This collection of articles from Indian newspapers is designed for use in the secondary classroom to assist with the study of India. There are 12 categories of articles: (1) Women: Like Avis, #2 But Trying Harder; (2) Calcutta: City of Joy; (3) India: Feeling Its Curry; (4) Us & Them: Misunderstandings; (5) Those Monsoon Showers May Come Your Way; (6) Religious (In)tolerance: The Babri Dispute; (7) Caste and Outcast; (8) Problems Aplenty; (9) Election Year Politics; (10) Isms: Terror, Separat, National...; (11) India's Herblock, Darcy, Oliphant; and (12) Miscellaneous. (DB)
TABLE OF CONTENTS

FOREWORD                                     ii
WOMEN: LIKE AVIS, #2 BUT TRYING HARDER        1
CALCUTTA: CITY OF JOY                         27
INDIA: FEELING ITS CURRY                      40
US & THEM: MISUNDERSTANDINGS                  74
THOSE MONSOON SHOWERS MAY COME YOUR WAY       87
RELIGIOUS (IN)TOLERANCE: THE BABRI DISPUTE    106
CASTE AND OUTCAST                            119
PROBLEMS APLENTY                              128
ELECTION YEAR POLITICS                       160
ISMS: TERROR, SEPARAT, NATIONAL..             175
INDIA'S HERBLOCK, Darcy, Oliphant            184
MISCELLANEOUS                                193
During the summer of 89, I travelled to India with 17 other American high school teachers on a Fulbright-Hays Seminar Grant to study Indian History and Culture. And as a teacher of the Afro-Asian World (Social Studies 9), now renamed, as we have the want to do, Global Studies 1, I read, travelled, and studied in all the areas of the course except for India. This was to be my jewel in the academic crown.

Upon acceptance in early April of 1989, the United States Department of Education and USEFI (United States Educational Foundation in India), in particular, began inundating me with pamphlets, suggested reading lists, articles, travel tips. This all culminated with a 2-plus day orientation program in Washington, D.C. just prior to departure. Four former Indian Fulbrighters tried to further sensitize us to India by sharing their thoughts and experiences (slides, music, incense, remembrances). Visits to Indian restaurants and a collective greeting at the Indian Embassy capped it off.

D.C. to Delhi is a real "schlep" as they say in Yiddish. We arrived at 3 A.M. the day after we left - add 9½ hours of time zones (I still don't understand that time aberration), 15 hours +/- flight time, and a two-hour layover in Frankfurt, W. Germany. As much as I read about India, viewed videos and TV productions, spoke to my Indian students (Elmont Memorial High School is blessed with a growing population from the Sub-Continent, and several of my students offered me their orientation program to their home), listened to, queried, heard from former Fulbrighters - nothing totally prepared me for the immensity of what is India.

Indira Gandhi International Airport is like and unlike any airport in the world be it JFK, O'Hare, or Dulles. Multitudes of humanity at 3 A.M.; a whirling endless movement, but amidst that are people sleeping on the pavement. And, of course, the heat and humidity - it is instant (and a constant state of) meltdown. The difference between 3 A.M. and 3 P.M. (on that July day) is only a matter of a few degrees and a few percentage points; the temperature and humidity race each other towards 100. The smell of incense (by the end of the trip my olfactory (or is it old factory) could distinguish between jasmine, saffron, etc.) and the smell of urine reached my nostrils as we left the airport.

Yes it's all there - beggars on the streets, public defecation, the occasional lepers outside public monuments, the "holy" cows, ladies in saris with their forehead dot (bundis), saffron robed religious figures (sadhus) saying prayers, chanting mantras. One must not dwell on the negatives or what we have stereotyped India to be. To often our media, and we share the guilt by internalizing and accepting these short vignettes or terse commentaries as being universal, portray India as a land of beggars with immense poverty; but there is beauty, wealth, productivity, and industry. We look at India as India during the Raj, or the Mughal dynasties - that faraway place in a faraway time, those bejeweled, bygone days that mystify and captivate our imaginations. In a way India straddles time zones for much of rural India, village India as Oscar Lewis said, lives in an age gone by.
But the urban India, Bombay, Delhi, Calcutta are like Paris, D.C., and New York.

So India stands with one foot in the distant past and another in the 20th century. Arranged marriages, dowry deaths, caste obligations, exist side by side with Nobel Prize experiments in light refraction, nuclear technology, and satellites being orbited around the earth.

