~~ recently in the Pujale University is also quite correct. Need of the hour is that the Left and other progressive forces wage a stout & valentless struggle against this dangerous trend

( P.T.O )

Press Council of it should also take a  
notice of the matter and take appropriate  
steps, as demanded by the Chandigarh  
Seminar.

Putlighan, Arunima

Yours Sincerely  
Jasbir Singh

~~Chitkara~~

Jasbir Singh

JS

Cannade Paroduman Singh was one of the most outstanding ~~trade union~~ trade union leaders produced by Amritsar. He had joined the freedom struggle when he was <sup>a</sup> student. As a trade union activist and leader, he played a very significant role.

He played a leading role in building the Textile workers union (Reg'd) affiliated to the All India Trade Union Congress (A.I.T.U.C). The trade union movement at that time was split & divided. There was a rival / paralld union affiliated to the Indian National Trade Union Congress (I.N.T.U.C). Cannade Paroduman Singh firmly stood and worked for trade union unity. He believed that there should be one union in one industry. And he persistently worked for it. It was a hard and prolonged struggle. However it yielded fruit. Urge for ~~one~~ unity, one union in one industry, grew stronger as time passed. Workers learnt from bitter experience that disunity only helped the capitalists, their employers and exploiters. Cannade Paroduman Singh carried on a relentless campaign for one trade union in one (ie textile) ~~industry~~ industry.

At last the struggle was crowned with success. Led by Munilal Janotiwala, a sechar in the I.N.T.U.C union stood for unity, for <sup>one</sup> union in the Textile industry which required A.I.T.U.C & I.N.T.U.C unions merging. There were some who opposed it but gradually ~~but~~ <sup>and</sup> steadily they lost support and urge for one ~~one~~ union in the textile industry became

strong and irresistible. In this connection Comrade Parduman Singh played a key role while Munilal waged a successful struggle for formation of one union in the textile industry in the INTUC. After a bitter struggle Munilal Sanjivani succeeded in overcoming opposition and at least the two unions — one an affiliate of AITUC & the other of AITUC decided to merge. Result was the Textile Mazdoor Ekta Union (TMEU) (Regd). Comrade Parduman Singh was elected the General Secretary of the TMEU and he has held this position for a long time. Munilal Sanjivani was its President for many years — till his death if I mistake not. (Munilal Sanjivani was so called because for quite long he wore <sup>only</sup> langoti. It was after a number of years & after he had joined the CPI bidding farewell to the Congress that Comrade Munilal began wearing normal clothes. Incidentally Munilal Sanjivani remained unmarried all his life. At first he was living with his younger brother Murarilal in Haveli Shah Ananters <sup>of Chikharis</sup>, later he began living in Ekta Bhawan. Comrade Des Raj is the President of Ekta Union now while Comrade Amarjit Asal is ~~his Secy~~ the General Secy. Comrade Munilal passed away some years ago. He died in Ekta Bhawan. Comrade Munilal was a great admirer of Comrade Parduman though he was frank & when he differed he expressed his views frankly. Comrade Parduman Singh ~~as his~~ invariably gave due

wright to the opinions and views of Lalgobindra. In fact he respected the views of all his colleagues & comrades.

Comrade Parduman Singh was not a trade unionist of the usual type. He was a pioneer in the field of social security for workers, industrial workers in particular. In ~~the~~ relation to social security for industrial workers in particular, he was perhaps ~~top~~ one of the top most experts in India. He ~~wrote~~ made a deep study of social security schemes for workers all over the world and also wrote about half a dozen books. I do not think I will be wrong if I say, <sup>that</sup> trade union activists ~~on the field interested~~ interested in social security for workers all over India & not only in Amritsar & even Punjab will remember the great contribution made by Comrade Parduman Singh in this field. It needs to be mentioned that he was a member of Board of Trustees for Provident Fund for many years as a representative of the AITUC. It is well known that his remarkable contribution won him great respect not only <sup>from</sup> representatives of AITUC and HMS (Hind Mazdoor Sabha) but also of the representative of the Govt and even employers. ~~Such was Comrade Parduman Singh.~~

~~Babji Lal Dary (contd.)~~

Comrade Parduman Singh helped ever worker who found any difficulty in getting refund of

provident fund. However, perhaps his greatest contribution was in relation to the Pension Scheme. It was he who had conceived the idea of a pension scheme for the workers. His idea was accepted the Board of the scheme conceived by him was introduced. Thousands of workers must have benefitted from the scheme already. Comrade Pavduman Singh is often referred to as "Father of the Pension Scheme."

P. S. during the earlier period of his life as a trade unionist Comrade Pavduman Singh had to spend some jail having been arrested in some strike.

Satyopal Dang

16/12/2007

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In the death of Com Parduman Singh the Trade Union Movement of the C.P.T. have suffered an irreparable loss. He was one of the senior most founders of the I.K.A. Union Regd. He organized massive strike battles and was jailed several times facing brutal repression along with hundreds of other workers.

Com Parduman Singh is called the Father of Pension Scheme bringing relief to crossing workers. He was a pioneer in the work of social security and did tremendous work in studying social security in China & other countries. He wrote innumerable papers and articles in press files which is the history of a wilder working class.

He often sent us important material about the working women Res. cards in other countries and he sent out deepest condolences to his family. His work in I.K.A. Blawan Puthighar will remain a shining example of supreme self sacrifice for all patriotic people wedded to the cause of working class.

Vijaya Singh

# Articles

## BHARAT i.e OUR India.

(1) According to a recent survey daily income of 8.6 crore Indians is less than Rs. 20." ~~Gurudas~~

M.P. Gurudas Das Gupta in Lok Sabha

on 21-8-2007. [Hind Samachar 22-8-2007]

(2) "53 per cent students quit schools before 8th class."

[Article by J.R. Sharm in Ajit of 1-8-2007]

(3) "77 per cent people in India are poor." A survey.

(4) "only 12.7 per cent women in India earn cash incomes."

A survey

(5) As per latest survey of the Labour Ministry, the population of the country has <sup>reached</sup> the 110 crore mark out of which 84 crore families are still living below the poverty line."

Gurudas Das Gupta M.P. speaking at Jalandhar on 13.10.2007

(6) "Net Profit of RIL (Reliance Industries Ltd.) soars to Rs. 11,943 crores"

Tribune Page 17 (Business page)

(7) "Thirty Five of drugs sold in India are fake."

Heading of an article by S.K. Mittal in Trigant India 16-23/9/07

(8) unemployed in the country 250 to 300 millions (25 to 30 crores).

Yojna special. 23-29/9/07

(9) Annual addition to employment 35 to 40 millions i.e. 3½ to 4 crores (9 bid).

(10) Fifty per cent of Milk selling in Amritsar is not pure and is harmful (~~labelled?~~) (A survey)



11) "constituting half the population of India, more 8 per cent are present in Parliament."

Suman Krishan Kant, ~~first~~ President of the first ever exclusively women's political party.

(12) "Ambani brothers are world's richest" (A survey)

(13) ~~Ankhere is~~

India is the most developed out of developing capitalist countries. Below is a news about Great Britain - considered to be one of the most developed capitalist countries (though USA is No.1 in this category). Here is a news about Great Britain:

"To pay fees girl students of Cambridge are selling their bodies"

(Punjab Kesari - 12-10-2007 Page 15)

(compiled by Salyapal Dang)

19-10-2007

13. "Democracy, a government ~~by~~ of the people, by the people for the people!

"In India it is off the people, buy the people and for politicians."

A reader of "outlook" reported in its issue dated 15th October 2007.

SATYAPAL DANE

An interview with a Sarpanch, Mangal Singh

Replying to my questions, the Sarpanch said as under:—

" I was elected Sarpanch in June 2003 of Village Baserke Tehsil and district Amritsar. Prior that I was Sarpanch in the earlier (preceding) Panchayat.

" When Shri Badal <sup>was</sup> elected Chief Minister, people of our village had great hopes and expectations. Jats in particular had great hopes. They were jubilant and expressed their feelings through Bhangras. However, agricultural labourers (mostly scheduled castes) too welcomed very warmly his announcement of an Atta-dal scheme. According to his (original) ~~announcement~~ <sup>at</sup> declaration, atta would be supplied to ~~all~~ at the rate of Rs. 4 per kilo and dal at the rate of Rs. 20 per kilo. At that time, atta was being sold at the rate of Rs. 11 per kilo while dal was selling at the rate of Rs. 40 to 50 per kilo.

" People were naturally ~~were~~ happy. They looked forward to an early introduction of the scheme. ~~At date~~ <sup>later</sup> the Govt <sup>long</sup> and when a definite date was announced for the scheme ~~into force~~, ~~at~~ introduction of the scheme, there was great jubilation. Nothing however happened. Another date was announced. Again it was ~~not~~ <sup>not</sup> kept. ultimately the scheme promised from ~~31st~~ <sup>2007</sup> 31st March, was ~~not~~ actually introduced on 15th August, 2007.

