SANDESH BHARATI

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MANGAL PANDEY

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Amul world's biggest vegetarian cheese brand

Nidhi Nath Srinivas
Times News Network Wednesday, November 09, 2005

NEW DELHI: The Land of sacred cows has become the world's largest producer of vegetarian cheese.

India's top dairy co-operative Amul is now the biggest brand for vegetarian cheese as the Global Indian even now prefers desi shuddh taste over the premium Bries and Camemberts of the West.

With demand pouring in from London to Ludhiana, exports will

hit a record 600 tonne this year as Amul shreds competition with a growth of more than 20per cent.

For those who don't know what makes vegetarian cheese different, here is a quick low-down. Cheese is made by coagulating milk to give curds which are then separated from the liquid, whey, after which they can be processed and matured to produce a wide variety of cheeses.

Milk is coagulated by the addition of rennet. The active ingredient of rennet is the enzyme, chymosin (also known as rennin). The usual source of rennet is the stomach of slaughtered newly-born calves. On other hand, vegetarian cheeses are manufactured using rennet from either fungal or bacterial sources.

"We do not use any animal-derived rennet in our cheese. That makes it pure vegetarian, which is important for Indians. That is also why it says "vegetarian cheese" on the pack. As it also has a unique taste because it is derived from buffalo milk, NRIs across the world prefer to buy Indian cheese,'' said Amul marketing head RS Sodhi.

Amul is exporting cheese to the Middle East, USA, Singapore, Hong Kong, and neighbouring countries like Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

"Though there are many vegetarian cheese producers in the world, we would certainly be the single largest exporter. Our main customers abroad are NRIs. We market the product to them,'' Mr Sodhiadded.

Amul Cheddar is the top selling brand in India, with a 50per cent share of the market. Its cheese spreads have a 90per cent share of the market, while it is the only large player in mozarella pizza cheese.

The local branded cheese market is estimated to be 6,000 tonnes per annum, with an average retail price of Rs 200/kg. The demand for cheese is projected to grow from about Rs 4.50bn in 2003-04 to Rs 6bn in '06-07 and to over Rs 11bn by '14-15.

Per capita consumption, even among the cheese consuming households, is a poor 2.4kg pa as compared to over 20kg in the US. Cheese is mainly consumed in urban areas. The four metro cities alone account for more than 60per cent of consumption.

Mumbai is the largest market (accounting for 30per cent of the cheese sold in the country), followed by Delhi (20per cent), Calcutta (7per cent) and Chennai (6per cent). Mumbai has a larger number of domestic consumers, compared to Delhi where the bulk institutional segment (mainly hotels) is larger.

Meanwhile, with a bumper milk production of 94m tonnes this year, India is ready to further expand its wings in the export market. India is the world's top milk producer, with a growth rate of 4.5per cent compared with 1per cent for the rest of the world. "We are extremely competitive this year in skimmed milk powder and butter oil (ghee). So total exports will cross Rs 200 crore this fiscal,'' Sodhi said.

Amul exports butter oil to a lot of neighbouring countries, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Middle East and the US. The new market this year is Mauritius, where Amul's skimmed milk powder is expected to hold the retail price line down.

"It's a 14,000 tonne per annum market. By importing from India, the local government will be able to sell milk at a mark-up of just 14per cent instead of the current 60per cent,'' he added.

KNOW YOUR HINDI

This is our sixteenth article about Hindi language. In our previous issues, we had mentioned that the so-called Hindi language is not spoken and written at its entire purity by the masses but is a mixture of mainly Farsi (Persian), Arabic and Turkish words. In Hindi movies, over 80% dialogues spoken use Farsi and Arabic words. In this issue, we continue the series of listing 10 such foreign words very commonly used in Hindi and have mentioned the apt Hindi word for it. It is about time that we should make an attempt to speak and write our national language as purely as possible.

WORD	ORIGIN	CORRECT HINDI WORD	MEANING IN ENGLISH
Ganda	Farsi	**Maila**	**Dirty**
Ghazab	Arabic	Vichitra Baat	Strange Thing
Ghazal	Farsi	Kavita	Poetry
Garaj	Arabic	Aavashyakta	Necessity
Gardan	Farsi	Gala / Griva	Neck
Garam	Farsi	Tapt	Hot
Garmi	Farsi	Ushantaa/Grishm	Heat / Summer
Garib	Arabic	Nirdhan	Poor
Galti	Arabic	Truti	Mistake
Giroh	Farsi	Dal	Gang / Group

Age old mantra: Vedic ed schools

Suchandana Gupta
Times News Network [Monday, September 05, 2005 12:31:12 Pm]

UJJAIN: Like a blast from the past, a rhythmic chanting of Vedic mantras greets anybody entering the Navi Mandal Veda Vidya Mandir in the heart of Ujjain.

Inside, 80 boys, between 8 and 18, in white dhoti and kurta with tricolour angavastrams recite the shlokas in unison.

Their heads are shaved, save for a tuft of hair tied in a knot at the back. There are no desks and chairs; pupils sit on the floor to study.

In an age when children surf the Net and dream of careers in the Silicon Valley, these kids are preparing to become priests.

In this ancient holy city, a three-hour drive from Bhopal, there are several schools where students are taught the Vedas so they may become priests in the temples or pundits of 'dharmashastra'. The courses are recognised by the ... Union HRD, principals of these schools claim.

Set in the 'gurukul' mould, the school puts its students through a rigorous schedule (see chart).

They stay in the hostel where food is strictly vegetarian and are permitted to go home for a 15-day summer vacation and five days for Diwali.

The syllabi consists of Yajurveda and Sanskrit along with a spattering of modern education-English, history, geography and the sciences.

Yajurveda is compulsory as it is the complete scripture for pujas, yajnas and all arts and mantras meant to appease the Hindu gods. If a student is extraordinarily bright, he is given an additional Veda to study.

After six years, a student is given a certificate equivalent to higher secondary education. Then he can take admission in a college for a BA in Sanskrit.

Students in this school mostly come from 40 districts of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. Brahmins are preferred, said principal Mahaveer Prasad Sharma. “We have nothing against accepting non-Brahmins. But our students are mostly the children of priests who wish their sons to carry forward the tradition of their ancestors,’’ he added.

Admission is open to boys between 8 and 12. There is no school fee, but they have to pay a security deposit of Rs 10,000, which is returned on completion of the course. The school runs on government grants and donations.

A student passing out of this vidya mandir is ready to enter college when he is 14 years old. “Our school is not an eyewash.

There are at least four such schools in Ujjain which are attached to the Maharshi Sandipani Rashtriya Veda Vidya Pratishthan. Our degrees are recognised by the Union government,’’ said Sharma.

The first lesson is the Gayatri mantra. “We judge students from the recitation of this mantra. His dedication and his voice are tested. We consider the Rigveda for very selective and extremely intelligent students. It is the toughest of the Vedas.’’

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A STUDENT...