One measure of a society is to read its daily newspapers; India's newspapers range in quality from my favorites (the New York Times and Newsday) to the lower end of the journalistic spectrum (the pap one can scan while waiting at the supermarket checkout line). There is no lack of choice and more encouraging is that there is freedom of the press. There is a vocal, verbal, loyal and otherwise, opposition with a full sociopolitical spectrum of viewpoints. As I read the daily papers (Indian Express, The Times of India, The Hindustan Times, The Hindu, The Statesman et al), I felt I was beginning to grasp the vitality, the dynamism of this wonderful nation.

Yes, there is poverty aplenty. Yes, it's a land of 500,000 plus villages of mud brick homes. Yes marriages are still arranged and some girls are married in their early teens - don't harbor on the negative. Sense it, feel it, experience it and you'll love it as I did.

I've collected newspaper articles over the 40 plus days I sojourned on the subcontinent. They come from all over - from Srinagar in the Vale of Kashmir to the bone white sands of Madras beaches; from the urbane streets of Bombay to the Ghats on the Ganga in Varanasi; from Agra and its marble magnificence, the Taj Mahal, to Calcutta, the City of Joy, and Mother Teresa, bless her soul. I've divided them into several categories with catchy Madison Avenue titles???: and I've added some comments to each section including some possible uses for some of the articles in the classroom.

Namaste.
WOMEN: LIKE AVIS, #2 BUT TRYING HARDER
WOMEN: LIKE AVIS, #2 BUT TRYING HARDER

On my very first night in New Delhi at the Claridges Hotel, I was regaled with a wedding ceremony. The groom arrived on horseback decked out in a jeweled turban and a cream white suit. He was preceded up the local streets by a marching band fully attired in what I saw as disheveled high school band uniforms. Members of the groom's family, males mostly, walked on all sides of the groom in a less than military march. The musical fanfare was accompanied by a light show of sorts; men carrying some neon lights in a triangular shape (10 of them) walked ahead of the band. This gaudy, loyal column approached the Claridge at a funeral pace, adding passersby, me included, along their route.

In the hotel the bride's family and female members of the groom's entourage awaited the groom's dramatic entrance. The women wore beautiful saris, each one more beautiful than the other - silk mostly w.th some cotton ones, most sewn with gold or silver thread. It was a stunning, beautiful assemblage of stunningly beautiful women of all ages. This was an upper-class affair, and although many Indians perceive all Americans as affluent, virtually every member of the wedding party could have bought and sold this Long Island teacher. The sheer joy that this event produced overflowed on to the foreign guests staying at the hotel. Many of my fellow Fulbrighters were invited to join in the wedding. So here I am - Chicago Cub t-shirt, a pair of beige khakis and my Reeboks - I felt like an outcast albeit a most welcomed one. The bride entered led by two flower petal tossing children. She wore a beautiful Indian outfit - an overblouse and pants - of cream, yellow, beige, and muted red. Flowers in her hair, a large ring in her nostril and other jewel accessories added color and enchantment to her presence. My eyes looked upon her before her groom caught his first glimpse - so technically I saw her first. For, yes, this was an arranged marriage, a traditional one.

To an American who has sampled the American institution of marriage on more than one occasion, and one who believes in it wholeheartedly, I was curious to the pros and cons of the "arranged marriage." There are many. Imagine as a teenagers all the pressure of dating, wondering if your prince will ever come, etc. - your Indian counterpart doesn't have these concerns. He knows his parent will find someone befitting the family's status.

India is not a marital paradise. Women are sill second class citizens but this is changing especially among the urban educated (this, however, is a minute percentage of the nation's total population). The articles on the following pages indicate some of the problems that Indian women face - some uniquely theirs, others quite universal.

A) Dowry deaths - yes, they are shocking. You might want to ask your students why they are happening? What does it tell one about society? If we complain about our mothers-in-law, consider the young Indian bride's plight.

B) What physical abuse are young women in our society subjected to (date rape, etc.) - try to make the students see that the abuse of women is not uniquely an Indian phenomenon.

C) The matrimonial ads attached here are hysterical. Have the kids read some of the guy's ads and some of the ladies. Again what can one learn about a society by reading a series of those ads? Tell the students to bring some ads from their local papers (marriage ads) and compare them or have the kids tell you what can be learned about that society from those ads.
D) Indian movies - I have an article here about soaked heroines; and, one could compare our movies to the Indian variety along the lines of using women as lures to increase the box office. Have the students bring in movie ads that are suggestive, exploitive.