" Actual working of the scheme has resulted in very great disappointment. Reasons are as under:

1) More than half of those who were entitled to be included in the scheme as ~~modified~~ <sup>modified</sup> had not been included. [ Originally the scheme was ~~to cover~~ <sup>for</sup> everyone but before it was enforced, its application had been restricted for ~~those~~ those below the poverty line ]

"Some criteria were laid to decide as to who were ~~not~~ below the poverty line. For instance anyone ~~having~~ having even one fan or having an iron gate, etc would not be ~~considered~~ entitled to get be treated as below the poverty line. It was also decided that only those having annual income of less than Rs. 30,000/- would be considered below poverty line.

"In actual practice, many in our village having less than this have not been included in the list of entitled beneficiaries while many ~~much~~ having much higher incomes are there in the list.

"Actual working of the scheme has resulted in great disillusionment. Majority of those who needed to be benefitted are not there in the lists while many well off persons obviously not entitled to be included in the lists are getting the benefit.

"People are much disappointed and many who were taken in by the promises are very bitter. Many are outspoken too. Badal's ~~has~~ prestige has gone down a great deal."

II <sup>66</sup> Ghaplobazi (cheating) which is there in relation to AHA-Dal ~~Shagan~~ Scheme is also there in relation to the Shagan Scheme. This scheme was first introduced by a Congress Govt, under this scheme <sup>parents of</sup> every scheduled caste girl (provided the ~~annual~~ annual income of the family is less than Rs. 20,000) gets from the Govt Rs. 15,000 on her marriage day. Originally the amount was 6100. Congress Govt led by Aminder Singh increased the amount to Rs. 15,000/-

"Income is to certified by Patwari and Kamungo. Generally, medi ones are not benefitted. They are told that you can get Rs. 100/- for a day's work

overlooking the fact that most don't get work throughout the year & even every month. They are told that if you were to get even Rs. 50/- a day, you would not be entitled. Result is that in actual practice many who are not entitled to be get the benefit of the scheme are getting it by ~~greasing~~ greasing the palms of corrupt officials while many who are entitled are shown the door. There is a good deal of bitterness about the actual working of the scheme.

\* III The main Link Road (San Sahib Road to G.T. Road Navrangpur Bypass) is so bad that less said the better. The road is used even by the latest type of huge containers. Their actual route is via Gholepal but they actually and illegally use Baserhe-Bhai Road to Chheharla Bypass. As the road is not adequately wide and is extremely in bad conditions, accidents are common. The road belongs to the Bar Mandi Board. It is so bad that even one can even walk on the road with great difficulty. Width of the road is very inadequate & that makes matters worse.

The village has no dispensary which is very essential.

One positive feature is that the village has a good water supply system.

Sahyopal Dang

New Age, Naypat,  
M. Sanghvi.

+ N.Z.

Will BJP-Akali combination draw any lesson from their Chharta experience in relation to Dussehra celebration:

Dussehra is one of the most important religious festivals of the Hindu Community in India, the big majority of ~~our~~ our country's population. Their joy from burning down of Ravana symbolizing evil is shared by people of all religious communities. This year in Chharta, however, Dussehra led to a dispute and misgivings. ~~This~~ Here is the background and also what actually happened.

Perhaps for nearly 4 or five decades, Dussehra in Chharta had been organized by the "Sri Krishna Mandir Committee". It needs to be said to the credit of the Mandir Committee that speaking generally it has been free from any internal bickerings. What is more important is that one has not heard of any allegations of mal-functioning, misappropriation, etc. and even of favouritism. This is as far as ~~my knowledge~~ my knowledge goes.

For the last 15 or perhaps more ~~years~~, Dussehra has been celebrated in Dana Mandi i.e. grain market.

~~Now~~ This year, however, matters took an ugly turn. BJP M.P. from Amritsar Navjot Sidhu and the defeated BJP candidate for being elected to Pujali Vidhan Sabha (Chharta) announced that they would organize the Dussehra in the Dana Mandi and no one else. <sup>word</sup> Reaction of the public <sup>has been</sup> was adverse. Sensing this, there was a change in tactics.

It was now announced that Dassehra would be organized ~~on~~ and observed by Akali-BJP combination and in the Dana Mandi. Implication was made explicit that no one else would be allowed to do that - i.e. to observe the festival in the Dana Mandi. This too was received with anger. However, the BJP-Akali combine had some even bigger plans. It was given out thru whispers that they would manage to capture the Sri Krishna Mandir Committee or set up a new Mandir Committee to capture control of Krishna Mandir itself.

They also brought into the Dana Mandi ~~statu~~ effigies of Ravana etc. to be burnt and would not allow effigies prepared by the Mandir Committee.

It was in this background that Deputy Commissioner and the SSP intervened. Deputy Commissioner is a young officer & enjoys good reputation. Maybe he does not have as yet much experience. BJP-Akali combine had managed to get his permission to observe Dassehra in Dana Mandi. I am not aware in what name or names permission was applied for or taken. Mandir Committee had earlier sent a communication to the DC about ~~the~~ their programme and request for security arrangements. Had the DC called an all-parties meeting and their views and assessment of the situation, he would have been in a better position to assess the real situation and take decisions in the light of that.

Be that it may, the Deputy Commissioner sensing the fact that public opinion did not appreciate

the conduct of the BJP-Ahali combine, and also the fact that during previous years perhaps there was no practice of prior permission of the D.C. to observe the Dussehra in the Dana Mandi - he along with the SSP intervened and brought about an agreement. It was agreed that 5 representatives of Mandir Committee & five of BJP-Ahali & alligees would <sup>eff. sig. of</sup> on the stage. It was further provided that ~~Ravna~~ <sup>Ram K. K. + Magh. Math</sup> ~~his colleagues~~ would be set on fire by the D.C.

The news of settlement, ~~was not~~ did bring some relief & hope. However, people remained doubtful. One reason was that some supporters of BJP-Ahali went on saying that "we got it ours and we can do what we like to." They would even dismiss the very valid argument: "Dussehra is a religious festival. Political parties should not take up the job observing it." This was indeed a very weighty argument. However, ~~the~~ belonging to the ruling parties and have one BJP M.P. with them, they were determined to have their way.

Net result was that apprehending ~~trouble~~ and not ruling out trouble, women & children were advised not to <sup>go to</sup> Dussehra functions. Crowd was MUCH smaller & most of them stood <sup>out</sup> side the Anaj Mandi.

~~FB~~ The BJP-Ahali combine did not <sup>let the</sup> Ravna's effigy prepared by Mandir Committee side ^ to be taken into the Dana Mandi ground. This matter was brought to the notice of this writer & he contacted <sup>on phone</sup> that the D.C. conveyed his opinion to him to this was not fair. ~~and had~~ promised that he would ~~take~~ <sup>take</sup> into the matter.

What actually happened at the spot was as follows: ~~The~~ Finding that was the compromise brought out by the D.C.

was not being honoured, the Mandir Committee side set fire to their "Ravana" just outside the ground on the main road itself & did not wait for the sun set. They told the people: "we want to avoid any showdown & fight." The other side (BJP-Akali combine) set their effigies of Ravana & others at the exact time.

My assessment of the net result of the event is as follows:

- (i) the number of people who came to Dussehra was VERY VERY much less. Women & children were conspicuously absent.
- (ii) BJP-Akali combine was seen as ~~trying to~~ wanting to increase their support. They had miscalculated & ~~so~~ in fact they ~~lost~~ ~~so~~ their conduct was widely disapproved. It showed that people at large do not like political parties trying to dissolve religious festivals only as an effort to increase their vote banks.

(iii) People were determined to maintain ~~peace~~ peace & in this respect they had successfully defeated the game of BJP.

Vinod Singh had accompanied me to the site.

People saw <sup>her</sup> ~~my~~ ~~own~~ vehicle & requested her to come out and then they took her to the ~~thick~~ <sup>thick</sup> of the an appropriate place from which they asked her to address them. She did appreciating that they had burnt the effigy of their Ravana (symbol of evil) before the other side and had been anxious that their peaceful atmosphere must be maintained. This too had been done.

All in all BJP-Akali combine lost. Someone said half jokingly half seriously: "they hand over their function to the DC. If they go on like this, time may come soon when Akali BJP alliance hands over power to the Governor." #

# Satyapal Dangi  
21-11-07 7-30 PM



Exclusive for  
The Tribune

57

Politicians and Players are chips of  
the same bloc.

Politicians should be in politics to serve the people. These days, however, they are there only to ~~maximise~~ make maximum money. Players should really <sup>be</sup> sportsmen but they ~~are~~ ~~only~~ ~~that~~ — especially the cricketers — are what they are only ~~to~~ with the same objective. One cannot be sure who of the two make ~~more~~ more money. perhaps those who are both.

o/c

5/7/2007

Satyapal Dang

V. G. Gupta Notes

was given to Tribune and also sent to Indian Express

Not Printed

20

Exclusive for the Tribune

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4-7-2007

SatyaPal Dang  
SatyaPal Dang

Articles

## Re Print Media

59

SATYAPAL DANE

Very big transformations have taken place in our print ~~media~~ media. (I have not used the word "radical" deliberately).