...4 am:
Wake up time. Daily ablutions

5.30 am:
Gayatri mantra, Surya aradhana

6.30 am:
Hanuman puja

7:15 am:
Breakfast of poha, halwa, daliya or chana, milk

8 am to 12 noon:
Veda study

Noon:
Lunch of chapatti, rice, dal & two vegetable curries

1.30 to 4:30 pm:
English, Sanskrit, math, sciences, geography and history classes

4:30 to 5 pm:
Games

5.30 pm:
Sandhya Suryapuja and Gayatri mantra

6.30 pm:
Arti and Hanuman Chalisa path

7:30 pm:
Dinner

8:30 to 10 pm: Study

Swaminarayan Akshardham, New Delhi
Heritage and modernity under one roof

By Pramod Kumar

"Everyone who wants to experience the glorious heritage of India and modern technology under one roof must visit the Swaminarayan Akshardham temple." This was the immediate reaction of Smt. Sunita Jain of Lakshmi Nagar who visited the temple along with her children. It is five times bigger than the Akshardham temple in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. It takes about three hours to see the complete temple complex. Every carved stone installed in the temple speaks a different story.

The temple was inaugurated by President Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam on November 6, 2005. "…Akshardham is both for experience and for enlightenment. It has the best of modern media, the power of knowledge and lively images," Dr Kalam said adding that the completion of the temple in five years convinced him that India could become a developed country by 2020 with the help of many ignited minds.

According to Shri Amit Trivedi, a volunteer of the temple who guided this correspondent through the temple, the beautiful monument built without steel or iron, consists of 234 ornately carved pillars, nine ornate domes, 20 quadrangled shikhars, a spectacular gajendra pith (plinth of stone elephants) and 20,000 murtis and statues of India's great saints, devotees, acharyas and divine personalities. It is a fusion of pink stone and pure white marble—pink stone symbolises bhakti in eternal bloom and white marble symbolises absolute purity and eternal peace. The monument reflects the essence and magnitude of India's ancient architecture, traditions and timeless spirituality.

The temple complex, the brainchild of Pramukh Swami Maharaj, is a fulfillment of the wishes of his guru, Yogi Maharaj, the fourth successor in the spiritual hierarchy of the Swaminarayan sect. The BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha has an international network of over 9,090 centres, over 700 learned saints, a million members and 55,000 volunteers performing over 160 humanitarian activities.

A marvel in spiritual bliss

Sahajanand Darshan Audio Animatronics Shows

The principle theme of sculpting one's life for happiness, success and peace of mind has been portrayed in an exhibition called Sahajanand Darshan Audio Animatronics Shows. The exhibits portray the messages of ahimsa, endeavour, prayer, morality, vegetarianism, family harmony, etc. through 15 3-D dioramas and presentations from the life of Bhagwan Swaminarayan. Exquisite settings and statues in each diorama are brought to life through robotics, fiber optics, light and sound effects, dialogues and music; transporting the audience to the 18th century India.

Giant Screen Film

Neelkantha Darshan is an epic period film featuring an exciting and inspiring pilgrimage of Neelkanth Varni, a child-yogi of 18th century India. This unique period film has been shot on the icy peaks of the Himalayas and the pristine shores of Kerala. The large format film depicts India's holy places, festivals and spiritual traditions on a giant screen that is over six stories high. It is the first ever wide-format film filmed in India and produced by an Indian organisation. A total of 108

locations in India with 30 giant settings have been filmed.

India's Glorious Heritage

A 12-minute spectacular boat-ride experience of the 10,000-year-old India's glorious heritage savours the world's oldest Vedic village life and bazaar and also sails through Takshashila—the world's first university. It also shows the journey through the labyrinth of ancient discoveries and inventions by the great rishi-scientists of the country.

Yajnapurush Kund

The Yagnapurush Kund is a fascinating combination of a Vedic yajna kund and a musical fountain. It is the world's largest yajna kund measuring 300' X 300' with 2,870 steps and 108 small shrines. In its center lies an eight-petaled lotus shaped yajna kund designed according to the Jayaakhya Samhita of the Panchratra scripture. Its perfect geometric forms testify to ancient India's advanced knowledge in mathematics and geometry. At night the air vibrates with a colorful musical water fountain, which echoes the Vedic sentiments of India. There is also one Narayan Sarovar in which waters from 151 rivers of India have been added.

Bharat Upavan

Bharat Upvan exudes a magnificent natural and cultural ambience through its manicured lawns, lush gardens and wonderful bronze statues of the great role-models of India. India's child gems, valorous warriors, freedom fighters, national figures and great women personalities inspire visitors with values and pride.

Relief by RSS at Nagaram rail disaster site

By T.V. Deshmukh

As usual the RSS Swayamsevaks were the first to reach the site of the tragic accident of Repally-Secunderabad Delta Passenger train at Nagaram, Valigonda Mandal, Nalgonda district. One batch led by Sri Gundla Nagaraju was the first to reach the submerged compartments and retrieve many dead bodies and took them to the shore in boats. They prepared the ground and laid the dead bodies in an orderly manner and later helped to carry the bodies into the relief trains. They also distributed 300 food packets and fresh drinking water to those who survived. Another batch which came from Bhuvangiri under Sri Domaknoda Satyanarayana also helped in the relief operations. Another batch under the leadership of Lingaswamy from Valigonda did a human service to those who were affected.

More than 100 Swayamsevaks in four batches participated in relief operations, which was very much appreciated by the public as Swayamsevaks were the first to reach the site even before the government machinery and army arrived. The Swayamsevaks took care of safeguarding the money and material that was scattered at the site of the accident to be handed over after identification of owners. The Swayamsevaks helped the relatives of the diseased in identifying and dispatching to their homes.

Sri Shyamji, State Joint Organising Secretary of RSS AP, visited Nalgonda government hospital and enquired about the welfare of the patients and co-ordinated the relief activities undertaken by Swayamsevaks.

The RSS expressed its deep condolences to the relatives of the departed and requested the Railways and State government to give all necessary help to the affected families.

(The writer is Pranta Sanghachalak, Andhra Pradesh (West))

MIT names 4 NRIs among world's top 35 innovators

By Seema Hakhu Kachru in Houston
Friday, 09 September , 2005

Four Indian Americans have been named among the world's top 35 young high-tech innovators by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's (MIT) prestigious 'Technology Review' magazine.

Anita Goel of Nanobiosym, Narasimha Chari of Tropos Networks, Rajit Manohar of Cornell University and Shiladitya Sengupta of Harvard Medical School — all aged below 35 — have been named top high-tech innovators for "exemplifying the spirit of contemporary technology leading to a road map to what's hot in emerging technology".

Goel, a physicist as well as a physician and also the founder and CEO of Nanobiosym was named top young innovator for developing nanotech devices that could identify viruses and bacteria in blood samples more rapidly, accurately and cheaply than existing techniques.

Chari was selected for setting the wireless mesh networking standard. He created elegant algorithms that tailored mesh networking, once an exclusive province of the military, for routine civillian communication.

Tropos Networks, the company Chari founded in 2000 with co-inventor Devabhaktuni Srikrishna, helped launch commercial wireless mesh networking. With this, mesh networks have eased into plentiful use both outdoors -- on campuses, in public safety networks, and at gatherings such as festivals -- and in hospitals and factories.

Rajit Manohar, an associate professor of electrical and computer engineering in Cornell University, was chosen for creating computer chips with greater speed and lowered power

consumption by removing the on-board clock that synchronises the different functions of the chip.