The number of daily newspapers has increased very much.

The English ones as well as the Hindi ones, and maybe others too.

Many of them have by now many editions — a separate edition for every big city. Quality wise, it has led to a change for the

worse. Except for the most important ~~and~~ national and state-level news, rest of the entire space is occupied by

local news of local and even of only locality interest. This by itself is a negative factor because it is negative factor

from the viewpoint of developing national i.e. Indian consciousness not to speak of international consciousness i.e. consciousness

about humanity as a whole having common interests.

Our newspapers are an industry — privately owned though a paper here & there may be having a Board of Trustees. Profit is the motive force of capitalism. And we have a capitalist

society. Main source of profits for newspapers are advertisements and maximum ads come from Big & to some extent middle-level business houses. It is rightly believed and said that ~~these~~

for the income is generally so much that the owners can afford to distribute their newspapers free of charge. Obviously they will never do that. Nor is that all. They will never refuse more Ads. Many

years ago, some one filed a writ in the Supreme Court praying that space for advertisements should be fixed by law. It was dismissed. Honble judges of the Apex Court must have thought that they were ~~defen~~ protecting freedom of press. My opinion is.

opinion of a ground level activist was that what had been protected was the right of the ~~barons~~ print media barons to make maximum possible profits.

Just to make maximum profits has gone to the extent that obscenity has been increasing to a dangerous extent. Low priced dailies ~~are sold~~ having many editions are purchased by a very large number of households — partly for reasons of status and partly for reasons of obscene picture contained in it. It cannot but be obvious to one ~~at~~ and all that it ~~must be~~ cannot but be very dangerous for our social and civil society but no one seems to have the will to act to put an end it. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh too declared that a law against obscenity would be enacted. Vested interests, however, have proved their strength. Now the Prime Minister does not even talk about it. [It must be noted that to the best of my knowledge and belief that the Communist controlled media has been free from ~~its~~ the disease. ~~But~~ on the other hand, the few non left top daily papers who have been avoiding obscenity altogether are now beginning to have in their ads. I don't ~~know~~ say that there is no exception now. But they, as they say, exceptions prove the rules.]

Diseases from which our print media suffer are many more. Here are a few:

1. There are many proof reading and even language mistakes. This is very much true of English newspapers (except perhaps the Hindu which perhaps is the best daily

English daily in India (I wish it had a secular name). The Tribune is also a good paper in some respects. For instance, its printing is very good and it is very easy to read. I began reading it when I was a ~~at~~ Matriculation student. My father had told me that it would help me to learn good English. I would not say that of it myself though I still read it as a matter of addiction and because it is ~~easy to easier~~ easier to read when one has some problems with his eyes.

2. Another common defect of most newspapers is that their news are needlessly lengthy. Many of them could be easily summarised with missing any idea. Many a news also express and contains which is wrong. That is not the job, duty or right of correspondents and sub editors. but it is, in my opinion, the exclusive right of the Editor or the person who acts as the Editorial writer. [Some Editors write more ~~at~~ Articles ~~and~~ than Editorials which are often or sometime written by nameless persons.]

3) There is a growing tendency to use English words by many non-English news papers e. e. Hindi dailies. I know that borrowing some ~~words~~ words from English is necessary and correct e. g. technical and ~~scant~~ science connected words. There are words like "School", "Rail (train)" and many others. The process is not entirely one way. Even English borrows and adopts non-English language words e. g. "Sari" which. Such adoption of words as is necessitated by exchanges of life styles, etc etc and by the fact that one country is more advanced than some others. I also believe that maybe sometime — but maybe after some centuries, we will have.

an international language. Any attempt to hasten this process and/or to use English words when there are good words in ~~our own~~ our own language say Punjabi or Hindi or when easily understandable words can be ~~bor-~~ borrowed from a sister language e.g. Urdu, it is harmful for the development of ~~our own~~ our own language & our national culture. I could give any number of instances. However, I will give a few only from the one or two pages of "Samak Bhasmer" (Hindi) (Amritsar edition).

"वी आर प्रा 33 ऑफ सुनीता विलियम्स", "इंट्राना (Entrana) की रिजल्ट (result) डिक्लेर (declare-ed)" व "एल आर आई मीटा की टा खले प्र, इ-नवजोति सेकंड बूक थर्ड". All these are page 1. There ~~are~~ are more worse examples on other issues. It is not necessary to give more examples.

Once I raised the issue with the Editor of the most leading Hindi daily & published from Jalandhar and also Delhi. I could not convince him of my own view that it is not good for our language and culture. I, of course, remained of the view that the attitude of the media ~~has~~ was the usual capitalist one: "our goods sell" & so why worry (whatever the reasons for which ~~it~~ may their customers may be buying their goods.)

I do not know whether the Press Council of India has the powers to go into such matters as mentioned above. If it has, it should appoint a ~~submit~~ sub-committee to study all such aspects as have been raised above and make suitable recommendations. These should be studied by the P.C.I. which should make recommendations to the Govt of India and our Parliament." In any case, P.C.I. should be empowered by our Parliament.

Satyapal Dang 24<sup>6</sup>/<sub>07</sub>

Re one  
Article

62

Satyapal Dang

Ex-MLA (Pb)

Vimla Dang

Ex-MLA (Pb)

Tel. : 0183-2258631 (O)

0183-2258023 (R)

EKTA BHAWAN,

G. T. Road,

Chheharta (Amritsar).

Pin-143105

Dated...7/7/2007.

Dear Comrade Bardhanji,

I sent you article sometime ago (not long ago) & sent to Comrade Faizi. In that article I had ~~named~~ mentioned your name which was very wrong on my part to do that. The Article was <sup>about</sup> mehra and was for publication in New Age.. I did not ~~not~~ send sent to you because I did not want to bother you.

I make mistakes of this time sometime and realise it some what late. I am sorry that I have made this mistake. Please ask Faizi Sahib to delete

o/c your note (ie. to do editing in this respect.) of course, Editor has the right to edit otherwise also. And I had to written to the Editor New Age, to the best of my memory.

You may kindly speak to him and convey my regrets also.

With this change, I hope the article will appear in New Age.

Kindly get this request of mine conveyed to the Comrade Editor Mr. Sanjay Singh, also.

Comrade A. B. Bardhan,  
General Secretary  
Communist Party of India,  
Ajay Bhawan,  
15 Kotla Mang,

New Delhi 110002

With fraternal regards,

Yours Sincerely,

Satyapal Dang

News and Views:

1. "Same Sex couple splits" is the title of news item in the Tribune (ASR) of 6-7-07.

Gain of the opinion that same sex marriages MUST be made illegal. They are not natural nor are they good for society. Social organisations and at least the Left in the country and particularly women organisations should also take a stand regarding this problem. And they should go to print media and also electronic media on this issue.

2. "Shagan Scheme extended to BCs, Muslims" is the heading of a news item in The Tribune (ASR) of 6-7-2007.

This is a complicated matter. What is needed most in our state and maybe in whole of India is that the happy occasion of ~~married~~ marriage needs to be celebrated. However, state should not encourage + even help unnecessary expenditure on marriages and ceremonies like Shagan that precede or take place at the time of engagement. +

Many parents with marriageable daughters are not in favour of extravagance at marriages and at ceremonies which precede marriage.

Shagan Scheme was first introduced by P.S. Badal and now it is going to be extended to BCs and Muslims — by Badal Sahib. And that is an opinion of the very idea needs to be reviewed. It is a populist



and vote-catching measure. It may fetch his party some more votes but it may also be cost some votes.

Even apart from the what I have said above, there is the question as to why the scheme is being extended to ALL Muslims and ALL BCs. Among both these categories there are rich people — creamy layers as some would call say.

And why on earth the condition of submitting an affidavit should be done away with? Affidavits are to some extent at least make people to not to make even blatantly false declarations. What is needed is to make affidavits simpler and less costly. More over, attesting authorities need not be only Magistrates and oth oath commissioners. They should include Sarpanches, Lambardars, Municipal Commissioners, etc etc.

3. <sup>66</sup>Big 3 keep off 20-20<sup>91</sup> is the heading of a news in the Tribune of 8/7/2007

This is the heading of a news item ~~in the~~ relating to Cricket.

Sometime back, India lost heavily in a Test match. Prestige of Cricket <sup>was</sup> down because the main ailments from which ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> Cricket has been suffering got exposed. However, even now a question Corruption in Indian cricket was not seriously taken — neither <sup>by</sup> Cricketers, nor by politicians and not even by <sup>the</sup> state. Chairman of the Cricket Board remains a politician. It is a pity that neither cricketers nor politicians, have drawn any lessons. And

what is worse is the fact that Cricket is once again on the front pages of the print media.

It is strange that neither football nor hockey finds their place in the print media. (I am not saying anything about the electronic media. I was never very fond of TV and may not have seen any programme of it during the last 2 years or more.) Coming back to Hockey or Football, let it be recalled that once upon a time, Hockey was the most popular national game of India. And who can forget that <sup>our</sup> Dhian Chand ~~was~~ was known all over the world. Football is more popular than ~~to~~ hockey in India. But Football too does not ~~find~~ find any place in the media - print as well as electronic, as I have been told by some friends.

My personal opinion is that sports-news should appear on Sports-pages only except rarely.

4. "Woman molested, paraded naked" is the ~~best~~ headline of a news in Tribune of 8/7/2007

This happened in some village of Taran Taran district. Victim is a mother of 3 sons. She had tried to come to the help of her son who she found <sup>him</sup> being beaten up by the ~~police~~ ~~police~~ some armed persons. After this, she was taken to the village chowk where they tore her clothes, molested her and then paraded her naked on the village streets for more than 15 minutes.

Parading of a woman naked has been taking place off & on. It is a most heinous crime and an affront to the woman. Law relevant to it must be amended and very severe ~~and~~ ~~other~~ punishment as MINIMUM punishment must be provide.

~~5. NRT's fuel business of used cars  
in Malwa (region of Punjab)~~

5. "Panchayats to be rewarded for  
curbing untouchability" is the heading of a news-  
item in The Tribune dated 8/7/2007.

This DECISION of the Haryana Government deserves  
to be hailed by all patriots. ~~And this needs  
to be done by every patriot~~ And what Haryana  
Govt has decided to do, ~~it~~ should be done  
by all other states in India. Of course every  
state Govt should keep in view concrete  
situation in the state.

11 / 7 / 2007

Satyapal Dang

//

## SATYAPAL DANE.

There is a well known saying: "Justice delayed is justice denied". ~~It~~ It is much more true in the case of workers when they are denied justice by their powerful employers, it is so but workers are a weaker party, obviously. The Government and its Labour Department are expected to help the weaker party to get just. Unfortunately it does not happen. Here is an instance of what generally happens when there is no powerful trade union of industrial workers, as is unfortunately is the case as present even though Amiteer was once upon a time a very powerful trade union centre in India.

O.C.M. Mills which manufactures woollen cloth & blankets is situated in Amiteer. While industry has now not so much there as it used to be before, even with much reduced work force, the Mill is still there.

About 6 years ago, two old workers Sharam Singh and Ajit Roy, ~~and~~ who had been trade union activists, were chargesheeted for some alleged misconduct. An Advocate was appointed as Enquiry officer. This Advocate, presumably was paid fee for the enquiry. There was a common enquiry on the basis of a common chargesheet against the two. (The O.C.M. was then owned by Birlas to whom it had been sold. Birlas, in turn, sold it to ~~an~~ a Multinational Corporation, an American I understand.) Both the workers were dismissed, & Sharam Singh was an active trade unionist though I cannot recall the name of Ajit Roy. Both of them were dismissed about 6 years ago.

The dispute was taken to the Labour Court, Amiteer for adjudication.

(One Shri Bajaj)

The enquiry had been held by an Advocate who had

been engaged by the management.

The dispute was taken to the Labour Court, Amritsar. Shri. Ashok Kumar is said to fix hearings with gaps of 2 to 3 months. May be because it is ~~to~~ there are too many cases pending before. To me it seems, that he may not be ~~to~~ urge be believing that justice delayed is ~~of~~ justice denied, which often is the case. If not always.

Sharam Singh has been a member of the AITUC since long i.e. of the AITUC affiliated T.M.E.U. (Regd.).

The OCM Mills ~~for~~ generally follows a policy of not reinstating any dismissed worker, ~~however~~ but ~~and~~ ~~but~~ would try to settle ~~to~~ by making some settlement money, if ~~prolong~~ ~~long~~ litigation gets too prolonged ~~and~~ ~~it~~ and when the worker is tired out and is prepared to settle. Stamina, of course, differs from worker to workers.

Many years ago, OCM workers had waged glorious struggles & even forced the brass bosses to settle. Objective including market conditions and the fact that ~~industry~~ most of the industry of Amritsar is no more ~~of~~ with that the strength of the trade union movement has decreased considerably.

Trade Unions have to find out ways & means of how to get ~~us~~ justice for the workers. AITUC in ASR, I believe, is doing all it can in this respect.

13-5-2007

Satyapal Dary

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Advocate Sarani (Management Report out there)

case of Shri Sharam Singh,

& of Ajit Roy

Vikas Nagan  
9.3.561648  
→ 25  
CM Mobile No.

separate  
mes

of  
CM

Both dismissed — about 6 years ago.

Joint charge sheet: Enquiry common.

Had refused to do increased work had

Dismissed: when Mill owned by Birla:

Dispute referred to Labour Court about 5 years & some months with Labour Court, ASR

Judge: Shri Ashok Kumar. (P.T.O.)

वेब-साइट पर - विवरण दिया गया है



Walia appears before Court

held the L. Court:

عند السيد القاضي - و قد كان في المحكمة - و هو في  
" - في المحكمة و هو في

Gandotra also appears

Departmental enquiry  
had been held by  
a law year.

Court

He came once for witness  
Had not come ever after  
Judge just gives dates

Gap between 2<sup>nd</sup> dates  
2 1/2 or 3 months

Bajaj

Asad mu " should settle "

File

SATYAPAL DANGDANG

Politics and ~~Religion~~ Religion

A visitor who came to see me, began discussing politics. He asked me: "Who is responsible for the present turmoil in the holy city (Amritsar), Sacha Sauda wala or the Akalis? My reply was: "both". My friend was not willing me to be evasive, & he told me so. He asked: "Who is more to blame?" I asked a counter question: "Tell me whether egg came first or the hen? ~~from~~

His new question was whether the chief Minister Badal was also to blame. I said, "Undoubtedly, he is. Many years ago, perhaps in seventies, Badal had faced a similar situation. There was an <sup>edict</sup> of Akal Takht, it would have ~~cost~~ <sup>cost</sup> Badal heavily, had he implemented it. He responded: "As a Sikh I am bound to obey every edict of the Akal Takht but as a chief Minister I have to do what my duty is in that capacity. I must add that Badal Sahib ~~did~~ act as he said and he is on overwhelming support of Hindus as well as Sikhs.

Akal Takht, no doubt, is the highest and supreme <sup>sikh religious</sup> authority. There would be nothing wrong if that were so only in matters strictly religious. However, Akal Takht Jathedars ~~do~~ issue edicts (hukamam) also on matters nothing to do with religion but also <sup>regarding</sup> many other types of matters including ~~religi~~ politics. Even Guru Gobind Singh's is quoted in support of this. The Youth Guru had said: "Without religion you ~~can~~ <sup>cannot</sup> rule (or some such words). But what is forgotten <sup>is</sup> the background and the context in which it was said. Guru Gobind Singh was then waging a fight against the oppressors <sup>and</sup> ~~the~~ oppressor Mughal Emperors of India (including Akbar). But

it is wrong to quote him to justify mixing of religion and politics in a multi religious society with a government which has to act in accordance with a Secular Constitution i.e. which permits ~~belonging to religion of one's choice~~ every citizen to choose his religion but under which the state itself has no religion. Indian Constitution is a good constitution though not a perfect one and has class bias also - in favour of the exploiting classes. However, its strong points are democracy and secularism and these must be defended and strengthened at all costs. Right to profess any religion and worship according to that is also a basic feature of our constitution which even Parliament does not have the right to amend.

My friend intervened: "What about atheists like yourself?" I laughed and said: "Right to profess any religion obviously includes right to be an atheist. ~~Some religions~~ ~~do not say~~. Here it must be pointed out that religion has a positive aspect as well as a negative one. When asked for what the positive aspect was, I pointed out every religion teaches good preaches good moral values which are essential for a civilized society.

Both my friend and myself had some other appointments. So my friend said: "only one more question today i.e. 'Can a non-believer be a good and upright politician?' My reply was very long but it convinced my friend. I said: "I know you would ~~know~~ ~~you would~~ name Mahatma Gandhi as a fine, principled <sup>and</sup> upright politician. I agree but as non-believer and philosopher politicians or politicians, I would name: Karl Marx and Jawahar Lal Nehru. With this our discussion ended, at least for the time being.

22/5/2007  
Satyapal Singh

Politics and ~~Religion~~ Religion

A visitor who came to see me, began discussing politics. He asked me: "Who is responsible for the present turmoil in the holy city (Amritsar), Sacha Sauda wala or the Akalis? My reply was: "both". My friend was not willing me to be evasive, & he told me so. He asked: "Who is more to blame?" I asked a counter question: "Tell me whether egg came first or the hen!"

His new question was whether the chief Minister Badal was also to blame. I said, "Undoubtedly, he is. Many years ago, perhaps in seventies, Badal had faced a similar situation. There was an edict of Akal Takht. It would have ~~cost~~ <sup>cost</sup> Badal heavily, had he implemented it. He responded: "As a Sikh I am bound to obey every edict of the Akal Takht but as a chief Minister I have to do what my duty is in that capacity. I must add that Badal Sahib ~~did~~ act as he said and he won overwhelming support of Hindus as well as Sikhs."