He is also credited with building the first low-power processor for sensor networks, enabling them to run on the same batteries for years instead of weeks.

Shiladitya Sengupta of Harvard Medical school was chosen for delivering drugs to cancer cells using a nanoscale device. He is also the brain behind an anti-inflammatory gel that is now sold in India under the brand name Nimulid.

Unlike the previous four years, this year the names of young innovators have been whittled down from the usual list of 100 (called TR100) to a more compact 35.

"TR reminds us that the winners from previous years have changed your world. And, indeed, they have. The awardees -- all under age 35 -- were selected by a prestigious panel of judges for their potential to profoundly impact the world," said Technology Review Editor in Chief Jason Pontin.

The winners were selected by a prestigious panel of judges for their potential to "profoundly impact the world," he said.

In addition to being selected to the TR35, two awardees have been chosen as Technology Review's Innovator of the Year and Technology Review's Humanitarian of the Year by the magazine's editors.

Their names will be revealed at Technology Review's fifth annual Emerging Technologies Conference at MIT (TRETC) from September 28-29.

http://headlines.sify.com/news/fullstory.php?id=13936668&headline=4~NRIs~among~world's~top~35~innovators

US tops in poverty among the Rich

Ela Dutt
Agencies [Thursday, November 17, 2005 01:36:47 Am]

NEW YORK: Despite being the wealthiest country in the world with highest per capita income levels, the US also has one of the highest incidences of poverty among the rich industrialised nations, says a UN expert.

Arjun Sengupta, a well-known Indian economist, a former ambassador and an independent expert on human rights at the UN Commission on Human Rights, said here, "Despite a multitude of federal and state social benefit systems in the US, a number of problems ranging from the high cost of healthcare to lack of low-cost housing impede people struggling to get out of poverty and can been seen as a human rights abuse".

UN statistics show that 12.7% (37m) of the population lived in poverty in '04, while 15.7% (45.8m) were without health insurance coverage and 11.9% of households (38.2m people, including 13.9m children) experienced food insecurity.

"Resource constraints have limited the reach of the assistance programmes and social discrimination has aggravated the problems in many situations, resulting in poverty clearly seen as a violation of human rights," Mr Sengupta declared.

http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/articleshow/1298195.cms

1857 - INDIA'S FIRST WAR OF INDEPENDENCE AGAINST THE BRITISH RULE

"MANGAL PANDEY – The Rising" released this year sparked a lot of controversies. Many persons objected to the way Mangal Pandey's character was portrayed in the movie. Others began to closely examine once again the revolutionary events that took place in 1857. Those events had been called as the Indian Mutiny by the vengeful and arrogant colonial rulers. Veer Savarkar on the other hand, called it as India's First War of Independence.

BACKGROUND

Actually, the years 1857-1858 were a period of armed uprising and revolutionary activity in most parts of northern and central India against the British occupation of the country. The war brought about the end of the British East India Company's regime in India, and led to almost a century of direct rule of India by Britain. Prior to these years, the British East India Company (*simply called as the Company)* was the de facto ruler of India.

As has remained the usual practice worldwide, history is always written from the viewpoint of the victors. The British wrongly showed this war as just a simple "Sepoy Mutiny" or the "Sepoy Rebellion of 1857". But it is our duty to portray the correct picture and show the events in a true light, as this was really the "First war of

Independence against the British rule" by the Indians, and this term was given than no other than the great Veer Savarkar.

The British East India Company won the power of Diwani in Bengal after winning the "Battle of Plassey" in 1757. Their victory in the Battle of Buxar in 1764 won them the Nizamat of Bengal as well. Soon after, the Company began to vigorously expand its area of control in India.

In 1845 the Company managed to extend its control over Sindh province after a gruelling and bloody campaign. In 1848 the Second Anglo-Sikh war took place and the Company gained control of Punjab as well. In 1853 the leader of the Marathas, Nana Sahib was denied his titles and his pension was stopped.

Further, if a landowner did not leave a male heir, the land became the property of the British via the Doctrine of Lapse carried out by Lord Dalhousie and his successor, Charles John Canning. Lord Dalhousie used this rule to possess a number of Indian Kingdoms like Satara (1848), Sambhalpur & Jaitpur (1850), Nagpur (1853), and Jhansi (1854). Due to this unjust rule the rulers were very upset and they were ready to rebel to gain back their kingdoms.

The last ruler of Oudh (Awadh) was Nawab Wajid Ali Shah. But according to the British, he was not ruling properly and spending a lot of money on his own luxurious habits. Also, he was told to remove his loyal ministers. Later Lord Dalhousie forced the Nawab to sigh a letter that he willingly agreed to give his kingdom to the British. Which of course the Nawab flatly refused to obey. The result was that he was forcibly evicted and

taken prisoner; his wives were not treated properly. The treasury was looted and in general the people were tortured in his kingdom by the British. Due to this action a lot of ill feelings towards the British spread widely.

In order to consolidate and control these new holdings of the Empire, a well established army of 200,000 Asians commanded by 40,000 British soldiers dominated India by 1857. The last vestiges of independent Indian states had disappeared and the Company forcibly shipped tonnes of gold, silk, cotton, and a host of other precious materials back to England every year.

The land was reorganized under the comparatively harsh Zamindari system to facilitate the collection of taxes. In certain areas farmers were forced to switch from subsistence farming to commercial crops such as indigo, jute, coffee & tea. This resulted in hardship to the farmers and increases in food prices.

Local industry, the weavers of Bengal and elsewhere, also suffered under British rule. Tariffs were kept low; the Indian market was flooded with cheap clothing from Britain. The local industry could not compete. Earlier the luxury cloth market of England was supplied goods from India, but now the country was reduced to growing cotton, which was shipped to Britain to manufacture clothing, and the cruellest joke was that this was then shipped to India and sold

SEPOYS

The Sepoys, (or Sipahi) were the local people who served in the British East India Company under the

British officers. The sepoys were dissatisfied with various aspects of army life. Their pay was relatively low and after the annexation of Punjab and Awadh to the British Empire, their salary was reduced more and the work extended to these new acquired states too. Sepoy soldiers found themselves constantly pitted against their countrymen in an army controlled by the British

THE LEE-ENFIELD RIFLE & CATRIDGE

The P-53 was officially known as the pattern 1853 Enfield rifle Musket. Its cartridge was covered by a greased membrane which was supposed to be cut by the teeth before the cartridges were loaded into the rifles. The membrane was greased by cow or pig fat. This was offensive to Hindu & Muslim soldiers alike because tasting beef or pork was offensive to their respective religions.

MANGAL PANDEY

On Feb 26, 1857 the 19th Bengal Native Infantry (BNI) regiment came to know about these new cartridges and refused to load them. This news spread like wild fire throughout the regiment.

At Barrackpur, near Calcutta on 29th March, 1857, Mangal Pandey, attacked and injured his British Sergeant on the parade ground, and wounded another adjutant with a sword after shooting at him. The bullet missed and hit the horse instead.