Akal Takht, no doubt, is the highest and supreme Sikh religious authority. There would be nothing wrong if that were so only in matters strictly religious. However, Akal Takht Jathedars ~~has~~ issue edicts (hukamamas) also on matters nothing to do with religion but also <sup>regarding</sup> many other types of matters including ~~religi~~ politics. Even Guru Gobind Singh is quoted in support of this. The tenth Guru had said: "Without religion you ~~can~~ <sup>cannot</sup> rule" (or some such words). But what is forgotten <sup>is</sup> the background and the context in which it was said. Guru Gobind Singh was then waging a fight against the oppression of an ~~unlike~~ oppressor Mughal Emperor of India (unlike Akbar). But

it is wrong to quote him to justify mixing of religion and politics in a multi religious ~~society~~ ~~with a government which has to~~ ~~act in accordance with a Secular Constitution i.e. which~~ ~~permits belonging to religion of one's choice every citizen~~ ~~to choose his religion but under which the state itself~~ ~~has no religion.~~ Indian Constitution is a good constitution though not a perfect one and has class bias also - in favour of the exploiting classes. However, its strong points are democracy and secularism and these must be defended and strengthened at all costs. Right to profess any religion and worship according to that is there also a basic feature of our constitution which even Parliament does not have the right to amend.

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Both my friend & myself had some other appointments. So my friend said: "only one more question today i.e. 'Can a non-believer be a good and upright politician?' My reply was very long but it convinced my friend. I said: "I know you would ~~know~~ ~~&~~ ~~you~~ ~~would~~ name Mahatma Gandhi as a fine, principled <sup>and</sup> upright politician. I agree but as non-believer good philosopher politicians or politicians, I would name: Karl Marx and Jawahar Lal Nehru. With this our discussion ended, at least for the time being.

22/5/2007  
Satyabai Dange

Ekta Bhawan  
Chheharta

(Amritsar)

143105

7-4-2007

Dear Panwariji,

Kindly see if you  
can make a news report  
about it for N2 & get  
it printed.

I have been ~~wait~~ after  
this matter since long And  
in my opinion the issue involved  
is important. So kindly  
do the needful

Hope your eye operation has  
been fully successful and that  
your eye (operated upon) is now  
back to "normal" fully

With Best wishes SPT

Copy for favour of Publication (Tribune)

SATYAPAL DANG  
Ex-MLA,  
26th Bhawan  
Chheharla (ASR)  
143105.

Date: 4-4-2017

Subject: Amrit-S gate in Chheharla (ASR) under  
Construction - Request for Restriction of Original Name

Respected Badal Sahib,

The above ~~gate~~ gate was originally conceived in 1972<sup>or so</sup> when you were the Chief Minister. It was to be not ASR Gate but 'Gateway to India'. Its ~~own~~ foundation stone was laid by you. I was present at the function.

For whatever reasons, when Shri Beant Singh was the Chief Minister, it was announced that the CM would lay the foundation stone of a Foundation Stone to that effect was also ~~informed~~ laid. Shri Beant was informed of its previous history & it was also suggested to him that two foundations side by side would not create a good impression. He acted very ~~wisely~~ wisely and dropped his programme to come to Chheharla to unveil the stone in his name. Once again the matter ended there.

Some of us continued to press the Punjab Govt (from time to time) to complete the construction as it was to be a symbol of restoration of friendly relations between India & Pakistan ~~after~~ at least ~~in~~ and with some international significance.

Another Foundation-stone laying ceremony was ~~held~~ on the initiative of the Shri Sainil performed

Dutti, the present Mayor of the M.C. Amritsar. Foundational Foundation stone was laid by a Minister of the Govt preceding your ~~govt~~ present Govt. Another Minister of the Mayor were also present.

It was this Foundation stone which ~~exp.~~ made public the fact that the name of the Gate had been been changed to A.S.R. Gate to Sans Gateway of India (The fact facts are correct to the best of my memory - though I don't rule out the possibility of some minor error.)

I protested against the change in the basic ~~idea~~ idea behind the Gate. This was high lighted by leading papers including the Tribune.

Construction of the Gate was resumed ~~as~~ soon after that and has been going on. At was <sup>at</sup> the stage of third Foundational stone that the name of the Gate was changed ~~to~~ and the real idea being was killed.

Just now, I am not in a position to say ~~that~~ whether or not massive amount of money used already spent has been used properly. Maybe Yes. Maybe No.

Purpose of my writing this letter is request you to examine ~~it~~ as to why the name was changed and to restore the original name - (Gateway to India) This has an much bigger significance than "Amritsar Gate"

Kindly get the matter examined on a priority basis (Construction is likely to be completed in 2/4 months)

With Kind regards,

Yours Sincerely

Satyapal Singh

P.S. old Foundational stones are no longer there and ~~have~~ having been removed.

S.P.D.



Parkwaraji

Two articles being sent

Fr Nazam Zaman

Phare translate  
v send

SATYAPAL DANG

81

Please  
Have

In India, we have the "First Past The POLL" Electoral System. It means that in any constituency, there may be any number of candidates but one who gets the highest number of votes gets elected. In one election to Punjab Assembly, I remember, a candidate who forfeited his deposit, nevertheless got elected an MLA. Understand this system, not <sup>un</sup>often <sup>some</sup> parties manoeuvre to put up besides some their official and serious candidates, so-called independent candidates who are likely to take away some chunks of really serious rival candidates, on caste, religion, sex etc basis. On the whole this system works in such a way, that a party getting only 33 percent (or even less) can get majority of seats in the Vidhan Sabha. I clearly remember that this once happened in Punjab.

Let us now ~~some~~ have a look at the results this time. Total number of Congress <sup>votes</sup> was 71,70,544.

Total now number of Akali-BJP front was 56,35,469 (45,89,018 + 10,46,451). In other words, though the Congress <sup>got</sup> a much higher number of votes, it did not get majority of seats. On the other hand, the Akali-BJP front ~~was~~ won majority of Assembly seats though, it had received considerably less number of votes than the Congress: Akali-BJP front ~~for~~ front came to power while Congress had to sit in opposition despite having received considerably higher number of votes. Obviously this is not very democratic.

We followed our erstwhile rulers ~~at~~ from Great Britain. Some other countries like France have what is called proportional representation.

Under this system more or less a parties get seat in proportions to the votes they get. Obviously this is more democratic. Under this system parties gets seats in the legislative ~~to~~ legislature in the same proportion as of its votes out of the total polled. Under this system this is obviously more democratic.

Under the proportional system, more so, because ~~it~~ under the proportional system of representation, even smaller parties get votes though only in ~~pro~~ the same ~~proportional~~ proportion as that of their votes to the total number of votes.

During the recently held elections to the Prigali Vidhan Sabha, CPI, CPI(M) and Lok Bhalai Party had formed a front, to fight together, ~~to supporting each other.~~ ~~During the election~~ they ~~made agreement~~ had agreed to support each other candidates. C.P.I won 3.33 per cent of the votes, polled, CPI(M) 2.26 and Lok Bhalai Party 4.5. They would <sup>have</sup> got ~~at~~ 3+2+5 seats under the proportional system of representation. Elections having been held under the "First Past-The-Poll" system, neither the CPI nor the CPI(M) nor the LBP won any seats.

From the above, it becomes absolutely clear that their front would have won 10 seats - out of 117.

Fabring out

Congress getting 40.90 per cent of votes would have got 41 seats, Akali Party getting 37.09 per cent of votes would have got 37 seats, BJP with 5728.28 per cent of votes would have got 8 seats, and BSP with

4.13 of the votes would have got 4 seats, CPI would have got one and Akali Dal (Mann) would have <sup>also</sup> got one on this basis. Independent candidates would have got seven seats, ~~and~~ their vote percentage being 6.82. Total (of course, total does not come to 117. This is because exact estimate is not possible, as less than 1 per cent votes had been taken to be zero ~~and~~ while about 0.5 per cent has been taken as one). ~~one thing~~

What is clear, however ~~is~~ are two things. In 2007, if elections to Punjab Vidhan Sabha had taken place ~~or~~ under the "Proportional representation system", not ~~the~~ <sup>an</sup> Akali-BJP Govt but ~~the~~ a Congress Govt would have been the result. In any case, what is undisputable ~~is~~ are two facts: (1) Proportional representation system is MORE DEMOCRATIC. (2) The ~~+~~ electoral system that we have give undue advantage to the bigger parties while the smaller parties are the losers. And ~~as~~ and as we have already happened, it ~~has~~ ~~happ~~ can happen & has happened that the state is ruled by representatives of a minority of votes.

Main argument given in favour of the First-Past-The-Post System that it is more conducive to the formation of stable government than the Proportional Representation System. Argument is fallacious & has no weight. During the one system formations of ~~fronts~~ united fronts generally take place before the elections while under the other these can & do take place after the elections.

For a very long period, ~~the~~ Communists in

4.

the country have been demanding that in India too we should have proportional representation system. It is known as to why this demand has not been given up virtually though not formally. It is our opinion that both the parties CPI and CPI(M) need to ~~re-~~ debate this matter.

Another aspect of democ. democratic systems system(s) of forming governments needs to be pointed. ~~There are two types of it is that~~ there are two systems: one, Parliamentary form of democracy as we have in India (& Great Britain) and ~~the other~~ the Presidential form of democracy as we have in the United States of America (U.S.A.). We will discuss the merits and / or demerits of the two <sup>in</sup> some other article sometime.

(Note: It is as clear as day light ~~that~~ the white Left in Punjab ~~is~~ has not won even a single seat this time, it has also got much ~~less~~ less votes than in 2012. There has been a clear decline in the mass support of the Left. It is high time that the CPI as well as CPI(M) ~~seriously~~ ~~do discuss &~~ discuss the reasons and debate reasons for the same and draw proper ~~or~~ conclusions. This is necessary not only in the interests of the Left but also of Punjab and even the whole of India and of all the toiling people of our country.)

Satyajit Dary  
25/3/2007

5/9/07  
12/2007

Draft

SATYAPAL DANG

There is no doubt that very widespread and staining corruption ~~in~~ India is doing great harm to our people & our economy. Instead of a ruthless war being waged against it, will to fight it does not seem to be there. There is corruption in every wing of our administration.

If one concedes that corruption in Judiciary is less than in the Executive and the Legislative wings of our administration. I am also one of those few ~~persons~~ who hold the view that our politicians at the top most level are and not the ~~bureaucrats~~ top bureaucrats have to bear the main responsibility, even though by now even the very big majority of IAS officers are corrupt although when IAS service was created, manned by patriotic and intelligent middle class youths it had commanded great respect, gave the days. As far as Judiciary is concerned, it is my view that corruption in its case is less than in the other two wings of the Govt. However, many would agree with me that it would be totally wrong to paint it as beyond doubt. ~~the~~  
Corruptors' wife

It is known that delay breeds corruption. It is also known that though ~~in~~ as per law all are equal before Law, VVIPs & VIPs are treated differently and even above Law especially when they are in power or likely to come to power.

Here are some instances ~~to~~ which need to be ~~considered~~ taken into account:

(1) It was some years ago that Subhbir Singh Badal s/o 3 times Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal assaulted some one, a journalist I think. The case is still pending.

(2) " In the two separate cases of defamation filed by Mr. Parkash Singh Badal and Mr. Subhbir Singh Badal against Captain Amindar Singh, the defendants were summoned in 2005, more than three years after the cases were filed. Both cases are still at stage

-2-

of recording preliminary evidence" (Tribune 21-1-07)

3) "In another defamation case filed in 2002 by Mr. R. L. Bhardwaj, chairman of the State Planning Commission, against Mr. Parbansh Singh Badal, Mr. Sukhbir Singh Badal, Mr. Kirpal Singh Badunagar and Mr. N. S. Minhas, the defendants are yet to be summoned. (Tribune 21-1-07)

4) "Take another case - a civil suit filed in 2003 by SAD leader ~~by~~ by Gurnmeet Singh Matharoo against the Congress Party for failing to fulfil its 2002 poll promise on Congress MLAs declaring assets. Ex-party proceedings against 64 Congress MLAs were initiated. M.L.As Kewal Krishan, Jagjit Chaudhry, J.S. Randhawa, Santosh Chaudhry, J.S. Randhawa, Santosh Chaudhry and Sardul Singh, who appeared before the court are yet to file party reply. (Tribune 21-1-07)

5) Balwin Masjid Demolition Case, Liberman Commission headed by Justice Manmohan Singh Liberman, was setup ~~with~~ within a fortnight of the demolition of the structure (Balwin Masjid) at the disputed site on December 6, 1992 to enquire into the circumstances that led to the incident. Home Minister Shivraj Patil had during the winter session of the Lok Sabha had said during the winter session of the Lok Sabha that the Commission would submit its report soon and the role of all leaders involved would be out in the open. It was thought that the ~~former~~ term of the Commission may not be extended beyond December 31, 2006. The term has been extended by 3 months from ~~January~~ + from January 1, 2007.

6. "It was a mistake to take back the order about fines; Supreme Court. This is the head line of a news-report of Hindu Daily." Dainik Bhasm of 21-07.  
~~the fine was imposed this~~

According to the report, this has been stated in relation to a judgement delivered about eight years ago, <sup>it</sup> relating to the notorious Petrol Pumps (Allotment) Scandal. Fines ~~was~~ which were later ~~withd~~ cancelled ~~to~~ <sup>had been</sup> imposed on two Ministers - Captain Satish Sharma and Shala Kaul, Petrol pumps, Gas agencies etc. had been ~~to~~ allotted to ~~to~~ their own "friends, who were also VIPs

The Apex Court had been moved in this connection. From the Dainik Jagran report quoted above it would seem that the allotment had been challenged/ questioned in the Supreme Court. Further, ~~from~~ the above quoted report from the Dainik Bhasm, ~~it became~~ ~~it would~~ facts emerge as ~~under~~ follows. The Apex Court had imposed heavy fines on the two ~~two~~ main beneficiaries in the notorious Petrol pumps Scam. However, the order imposing the fines were taken back and that these orders were taken back 8 years ago.

The admission that it was wrong to take back these orders may look good but that does not take away from the fact that the Apex Court had acted very wrongly and was unjudicially.

the beneficiaries of whom were allotted petrol pumps were very close to those then in power in New Delhi. There was two way in the country which, it would appear led to imposing of the very fines but later those were taken back. This one case alone would make quite clear that ~~be like the Apex~~ our Apex Court is not at all like Caesar's wife above all suspicious. No doubt at all, we have had Supreme Court judges of which Ganda has been ~~very~~ rightly ~~pr~~ ~~very~~ proud. It is due to them that our Apex Court enjoyed good reputation. It is, however, also beyond doubt that even the Apex Court has not remained untouched by the rot that has set in even in the judiciary.

It is a pity and a misfortune that at this moment has not received the attention of the media & the Bar which it should have.

In fact ~~see~~ the rot ~~in~~ which has set in even in the judiciary deserves urgent and serious attention of all concerned. No doubt corruption in judiciary is less than in Executive & Legislative wings of our administration. But it is ~~no~~ most unfortunate



- 5 -

that there has been a tendency to ~~overlook~~ shut eyes ~~to~~ in this regard. Sooner this attitude changes, better it would be for the Country & were for the Judiciary itself.

II. There have been reports in the press media that for quite sometime that ~~CPI~~ the Communist Party of India (& also the Communist Party of India - Marxist) would have mutual electoral agreements ~~and~~ also with Akali Dal (Simranjit Singh Mann) and support each other candidates. Mann too had ~~said the~~ confirmed this in a press statement. There was no contradiction. Many ~~were~~ ~~hop~~ though perturbed were hoping that good sense would prevail and such ~~a~~ ~~dist~~ a thing would not take place. As everyone knows Simranjit Singh Mann & his party are for Khatisan in Punjab just as RSS is for Hindu Rashtra in India. True, RSS does not fight elections and BJP does not openly say that it for Hindu Rashtra. However, everyone knows that RSS controls the BJP and even the tallest BJP leaders are staunch RSS men & cannot defy the Guru. (It is well known that there is not an iota of democracy in RSS and the word of the Guru is law. Not only that only recently RSS has strengthened its grip over the BJP.

Left of course says that it will fight not only

the Congress but also the BJP & the Akalis.

The million dollar question is that by supporting every other party group including Akali Dal (Sikhanjit Singh Mann), will they not be supporting those who stand openly & blatantly for a theocratic Sikh State. And is it not clear that it will only strengthen the R.S.S & others wanting India to be a Hindu Nation?

It is said that "Badal & Captain governments which have ruled India for 5 years each would be wiped out for ever" ~~for Name~~.

With the existing balances of forces in Punjab, sensible aim for the Left should be that neither the Congress nor the Akalis get absolute majority and that the Left emerges as ~~a very~~ at least a fairly and very strong position in the Assembly ensuring that ~~no~~ <sup>without</sup> ~~govt~~ ~~would be possible~~ ~~it~~ ~~no~~ ~~there~~ ~~would~~ ~~be~~ ~~a~~ ~~govt~~ & acceptance of a minimum programme in the interests of the people, no govt would be possible. It is a pity that the the Left has as yet neither issued a manifesto nor a minimum programme ~~without acceptance of which it~~ for the formation of a non Akali non-BJP government.

We hope that this will be done without further delay.

~~Satyajpal Singh~~  
Let us also hope that principles would be sacrificed for the sake of short term gains. ~~that would be opportunism.~~

2 / 2 / 207

Satyajpal Singh

Be that as it may, vital interests of people, Punjab as well as India demand that irrespective of differences and every thing else, voters of Amritsar West constituency should elect the CPI candidate Comrade Amarjit Aral by a convincing majority. Speaking generally, ~~now~~ it would not be correct to vote for any communal party or group's candidate. Where left parties candidates are there, they should be the obvious choice. As regards Congress candidates are concerned, ~~one should not~~ their records in relation with regard to corruption cannot be overlooked. I don't think it would be correct & wise to vote for a notoriously corrupt candidate even if he belongs to a secular party. If choice is between devil

& the deep sea, my personal view is that any patriot, any decent voter may abstain & not vote at all instead of voting for a communal or even a non-communal corrupt to the core.