Major General Hearsay came outside with his two sons; both of them were holding guns in their hand. He ordered that Mangal Pandey be arrested, but no one came forward. The he came forward and on gun point

ordered them to do it, at that time Mangal Pandey realized that maybe he will be let down by his own men. He exhorted his fellow countrymen to come forward and fight together with him, but unfortunately at that time no one else showed the courage. At that time Mangal Pandey decided that it was better to die than to be arrested. He pulled the trigger of his own gun, but he did not die, and was severely injured. He was taken to hospital in an unconscious state.

He was hanged on 8th April, 1857. 10 days prior to his scheduled execution all the hangmen of Barrackpur had refused to hang Mangal Pandey, and then another hangman was arranged from Calcutta. Also on 21st April, 1857 Ishwari Pandey was also hanged, as he was the one who had earlier refused to arrest Mangal Pandey.

The seven companies of 34th Regiment were also dismissed.

Mangal Pandey became the first martyr of the First war of independence which had now started. In all the army cantonments throughout the country there were heated debates amongst the Indian officers and sepoys whether they should carry forward the work started by Mangal Pandey. Many sepoys started burning the houses of the British officers.

All these actions made the British more worried and consequently they became crueller towards the Sepoys. Everyday unjust rules were passed against them, and they were punished severely for petty mistakes. All the regiments had to strictly enforce the rule that new bullets must be used. (the same bullets which were greased with cow & pig fat). At the same time during

those days, Christian missionaries aided by British army officers were carrying out their programme of conversion of Hindus to Christianity. This all triggered the hatred of the sepoys towards their British masters.

MERRUT CANTONMENT

Merrut Cantonment was one of the biggest those days. On 23 April 1857, the Sepoys took oath that they will not use the new bullets under any circumstances. On 24th April, the order was given to start firing using the new bullets, and then only 5 out of 10 obeyed the instructions. Since they had disobeyed orders, 95 of them were court martialled and the rest were given long jail sentences. Not only this on 9th May, 1857 they were made to take out their army uniforms, their weapons were seized, and they were handcuffed too. The British mistakenly thought that this public humiliation would arrest the nationalistic tendencies among the remaining soldiers. The remaining soldiers were very angry but they dare not revolt. However, wherever they went, the people laughed at them and questioned them how they could tolerate the British nonsense towards their brethren. All this hardened their determination to act.

These remaining soldiers returned to their camps burning with anger and revenge. They carried out secret meetings throughout the night. At that time there were 1,850 British and 3,000 Indian soldiers in that Cantonment.

On 10th May, 1857 armed people had started gathering around Merrut city. The Indian soldiers had decided to take over from the British. They announced that the revolution had started. Early morning, the cavalry

regiment directly attacked the jail, and released all the prisoners. The rampage had started; anything which was British owned was burned down and looted. Many of the British officers were killed.

DELHI

After the victory of Merrut, the revolutionaries marched to liberate Delhi from the British. 2,000 of them left for Delhi and arrived there on 11th May, 1857. But under the excitement and enthusiasm, they had forgotten one important rule of battles – namely that it was important to consolidate one's gains. Each unit should have taken on the British in it's own place, rather than rallying around just one point. In this way, the British would not have been able to go to other places to provide back – up support. But instead, that did not happen.

Actually the Revolution was supposed to start on 31st May, 1857, but it unexpectedly started on 10th May, 1857.

The revolutionaries gathered under the Red Fort. At that time in Delhi there were only Indian forces. The commander of 54th Regiment Colonel Ripley ordered his sepoys to attack, but of course they did not follow his orders, he was immediately killed instead. 38th Regiment was guarding the Red Fort, but they happily opened the doors for the Revolutionaries.

The Mughal king "Bahadur Shah Zafar" was proclaimed the Emperor of the whole of India. The civilians, nobility and other dignitaries present took the oath of allegiance to the Emperor. (As this article will later examine in its concluded part next week, this was one

of the biggest mistakes done by the revolutionaries, and was one of the chief reasons for the failure of the revolution)

The fire of revolutionaries spread in the rest of Delhi too. The British officers present there were either killed or captured. Upto the 16th May 1857 this rampage carried on, the Britishers and other Europeans were just running helter skelter to save their lives. Many of them managed to escape through a 30 ft tunnel inside the Main guard house.

In the whole country at that time there were 142 units of Infantry, 27 Cavalry & 19 Artillery. There were 230,000 Indian Soldiers and 45,322 foreign soldiers. If the planning was good by the Indian soldiers, they could have remained at their locations and easily overcome the foreign rule. But this was not to happen.

KANPUR

The city of Kanpur had its own importance in this war. In the year 1775 it was made an Army camp by the British to keep an eye on the Nawab of Awadh.

As the news of the developments in Meerut and Delhi spread, the sepoys of Kanpur were also ready to rebel. There were 3,000 Indian soldiers & 300 British soldiers under the command of General Wheeler.

NANA SAHIB PESHWA

His real name was Dhondu Pant. He was the adopted son of Peshwa Baji Rao II. He was refused the pension that his father had been receiving from the British

because he was an adopted son. Being the Peshwa, he was highly offended.

Nana's brilliant general Tatya Tope won many battles and Nana Sahib's troops participated in the actions against the British at Kanpur.

Nana Sahib was stationed in Kanpur, he had meeting with the revolutionaries on 1st Of June. Nana sahib was forced to become a leader, but the British considered him as their friend. But of course as a true believer of his country's freedom he hated the British.

On 4th June midnight the Indian soldiers started their action by firing at the houses of the British. Subedar Teeka Singh came out on his horse, and then the Infantry forces followed him. Their convoy reached Nawabgunj. They captured the treasury, armoury and the prisons. Nana sahib was openly leading the revolution. The famous Maratha warrior Tatya Tope, who was in Bithur, also joined them. Because of the able leadership of these persons, the British were given a tough fight in Kanpur. Even General Wheeler was killed here.

On 28th June evening a large gathering of the nobility and the revolutionaries was held. On 1st July, Nana Sahib Peshwa was coronated. .

AWADH

British had annexed Awadh to their Empire and the Nawab "Wajid Ali shah" was dismissed. The army was relieved and thousands of soldiers were rendered jobless. The tax on the farmers was increased manifold.

All this led to a general discontent amongst the people who were ready for a revolution.

The revolutionary movement over there was led by Maulvi Ahmedhsah and Taluquedar Mansingh. Lucknow the capital city of Awadh was under the command of British Army which was led by "Sir Henry Lawrence". Since the news of events in Merrut had spread and even locally the atmosphere was quite tense, it could easily be visualized that in a matter of time the sepoys might rebel any time soon.

On 30th May 1857 exactly at 9.00 P.M. the revolutionaries started firing with guns and cannons. Many of the houses of the British were set to fire, and many officers were killed. But Henry Lawrence had some time to fortify his position inside a British compound called "Residency". British forces numbered 1700 men which included some loyal sepoys. Initially the assault by the revolutionaries from outside the compound was not successful, so they began a barrage of artillery and musket fire into the compound. Lawrence was one of the first casualties. Then the revolutionaries tried to breach the walls with explosives and bypass them via underground tunnels that led to underground close combat. After 90 days of siege, the numbers of British were reduced to 350 British soldiers. This action was widely known as the "Siege of Lucknow".