It is not for nothing that some countries provide for negative voting i.e. ~~not~~ not voting for any candidate not just ~~by~~ by abstaining i.e. not going for voting but by declaring that he does not favour any candidate. There should be a button for that too.

Satyajal Dang

#31	f	2007.
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Most Urgent  
5 copies

Panwariji  
FN N2

SATYA PALDANG

News & Views

“Bhattacharya will remain Chief Minister (of West Bengal, & KARAT.”

Comrade Bishu Deo Bhattacharya is the Chief Minister of West Bengal ~~in~~ common people of which <sup>state</sup> have been returning the CPI(M)-led Front Govt <sup>to</sup> of power for more than a quarter of century now. Remarkable reforms and various types of steps ~~of~~ steps taken by it in the interests of the common people (under the leader-ship of Chief Minister ship of Comrade Jyoti Basu) made it immensely popular. For instance: of the total ~~&~~ area of agricultural land distributed to the landless agricultural <sup>labourers</sup> ~~land~~ and West Bengal ~~was~~ poor peasants <sup>in India, half</sup> was in West Bengal. It was the Left Govt of West Bengal under the leadership of Jyoti Basu which took ~~steps~~ steps to ~~see~~ end the shameful system of man-driven Rickshaws and ~~from~~ ~~replaces~~ while assuring that these Rickshaw pullers did not become unemployed. One can go on re-collecting the good work done by the Jyoti Basu Government of the Left Front. That, however, is not necessary.

Jyoti Basu resigned some years ago because of old age and Comrade Bhattacharya <sup>became</sup> ~~made~~ the Chief Minister of ~~the~~ West Bengal. Whatever good work he might have done in the initial stages, doubts began to arise. For instance, once he spoke praising the role of Capitalism - a system based on exploitation of man ~~&~~ by man <sup>and</sup> a system of which under employment is inherent part. Motive force of capitalism is profit. (and ~~in~~ bigger and bigger profits - for the capitalists)

True, in a backward developing country capitalism <sup>can</sup> ~~can~~ help in early stages to help ~~and~~ the growth of means of production but ~~even so that~~ to protect the ~~interest~~ interest of workers & poor people, it is necessary to keep it under control. This is not what since recently began ~~is~~ happening in West Bengal of Carrack Bhattacharya. For instance:

① West Bengal Govt uprooted thousands of peasants depriving them of their land for ~~set~~ Tata to set up an industry to manufacture small cars for the upper sections of middle classes - in the name of developing industry and creating employment; forgetting that while industry is necessary, so is agriculture. ~~But~~ It was argued that those deprived of land were given compensation. But ~~peasants~~ ~~land~~ land is what peasant needs most and above all for livelihood of his family & its coming generations. Most shocking part of the story is ~~was~~ that banjar land nearly was available to be given to Tatas to set up the car industry. This was pointed out by Manu Bannerjee. No explanation was reported in the press as to why that was not utilized for Tata's car industry. Tatas did say that they would have the site <sup>allotted</sup> ~~or~~.

And now the same story has been repeated in Nandigram <sup>on</sup> a bigger scale, with more tragic results. There was massive resistance by the people. Repression was ~~rep~~ resorted to. It was first reported that sixty ~~to~~ people had been killed. Later the ~~media~~ a section of the media reported of

(contd)

that the number of those killed was more than three hundred including men, women and children. Possibly actual figures were more.

This tragedy not only aroused anger all over India but it attracted ~~world-wide attraction~~ world-wide attraction. Some even compared the tragedy here with Italian's Bugh tragedy.

It is good that the West Bengal Govt has now ~~not~~ announced that the policy being followed would no longer be pursued. However, the vital questions remain:

\* No one has owned the responsibility for the ruthless, uncalculated and unjustified repression and loss of so many lives. No one has been punished - neither any from the police <sup>nor</sup> from the <sup>other</sup> Govt officers - & responsible e.g. any Magistrate. Nor any cadres who worked hand in glove with the police. Perhaps there is the justification that they were only carrying out ~~the~~ orders. Under law, this is no justification if the orders are patently illegal and atrocious.

Be that as it may, the Chief Minister should have at least borne moral responsibility and resigned. "NO", ~~he~~ says the topmost leader of the CPI(M), <sup>its</sup> General Secretary ~~of~~ the CPI(M) - Says he: "Chief Minister will remain in saddle." And unsaid thing is: "NO one - neither any police officer nor anyone else will be punished". Also that: NOT EVEN A JUDICIAL Enquiry would be ordered".

Worse perhaps is the fact that no help for the families of those killed have been announced - either in the form of jobs or ~~in the~~ grants. &

It is a great tragedy that all this should have happened under a Left ruled state. True, ~~the~~ CPI and other left partners in the Govt ~~in the CPI(M)~~ had disassociated themselves from what the Chief Minister was doing. Tragedy is that (as per uncontradicted reports) neither the Cabinet nor the Party was taken into confidence.

One can only hope that there would be a really serious debate inside the CPI(M) regarding this whole matter. This is needed not desirable not only in the interests of the CPI(M) and even of the entire Left but <sup>also</sup> of the entire country. Because CPI(M) is ~~the~~ ~~CPI(M)~~ has the biggest & strongest Left Party in India ~~at the~~ ~~is~~ so far at least.

Other Left Parties have disassociated themselves from the course followed by the CPI(M). In our opinion, they that was not ~~enough~~ enough. They should have come out of the Govt with the declaration that they would ~~have~~ support it from the outside on issue to issue basis. That would have served the interests of the country and also of the Left itself Better.

(contd)

~~Statyappa/Harey~~  
9-8/2017



All that we have said above does not mean that we give up our aim of Communist Unity - or United Communist Party of India. This has to remain ~~it~~ ~~has to remain~~ and has to be worked for.

~~Page~~ ~~we~~ have at present only two alternatives for running the country - Congress and BJP even though both of them may not be strong enough to get majority in the <sup>Loth Sabha.</sup> ~~country~~. Both of them represent more the interests of the exploiting classes than of the toiling masses. Moreover, BJP is a communal party which through the RSS is now running an anti-Muslim campaign all over the country - which can only increase communal divisions ~~in the country~~ and harm the interests of the toilers. ~~Under~~ ~~only~~ <sup>A</sup> strong Left in the country ~~can ensure~~ is absolutely necessary to safeguard the future of India.

Satyopal Darg

20/3/2017

Prof. Parvathy  
FNZ, please

SAN  
20/3/2007

SATYA PAL DANG

## NEWS and Views

First About Our New Chief Minister  
(S Parvash Singh Badal)

(1) "We will ensure resounding victory for Kang (CPI-Abali candidate) in Beas"

No body did or could have ~~any~~ any doubt about SAD's victory. If this writer mistakes not ~~not~~ invariably bye-election [or election in only constituency] had invariably ~~resulting~~ resulted in the victory of the ~~candidate~~ of the ruling party.

What needs to be noted by our new chief Minister is the ~~fact~~ fact that the margin of the victory is really not as "resounding" as he (I am sure) was expected by him. He has become Chief Minister for the IV<sup>th</sup> time — a matter of pride for any ~~one~~ politician. And it is this which makes me sure that he must have noted the margin of victory was not as big as he must have expected.

I have all the good wishes for our new Chief Minister. I am also hoping that he is able to ~~ful~~ honour his commitments to the poor. And that is why I feel compelled to draw his attention to another FACT of considerable importance.

Long long ago, once in relation to one bye-

election to the Kerala Vidhan Sabha, the then Chief Minister of the State (Late Achhuta Menon of the CPI) had declared that because he was the Chief Minister, he would not even visit any part of the said constituency not to speak of campaigning. And he kept his promise. However, CPI won the bye-election hands down.

Beas election was also one of election to one constituency only. And that too at a time when Badal led Gait with the topmost SAD leader as its head had as yet NOT any incumbency factor against it. Any yet the entire Cabinet (with the exception of one Minister) had rushed to Beas to canvass for the SAD victory. To say the least, it was not good nor did it add any laurels to the SAD-BJP Gait or its head.

2) We would like to point out one more.

Significant fact: Dainik Bhaskar (Hindi) (A morning edition) is a paper which hardly gave any publicity to the campaign of the Congress or any other candidate except the Akali candidate. This paper in its issue dated 9-3-07 reported as below: "

Due to the arrival of the entire Cabinet in Beas, the position of Kang became so strong that even Badal predicted that

~~Assess~~ Kang would work by a margin of 35% <sup>in</sup> ~~nothing~~ <sup>if</sup> the bid happened.

3. <sup>00</sup> Help to catch the ~~corrupt~~ corrupt (officers) and get FAT REWARDS (emphasis added):

This ~~is~~ is the headline of a news report in ~~Punjabi Daily of 12~~ Hindi Daily Bhaskar of 9-2-2007 (Amritsar.)