(TO BE CONCLUDED IN NEXT ISSUE)

Vedic mantras replace birthday jingles in Jaipur

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http://www.hindustantimes.com/news/181_1529754,00110002.htm

Rahul celebrated his 15th birthday not by blowing candles atop a cake but by lighting 15 earthen lamps - a trend of traditional celebrations is now catching on among people in this Rajasthan capital.

The well-decorated cake with birthday candles over it, festoons and foot tapping music are slowly giving way for some to lighting small mud lamps and prayers and even Vedic rituals.

According to sociologists, this could be attributed to a changing mindset among the city's people - to not blindly follow western culture or could be a sudden desire to respect ones own culture. But, the winds of change have replaced birthday jingles in a few homes with the chanting of Vedic verses.

According to Rahul's father Ram Mahohar: "Blowing of candles is considered ominous, as bringing bad luck in our tradition because it is something associated with death. I therefore persuaded my children not to do it on their birthdays. It's not part of our culture and I am happy my child accepted it."

"I was really happy to light the lamps," said the Class X student. "I found it more close to my thoughts."

The trend is catching on among some professionals and students too.

Management student Surbhi Mathur, considered modern by her friends, celebrates her birthday in a similar fashion.

"On my birthday I light lamps at a nearby temple and seek blessings from my parents. Though I do throw a small party for friends, but it never includes blowing of birthday candles. I know it doesn't auger well. Wearing western outfits is a different matter, and we are all Indians at heart," Surbhi said.

"The Indian way of celebrating birthdays involves prayers and rituals. Apart from being a low cost affair it also provides mental peace which increases work efficiency," states Om Sharma, a 40-year-old professional cameraman.

Parvesh, a local businessman, says: "Every birthday in my family is celebrated in a typical Indian manner. We offer prayers for the longevity of the person whose birthday it is. Later, we give free lunch to the needy."

Is the gloss of western culture fading away?

हनुमान फिल्म टिकट खिड़की पर सफल

अश्लील फिल्में फ्लाप, हनुमान सुपरहिट

अभी तक सात करोड़ का व्यापार किया

- रेवती शिंदे





बॉलीवुड के बड़े-बड़े नायकों की फिल्में जहां पिट रही हों वहां पौराणिक कथा रामायण के महत्वपूर्ण चरित्र हनुमान ने बॉक्स ऑफिस पर कमाल कर दिखाया है। सहारा वन, परसेप्ट पिक्चर कंपनी और सिल्वरटून्स द्वारा ढाई करोड़ रुपए में बनाई गई इस एनिमेशन फिल्म ने बच्चों से लेकर बूढ़ों तक सभी को अपने वश में कर लिया है। जहां बड़े कलाकारों की फिल्में पहले तीन दिन सफल हो जाएं तो जश्न मनाया जाता है, वहीं सामान्य तरीके से बिना किसी शोर के लगातार चौथे हफ्ते हनुमान ने बॉक्स ऑफिस पर सफलता की दौड़ जारी रखी है। हनुमान ने अब तक पूरे देश में सात करोड़ रुपए का व्यवसाय कर पहला स्थान प्राप्त किया है। पिछले दिनों बॉलीवुड के चर्चित कलाकार सलमान खान की **क्यूंकि** और वासु भगनानी की **शादी नंबर वन** प्रदर्शित हुई थीं, जिसके निर्देशक थे डेविड धवन और उसमें फरदीन, जाएद, संजय दत्त आदि ने कार्य किया था। ये दोनों पहले हफ्ते में ही दम तोड़ गयीं। सिर्फ मुम्बई में ही हनुमान ने अपनी लागत से ज्यादा यानी तीन करोड़ रुपए का व्यवसाय किया। इतना ही नहीं भारत की पहली व्यावसायिक एनिमेटेड फिल्म होने के रूप में लिम्का बुक ऑफ रिकार्ड्स 2004 में इस फिल्म को शामिल किया गया है।



बॉलीवुड के इतिहास में पहली बार किसी एनिमेशन फिल्म को व्यावसायिक फिल्म की तरह प्रचारित किया गया। पूरे हिन्दुस्थान में इसके 150 प्रिंट रिलीज किए गए। 90 मिनट की इस फिल्म में वह सब कुछ है जो एक व्यावसायिक फिल्म के लिए जरूरी होता है।

पहले तीन दिन में ही इस फिल्म ने डेढ़ करोड़ रुपए का व्यवसाय किया।

इस फिल्म की सफलता ने बॉलीवुड की इस धारणा को गलत साबित कर दिया है कि सिर्फ सेक्स या बड़े कलाकारों की फिल्में ही चलती हैं। बॉलीवुड में जब कोई फिल्म चल जाती है तो हर दूसरा निर्माता उसी तरह की फिल्म बनाने की योजना बनाता है और फिल्म बनाता भी है। बॉलीवुड में सबसे सुरक्षित सेक्सी फिल्म बनाना माना जाता है।



मर्डर, राज, ख्वाहिश आदि फिल्में बॉक्स ऑफिस पर क्या चलीं हर किसी ने इसी तरह की फिल्में बनानी शुरू कर दीं। फिर **शीशा, हवस** आदि फिल्में आईं जो बॉक्स ऑफिस पर बुरी तरह लुढ़क गईं। इससे यह साबित हुआ कि सिर्फ सेक्स ही नहीं बिकता है। सिर्फ नायिकाओं का शरीर देखने के लिए ही दर्शक आते तो फिल्म उद्योग में असफल फिल्मों की संख्या नहीं बढ़ती। आज हिन्दुस्थान में वार्षिक आठ सौ के आसपास फिल्में बनती हैं, जिनमें सबसे जयादा हिन्दी फिल्में होती हैं, लेकिन सफल फिल्म दो या तीन ही होती हैं।

बॉलीवुड के व्यापार विश्लेषक तरन आदर्श ने हनुमान की सफलता के बारे में जानकारी देते हुए बताया, 'मैंने प्रीमियर पर यह फिल्म देखी। फिल्म देखते वक्त मुझमें छुपा छोटा बच्चा बाहर आया और उसने फिल्म का आनंद लिया। छोटे बच्चों को तो हनुमान ने आकर्षित किया है, मेरी तरह बड़े लोगों को भी आकर्षित किया।

हनुमान के बारे में हम जानते हैं, लेकिन इस फिल्म में वह सब कुछ था जो हम नहीं जानते और मेरी नजर में फिल्म की सफलता का राज यही है। हम सुपरमैन, स्पाइडरमैन और बैटमैन के पीछे क्यों भागते हैं? अपनी पुरानी कहानियों में कई सुपर हीरो हैं जिनमें से हनुमान एक हैं।

तरन आदर्श ने फिल्म के व्यवसाय के बारे में जानकारी देते हुए बताया, सलमान खान की 'क्यूंकि' ने सिर्फ 20 फीसदी व्यवसाय किया, तो **शादी नंबर वन** 30 से 40 प्रतिशत तक पहुंच पायी। वहीं हनुमान ने सिर्फ रिकवरी ही नहीं की, बल्कि दुगुना व्यवसाय किया।

हनुमान की सफलता के बारे में जानकारी देते हुए सहारा वन के मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी शंतनु आदित्य ने बताया, अपने यहां ऐसा मानना है कि ऐनिमेशन फिल्में केवल बच्चों के लिए ही होती हैं, लेकिन हनुमान ने इसे गलत साबित कर दिया है। फिल्म में हमने गाने, कहानी का प्रस्तुतिकरण और साथ ही अच्छा एनिमेशन देने की वजह से बच्चों से लेकर बूढ़ों तक सभी को पसंद आई। कई बच्चों ने दो-दो, तीन-तीन बार यह फिल्म देखी। युवाओं ने भी इस फिल्म को पसंद किया है। इस फिल्म का चोरी की नकल वाला वीसीडी बाजार में न आने की वजह से भी व्यवसाय अच्छा हुआ।

प्रतिक्रियाएं

अर्चना पूरण सिंह - हनुमान मेरे बच्चों को बहुत पसंद आई। यह दिमाग के घोड़े दौड़ा देती है। मेरे बच्चों ने फिर एक बार मुझसे चार टिकट खरीदने के लिए कहा और वह अपने दोस्तों के साथ फिल्म देखने गए।

अमर उपाध्याय - मैंने प्रीमियर पर यह फिल्म देखी। मेरे बच्चे को ही नहीं बल्कि मुझे खुद भी यह फिल्म काफी पसंद आई। इसमें कई ऐसी

बातें थीं जो हम नहीं जानते थे। सबसे अच्छा मुझे बाल हनुमान लगा। मैं चाहता हूं कि इस तरह की और भी फिल्में बनें।

मास्टर लव (दस साल) - फिल्म प्रदर्शित होने के पहले ही मैंने अपने माता-पिता से फिल्म के टिकट लाने के लिए कहा था। यह बहुत अच्छी फिल्म है। बाल हनुमान बहुत ही 'क्यूट' हैं।

120 कलाकार, 2 लाख चित्र और कई समस्याओं से जूझ कर बनी फिल्म

हनुमान जी ने मेरे कान में आकर बोला था कि फिल्म बनाओ हिट होगी।

- निर्देशक वी.जी. सामंत

हिन्दुस्थान की पहली एनिमेशन फिल्म हनुमान बनाने के लिए दो साल का समय, 120 कलाकारों की मेहनत और कई दरवाजों की ठोकरें खानी पड़ीं। इस फिल्म का निर्देशन हिन्दुस्थान के एनिमेशन गुरु वी.जी. सामंत ने किया है।

वी.जी. सामंत ने हनुमान को रुपहले परदे तक लाने के सफर के बारे में पाञ्चजन्य को जानकारी देते हुए बताया, ढाई साल पहले मैंने हनुमान पर काम करना शुरू किया। 160 कलाकार जिनमें 120 चित्रकार और 40 डिजिटल कलाकारों का समावेश है, की मदद से हमने हनुमान का काम शुरू किया। कहानी के हिसाब से हमने दो लाख चित्र बनाए। हमने पहले ही तय किया था कि बच्चों को हनुमान का रूप पसंद आना चाहिए इसलिए बाल हनुमान पर हमने ज्यादा ध्यान दिया।

फिल्म बनाने में आई दिक्कतों के बारे में जानकारी देते हुए जब हमने फिल्म की योजना बनाई और कई निर्माताओं के पास गए, तब किसी ने

हमें प्रोत्साहन नहीं दिया। सभी कहते थे कि आज के जमाने में हनुमान पर बनी एनिमेशन फिल्म कौन देखेगा? मेरी पूरी यूनिट निराश हो गई थी, लेकिन हमें हनुमान जी पर पूरा भरोसा था क्योंकि हनुमान जी ने मेरे कान में आकर बोला था कि फिल्म बनाओ हिट होगी। मैंने सारे कलाकारों को यही बात बताई और उन्होंने भी मेरी बात पर भरोसा कर काम जारी रखा। कोई निर्माता नहीं था फिर भी हमने काम शुरू रखा। ऐसे में सहारा वन और परसेप्ट पिक्चर कंपनी ने हम पर भरोसा रखा और उन्होंने फिल्म के निर्माण के लिए मदद की। वी.जी. सामंत हिन्दुस्थान के सबसे पुराने एनिमेशन कलाकार हैं। उन्हें हिन्दुस्थान में एनिमेशन गुरु के रूप में जाना जाता है। मूलतः चित्रकार वी.जी. सामंत ने पहले फिल्म डिवीजन में काम करना शुरू किया। तीस साल में उन्होंने 120 से ज्यादा एनिमेशन फिल्में बनाई हैं जिनमें से कई फिल्मों को राष्ट्रीय, अंतरराष्ट्रीय पुरस्कार मिले हैं। उन्होंने 1986 में लाइव एनिमेशन की शुरुआत की थी। वी.जी. सामंत की चर्चित एनिमेशन फिल्मों में ट्री ऑफ यूनिटी और पंचतंत्र की कहानी पर आधारित 'लायन एंड रैबिट' आदि शामिल हैं। हनुमान के बाद अब सामंत एक और पौराणिक कहानी पर बच्चों के लिए एनिमेशन फिल्म बनाने की योजना बना रहे हैं।

अक्षरधाम मन्दिर का लोकार्पण समारोह

दिल्ली में उतरा देवलोक

- दिल्ली ब्यूरो



भव्य, अद्‌भुत, मनोहारी अक्षरधाम मंदिर का विहंगम दृश्य



आरती करते हुए राष्ट्रपति डा.अब्दुल कलाम तथा
प्रमुख स्वामी जी।

करीब 5 वर्ष पूर्व की बात है। अक्षरधाम मन्दिर का निर्माण प्रारम्भ हो चुका था। कुछ तथाकथित छद्म पंथ निरपेक्षतावादियों को तब यह कार्य शायद अच्छा नहीं लगा था। अनेक तर्कजाल गढ़े गए, ताकि निर्माण कार्य रोका जा सके। कुछ मीडियाकर्मी भी इसके विरुद्ध लामबन्द हुए तो कुछ ने न्यायालय की राह पकड़ी। लेकिन इन सबसे निश्चिंत स्वामिनारायण सम्प्रदाय के प्रमुख स्वामी जी महाराज और उन्हीं की प्रेरणा से 11,000 स्वयंसेवकों तथा 7000 शिल्पकारों, कारीगरों की रात-दिन की मेहनत ने आखिर सभी बाधाओं पर विजय प्राप्त करते हुए वह शुभ मुहूर्त ला ही दिया, जिसका इन्तजार सम्भवतः कई शताब्दियों को करना पड़ता है। अक्षरधाम, जिसका उद्घाटन राष्ट्रपति डा. ए.पी.जे. अब्दुल कलाम द्वारा गत 6 नवम्बर, 2005 की सायंकाल दिल्ली में यमुना नदी के रमणीक तट पर सम्पन्न हुआ, कुछ ऐसा बना है कि जिसने भी इसे देखा, वह मंत्रमुग्ध, अवाक और अभिभूत रह गया।