After this Head line in not so big letters, what follows is: <sup>00</sup> "In 1997 too the scheme ~~was~~ had been introduced."

our humble advice to our new Chief Minister is that he should get reviewed the actual results of this ~~the~~ scheme when first introduced and also to make an assess<sup>ment</sup> to what extent this scheme had produced any lasting result.

No scheme for fighting ~~was~~ corruption can really produce lasting results, unless ~~from~~ it is started from the topmost level i.e. Cabinet Members. Like water, corruption flows from top to bottom and not from bottom to top.

3. <sup>00</sup> ~~A~~ A grant of Rs. 24 lacs has been sanctioned for Guru Nanak (Dev) University for Sikh ideology, Sikh religion and for Sikh history - This is the ~~head~~ the headlines of a news in ~~Hindi daily~~ Punjabi Daily of Navan Zamana of 9-3-2007.

Maharaja Amindar Singh as chief Minister

had played the SIKH CARD in a big way. It did NOT help him to save his gaddi. It produced negative results ~~as~~ as is now quite clear.

S. Parkash Singh Badal must draw appropriate lessons. This is our humble advice. Let him not forget that ~~the~~ Captain Amrinder Singh had played Sikh card and it had ~~been~~ arranged.

This writer is neither a Hindu nor a Sikh. In fact he is ~~an~~ an atheist. In fact he had become an atheist long before he became a Communist and Marxist. There is also the fact that ~~it~~ it was Shahid e Azam Bhagat Singh whose ideology had persuaded ~~me~~ him to become an atheist // ~~Before I was, I would like to make my one thing clear. It is not~~

This writer, before he ends this piece, would like to make one thing clear. He has no intention to persuade anyone to become an atheist though he himself ~~is~~ believes neither in God nor in any god or goddesses. He, however, does respect all our great ~~or~~ religious personalities because in the development of society religion has played a positive role too.

18/3/2017

Satyajit Dary

Ehta Bhawan, Chikanta (ASR)

Parwaraj

Fr Navau Zamano

SATYARAJ DANG

## News and Views

1. Tribune of 10-12-2006 carries a news headed "BJP studying agreement". The "agreement" is the Indo-U.S. nuclear cooperation agreement which has ~~been~~ ~~caused~~ ~~lot~~ of controversy in our country.

Here is a very significant para in the news-report in the Tribune: "The BJP, which has been opposing the Indus nuclear deal of July 18, 2005, is understood to be struggling to find an appropriate response to the deal, which could benefit the party politically (emphasis added)".

This clearly means that even on such a vital matter as the Indo-U.S. nuclear deal, the BJP (a party of a different type) will decide its attitude not on the basis of merits and whether the deal would be in the national interests of India OR would ~~bring~~ ~~bring~~ harm or endanger the same but "on the basis whether it could benefit the party politically". In other words, it would <sup>take</sup> a stand which, according to <sup>its</sup> assessment as to whether it would or would not help it to <sup>gain</sup> <sup>more</sup> votes. Indeed "a party of a different type" for which national interests are not the most important thing but what would help it to <sup>gain</sup> <sup>more</sup> votes.

This should be an open secret <sup>for</sup> whatever following the BJP still has.

(PTO)







to the Syndicate or Senate of the P.U. or its  
The Chancellor or (the Vice President of India) who  
is the Chancellor of P.U. Incidentally, Senate  
of P.U. is a world's real peerage unlike the Sen  
Senates of many other Universities.

Be that as it may the writer hopes  
that issue has been resolved on a just ~~basic~~  
and reasonable basis and to the satis-  
satisfaction of the aggrieved students.

IV "Bihar minister on BPL list (Below Poverty  
Level) list" this is the heading of a news  
in Tribune of 15-11-2006

Let it be <sup>the best</sup> ~~mentioned~~ that for this heinous &  
shocking greed & violation of rules, Minister in question  
himself ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> ~~blame~~ may not be responsible,  
we quote from the news reports "Incidentally  
the list for Champaran district, representing by the  
minister, was being prepared ~~by~~ <sup>under</sup> his supervision  
only."

It is really shocking <sup>that</sup> a MINISTER can  
go to this <sup>extent</sup> for a small monetary gain.  
Real question which ~~is~~ should be answered by  
the Chief Minister of Bihar is: Has or has  
he not thrown out ~~the~~ ~~out~~ this Minister  
out of his Cabinet? Also, Has or has he checked up  
or not the conduct of his other Ministers in relation  
to such malversation & getting crooked which ~~is~~ are  
meant for persons Below "The Poverty Line"!

11 / 12 / 2006

Satyopal Dang

## News &amp; Views

"When ~~some~~ one gets old, he should not be thrown out", says Shri Vaipya" was the headline of a prominent news in many news papers only very recently. Our View: Even though no BJP has thought fit to respond or comment, to the best of our ~~knowledge~~ knowledge he<sup>d</sup> nobody has thrown him out. All that has happened is <sup>that</sup> Shri Vaipya is no longer the BIG Boss of the BJP. Perhaps, he has ~~not been given any impt~~ no longer any ~~major~~ role in the making of the BJP policies. Obviously he is very sore about it.

All government employees, officers-officials including class four employees, are retired at the age of 58 or 60 at the most. A view has been voiced in the country that politicians too should, at least at the age of 70. This would only mean that after this age, they would be not be MLAs, MPs (therefore Ministers) and may be chairpersons of Class I Municipal Committees and Zila Parishads, etc. This <sup>by</sup> no way would prevent them from <sup>doing</sup> what they are capable of ~~doing~~ to serve the people.

It cannot be denied that ~~old age~~ no one is immune from effects of old age and therefore should not hold important offices. Even if ~~some~~ there are some exceptional persons ~~some~~ personalities, they should be able to serve the people better even without offices. ~~Many~~ Youth too should get a chance.

By making the statement Shri Vaipya made, he has only lowered his own image & that of the Party which he once led.

(a) <sup>66</sup>On coming to power Akali Gait will stop any river water flow go to Haryana and to Rajasthan - Subbina (Sush Radal)."

(b) Punjab Chief Minister has been claiming that Rivers in question belong to Punjab & no one else has the right any right to get any.

(c) Haryana Chief Minister, according to press reports has a rivaled claim of Haryana not only to Rivers waters but also to Chandigarh.

ex: V. v. S. India is one country. Rivers in question really flow out of Himachal. ~~Himachal~~ What if Himachal says that waters of these rivers are really of Himachal alone.

On the international level, there have been disputes about waters of rivers between different countries because generally these ~~are~~ rivers flow are not within one country alone. However there are some principles on the basis of which these have been resolved.

Why cannot disputes between two or more states of India be resolved on the basis of justice, equity and some sound principles of that kind not prove possible, let the Supreme Court of India appoint a commission of impartial judges (with no judge belonging to the quarrelling states) to resolve the disputes for all time.

As regards Chandigarh, it was long of contention between Punjab & Haryana for a long time. There were hot heated debates & massive demonstrations.

We think however, the status quo appeared to have been accepted by all i.e. Chandigarh to remain a Union Territory with Punjab & Haryana, both having their capitals in the City Rank Beautiful.

Let not neither Haryana nor Punjab take up the issue ~~is~~ motivated by vote bank politics or any other considerations of this type. In any case people must not respond ~~to~~ but vote to one but must reject such calls divisive calls.

(B) "To supply electricity free to peasants was a decision of the Party; Captain Amrinder Singh - Narwan Zawana (2-11-06)

it  
Whereas this decision was, let it be made clear that to supply free electricity to any section in any way it cannot but do immense damage to the economy of the state and that would be a vital interest of such sections of people as are supposed to benefit. It is a very dangerous type of vote bank politics. Why? Because it is bound to lead to waste, ~~to getting~~ selling to some others by some who get free, etc. and ultimately it would damage the economy of the whole state and harm all sections.

What needs to be done is.

(1) Supply of power to the ~~poor~~ really poor at subsidised rates, (both to rural as well as urban poor).

(2) Supply of power to middle and rich creches of peasants at reasonable prices,

(3) Street, fire proof incandescence, to prevent theft of electricity, by providing a big deterrent punishment for the theft.

4) "Centre should appoint a committee <sup>regarding</sup> ragging" Says Supreme Court. <sup>News</sup> <sup>Journal</sup>  
Dainik Bhaskar 28/11/06.

Hasn't ragging already taken a heavy toll including suicides by young students ~~by~~ <sup>as a result of</sup> ragging by seniors?

What needs to be done is as follows

(i) A total complete ban on ragging.

(ii) To introduce a ~~new~~ <sup>new</sup> ~~method~~ <sup>method</sup> by all means of perceptions of the new entrants into colleges by seniors at colourful functions with suitable representatives of staff, as well as senior students welcoming the new entrants and can be some junior reporting suitably.

That would be avoided and good for all while ragging can not but degenerate in barbarism.

(5) "After Murders More than 15 minutes in America in November 2006 alone" - this has been reported by many newspapers.

Does it not prove the truth of what a top Marxist leader said long ago:

"If capitalism is not replaced by socialism, in time, it will be replaced by barbarism."

3-12-2006

Satyajal Daryal