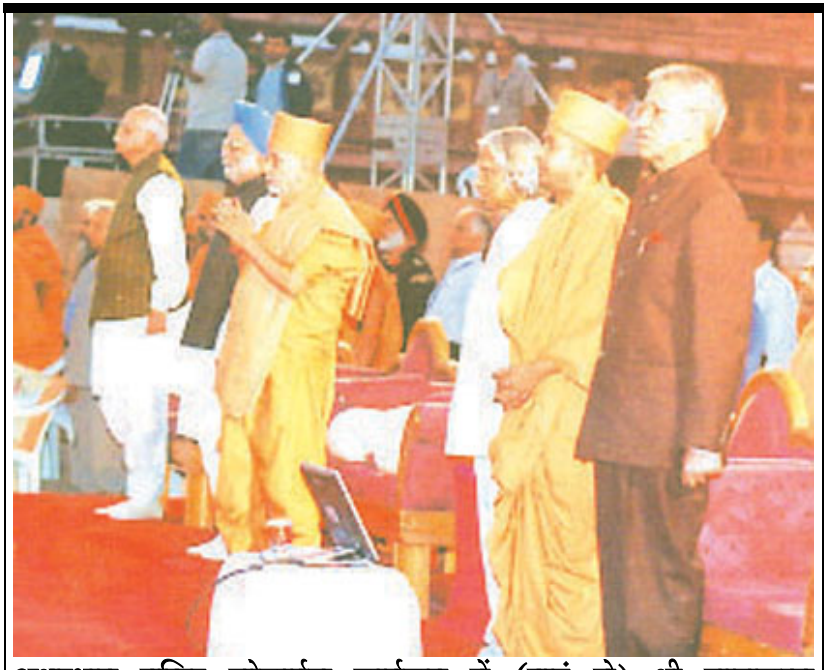
राष्ट्रपति डा. अब्दुल कलाम, प्रधानमंत्री डा. मनमोहन सिंह, लोकसभा में नेता प्रतिपक्ष एवं भाजपा अध्यक्ष श्री लालकृष्ण आडवाणी सहित वहां उपस्थित हजारों लोग अक्षरधाम की विलक्षण छटा देखकर मुग्ध, भाव-विभोर थे।

राष्ट्रपति डा. अब्दुल कलाम ने अक्षरधाम मन्दिर के लोकार्पण के बाद अपने सम्बोधन में कहा, 'अपने 74 वर्ष के जीवन में यह ऐसी दूसरी घटना है जिसने मुझे अन्दर तक प्रभावित किया। पहली घटनी 1962 में घटी थी, जब डा. होमी जहांगीर भाभा और डा. विक्रम साराभाई के प्रयासों से तिरुअनन्तपुरम के पास थुम्बा में राकेट प्रक्षेपण केन्द्र की स्थापना हुई थी। तब थुम्बा में जिस स्थान पर भारतीय अन्तरिक्ष विज्ञान का यह महान केन्द्र बनने वाला था, वहां एक चर्च और ईसाई समुदाय की बस्ती थी। तब फादर पीटर फरेरा और समस्त ग्रामवासियों ने इस

महान कार्य के लिए अपना चर्च और घर-मकान देना स्वीकार कर लिया और थुम्बा का प्रक्षेपण केन्द्र अस्तित्व में आ सका।'

डा. कलाम ने कहा, 'ऐसा लग रहा है कि आज मैं किसी दूसरे लोक में आ गया हूं।

इक्कीसवीं सदी का महान सूर्योदय है-'अक्षरधाम'। इसे देखकर मन में आत्मविश्वास उपजता है कि हां, हम भारतीय भी उत्कृष्ट कार्य कर सकते हैं। अक्षरधाम के महान स्थापत्य को देखकर मैं गौरवान्वित हूं।'



अक्षरधाम मन्दिर लोकार्पण कार्यक्रम में (बाएं से) श्री लालकृष्ण आडवाणी, डा. मनमोहन सिंह, प्रमुख स्वामीजी महाराज, डा. अब्दुल कलाम, स्वामी विवेकदास जी एवं श्री बनवारी लाल जोशी (उपराज्यपाल, दिल्ली)

अक्षरधाम से विदा लेते समय उनकी कार तक छोड़ने आए पार्षदों एवं संतों से डा. अब्दुल कलाम ने कहा कि वे स्वामिनारायण पंथ के कार्यों में सहयोग करना चाहेंगे, वह भी प्रमुख स्वामी जी के नेतृत्व में।

डा. कलाम ने विज्ञान और अध्यात्म के द्वारा भारत का भविष्य बदलने का आह्वान करते हुए उपस्थित हजारों लोगों को संकल्प भी कराया। डा. कलाम ने इस संकल्प में लोगों से आह्वान किया कि अक्षरधाम की तरह ही हम अपने हजारों ग्रामों का अगले 5 वर्षों में पुनर्निर्माण करेंगे। आध्यात्मिक जागरण करते हुए देश का आर्थिक विकास करेंगे। आत्मविश्वासपूर्वक भारतीय होने का गौरव रखेंगे और आगामी 10 वर्षों में अपनी प्राचीन विरासत, महान जीवन मूल्यों के साथ शांतिपूर्ण और समृद्ध भारत का स्वप्न साकार करेंगे।



गज-पीठिका



प्रमुख स्वामी जी का अभिनन्दन करते हुए राष्ट्रपति

डा. कलाम ने कहा था 1 लाख

और वृक्ष लगे हैं 9 लाख

लगभग 100 एकड़ के विशाल परिसर में बना अक्षरधाम मन्दिर भारतीय प्राचीन शिल्पकला का अद्‌भुत नमूना है। वास्तु-विशेषज्ञों ने इसकी भव्य योजना को देखकर कहा था कि इसे पूरा होने में 40 से 45 वर्ष लगेंगे। लेकिन लगभग 7000 तथा 11,000 श्रद्धालुओं के निःशुल्क श्रम और लगन शिल्पकारों-कलाकारों के परिश्रम से अक्षरधाम मन्दिर मात्र 5 वर्षों में ही निर्मित हो गया। मन्दिर के निर्माण पर लगभग 200 करोड़ रुपए की लागत आई है। जब कार्यक्रम के संचालक स्वामी अक्षर वत्सल ने डा. कलाम को बताया कि पूरे परिसर में 9 लाख विविध प्रजातियों के

वृक्षों का रोपण किया गया है तो डा. कलाम के चेहरे पर हर्ष की रेखाएं दौड़ गयीं और मुदित दर्शकों-श्रोताओं की तालियों की गड़गड़ाहट से आसमान गूंज उठा।



मन्दिर में भगवान स्वामिनारायण की मूर्ति

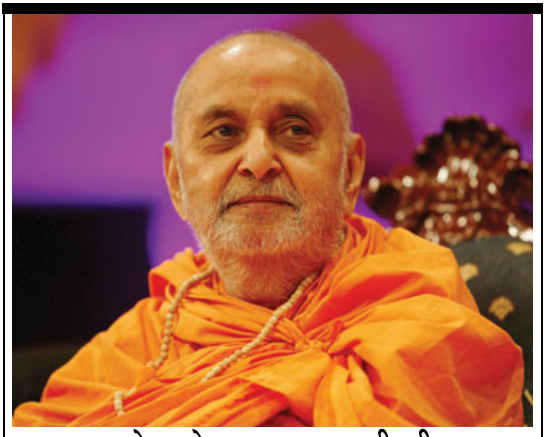
इस अवसर पर पूज्य प्रमुख स्वामी जी महाराज द्वारा स्मृतिचिन्ह भेंट कर और शाल ओढ़ा कर राष्ट्रपति डा.अब्दुल कलाम, प्रधानमंत्री डा. मनमोहन सिंह तथा भाजपा अध्यक्ष श्री लालकृष्ण आडवाणी का अभिनन्दन-स्वागत किया गया। अपने भावपूर्ण उद्‌बोधन में प्रमुख स्वामी जी महाराज ने कहा कि लोक कल्याण और शांति स्थापना एवं लोगों को धर्ममय जीवन बिताने हेतु प्रेरित करने के लिए ही ईश्वर इस धराधाम पर आते हैं। यही कार्य करने के लिए 200 वर्ष पूर्व स्वामिनारायण भगवान अयोध्या के पास छपैया ग्राम में प्रकट हुए थे। प्रमुख स्वामी जी ने 'सर्वजीव हिताः' की भारतीय

परम्परा का उद्घोष करते हुए कहा कि अक्षरधाम मन्दिर का निर्माण मेरे गुरुदेव पूज्य योगी जी महाराज और भगवान के आदेश का परिणाम है। प्रत्येक व्यक्ति में राष्ट्रभावना, समाज भावना, कुटुम्ब भावना जगे, सर्वत्र शान्ति स्थापित हो-अक्षरधाम का यही सन्देश है।

इसके पूर्व अपने सम्बोधन में प्रधानमंत्री डा. मनमोहन सिंह ने कहा कि यह दिल्ली के भव्यतम परिसरों में गिना जाएगा। अक्षरधाम के निर्माण में लोहे का कहीं भी प्रयोग न होना तथा इसकी सुन्दर स्थापत्य कला बताती है कि हमारे देश के शिल्पकार, करीगर कितने कुशल हैं। प्रधानमंत्री ने सन् 1939 में गांधी जी द्वारा दिल्ली में लक्ष्मी नारायण मन्दिर और बुद्ध विहार के उद्घाटन के अवसर का जिक्र करते हुए कहा कि 'छुआछूत-भेदभाव को मिटाने वाले मन्दिर ही वास्तविक मन्दिर हैं। यही गांधी जी का भी सन्देश था।' प्रधानमंत्री ने अपने सम्बोधन के उपरांत जैसे ही पूज्य प्रमुख स्वामी जी का चरण स्पर्श किया, पूरा परिसर करतल-ध्वनि से गूंज उठा।

भारतीय जनता पार्टी के राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष एवं लोकसभा में प्रतिपक्ष के नेता श्री लालकृष्ण आडवाणी ने अपने सम्बोधन में कहा कि आज भारत के इतिहास में नया पर्व शुरू हुआ है। स्वयं को अक्षरधाम परिवार का सदस्य बताते हुए उन्होंने कहा कि दस वर्ष पूर्व लंदन में अक्षरधाम मन्दिर परिवार के उद्घाटन के समय मैं भी वहां गया था। 'रीडर्स डाइजेस्ट' पत्रिका के एक सर्वेक्षण का उल्लेख करते हुए उन्होंने बताया कि पत्रिका ने लंदन के अक्षरधाम मन्दिर को 'आधुनिक विश्व के ७० अनोखे निर्माण' में से एक बताया है। श्री आडवाणी ने कहा कि नई दिल्ली का यह अक्षरधाम मन्दिर दुनिया का अनन्यतम, आश्चर्यजनक स्थापत्य है। इसमें हजारों भक्तों के समर्पण और शिल्पकारों व कलाकारों की साधना प्रकट हो रही है। श्री आडवाणी ने कहा कि समाज को

नशामुक्त तथा चरित्रसम्पन्न बनाने में स्वामिनारायण सम्प्रदाय का योगदान अद्‌भुत है।



अक्षरधाम के प्रणेता- प्रमुख स्वामी जी महाराज

लोकार्पण समारोह में देश-विदेश से आए हजारों भक्तों ने मंत्रमुग्ध कर देने वाले नृत्य एवं संगीत कार्यक्रमों का भी आनन्द उठाया। भारत एवं भगवद्‌भक्ति से परिपूर्ण गीतों ने उपस्थित जनसमुदाय को भावविभोर कर दिया। इस अवसर पर भारत की ऐतिहासिक, सांस्कृतिक, वैज्ञानिक एवं आर्थिक विरासत का जीवंत वर्णन करने वाली झांकियों का प्रदर्शन भी अद्‌भुत था। स्वामिनारायण भगवान की आरती के समय जब पूरे परिसर में एक साथ हजारों हाथों में दीपक जगमगा उठे तो एक बारगी ऐसा लगा कि मानो धरती पर देवलोक उतर आया हो। हृदय-हृदय को अवर्णनीय आनन्द से सराबोर कर गया अक्षरधाम मन्दिर का लोकार्पण समारोह।

प्राचीन भारत के गौरव की झलक और स्वर्णिम भविष्य का विश्वास दिलाती झांकियां :



योग विद्या



मन्दिर की आधार-भित्ति पर चारों ओर जीवंत गज पीठिका



The states of BHARAT

MIZORAM

Area:- 21,000 sq.km
Population:- 700,000
State capital:- Aizawl
Main language:- Mizo

THE SOUTHERNMOST OF THE NORTH EASTERN STATES, MIZORAM JUTS DOWN BETWEEN BURMA AND BANGLADESH. UNTIL 1972, IT WAS KNOWN AS “LUSHAI HILLS”, A DISTRICT OF ASSAM. IT HAS STATE BORDERS WITH MANIPUR, ASSAM AND TRIPURA TO ITS NORTH, AND ITS WESTERN BORDER IS WITH THE CHITTAGONG HILL TRACTS WHICH ARE IN THE POSSESSION OF BANGLADESH. THE HALF A DOZEN OR SO PARALLEL NORTH – SOUTH RANGES OF HILLS RISING TO OVER 2,000 METERS NEAR THE BURMESE BORDER ARE COVERED IN DENSE FORESTS OF BAMBOO AND WILD BANANA. AT THE BOTTOM OF THE DEEP GORGES THE RIVERS ARE RUN IN NARROW RIBBONS. THE MIZO PEOPLE LOVE FLOWERS, AND EVERY HOME PROUDLY DISPLAYS ORCHIDS AND POTS OF GERANIUM, BEGONIA AND BALSAM. OVER A THOUSAND VARIETIES OF MEDICINAL PLANTS GROW WILD. 75% OF THE ECONOMY IS DEPENDENT ON AGRICULTURE AND SHIFTING CULTIVATION – WITH RICE AND MAIZE BEING THE MAIN CROPS. AIZAWL IS THE STATE CAPITAL AND THE ONLY MAJOR URBAN CENTER IN THE STATE – THE POPULATION OF AIZAWL IS ABOUT 160,000 AND IT IS SITUATED AT AN ALTITUDE OF 1,132 METERS

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