E) Equal pay for equal work - list a variety of jobs on the board and see if the students feel/know that women and men have an equal opportunity e.g. pro sports, medicine, law, government. Several of the articles included seem to indicate that it's an uphill battle for women to break into certain professions, and even then get equal pay.
WOMAN STRANGLED FOR DOWRY

EN Correspondent
NEW DELHI, July 5 — A 21-year-old woman was strangled with a rope and cremated in North-West Delhi because she could not bring sufficient dowry.

Saroj was strangled with a rope by her husband, Sudesh Pal, and his sister, Sunita, in their house at Jatkod village under Kanjihawala police station in the afternoon of June 23, alleged Mrs Babli, Saroj's sister married to Sudesh Pal's brother, Shri Pal. She is the sole witness to the murder of her sister.

Mrs Babli, who made her statement to the Punjabi Bagh Sub-Divisional magistrate, said at about 2 p.m. Sudesh Pal and Sunita forcibly tied a rope around Saroj's neck and were strangling her when she rushed to the room hearing Saroj's scream.

Sudhes Pal let Saroj go and pounced on Babli. Babli, according to her statement, was kicked and hit with fists before being locked up in a room.

Soon after, Saroj was strangled. There was no one else in the house at that time. Later in the afternoon, when all the family members returned home, they decided to cremate Saroj. Even the village pradhan, Mr Bhagwan, a distant relative of the Sudesh Pal family, agreed to keep quiet.

Saroj was cremated the same afternoon. Her family members, however, were informed at 8 p.m. only, at least five hours after the cremation.

Mrs Babli and her parents, who reported the matter to the Punjabi Bagh SDM later, complained that Sudesh Pal and his family had been harassing both the sisters for not bringing television, fridge and similar dowry items. Mrs Babli said both of them were beaten up regularly by their in-laws.

The magistrate completed his inquiries yesterday and forwarded his report to the local police last night.

North-West District police chief S. K. Jain said a case of murder and harassment was registered against Sudesh Pal and his family. A police team had been sent to the village for arresting the accused.

He said Sudesh Pal and Sunita are wanted for murder while Babli's husband, Shri Pal, and his parents are wanted for harassment for dowry.
It was an article in Manushi that sparked off the recent debate on dowry. Is women's right to equal inheritance the solution to the dowry problem?

Seetha speaks to women activists to find out

B

UND File and Jalta Savad. Two searing films on a burning issue — dowry. Long after they were telecast, letters continue to pour into newspaper offices, expressing people's anguish and anger at the system.

But public mourning is all that dowry victims like the Kanpur and Palghat sisters and Shalini Malhotra get. For despite legislative measures and increased awareness, the spectre of dowry still looms large over Indian women, taking its toll of lives both after marriage and before.

But for how long are women to be made sacrificial lambs at the altar of dowry? What is behind this insatiable greed? Who is to vanquish the system and where does its weak spot lie? There are no easy answers to these questions. For though women's groups realise the complexity of the issue — involving as it does various other aspects like family prestige, the position of women in society, attitudes towards marriage — there has been little effort to study the whys and wherefores of the system. The causes of dowry, says a Saheli worker, are yet to be identified, there are no meaningful studies into the middle class psyche to see what makes people demand dowry.

But now a great dowry debate is on, sparked off by an article in Manushi. Its editor, Madhu Kishwar, noted that a pledge taken in the early 1980s not to attend any dowry weddings in the hope that this would build up pressure within families and communities against the practice did not have the desired effect. "Most young women for whose benefit we wish to 'abolish' dowry are not willing to give up dowry," the thrust of Kishwar's argument was that women's right to equal inheritance and equal control over property must be translated from paper law into concrete fact to effect any meaningful change in their status. Till then, merely calling for abolition of dowry will make no difference either to the practice or to the powerless status of women as daughters and wives.

Kishwar has a point but it's not a new one. The awareness that dowry has to be tackled from various fronts was there at the time the anti-dowry movement was at its peak in the early and mid-'80s. The movement started off when in the late ’70s a large number of married women were either murdered or committed suicide due to dowry-related harassment.

Campaign

The attack on the system was three-pronged, says Ranjana Kumari, vice-president of the Mahila Dakshita Samiti. The press highlighted such cases, Pramila Dandavate moved a bill in Parliament seeking an amendment to the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961. This was later withdrawn in favour of an official bill. And five major national women's groups — the All-India Women's Conference, Mahila Dakshita Samiti, National Federation of Indian Women, YWCA, and Janwadi Mahila Samiti — got together to form the Dahej Virodhi Chetna Manch. A number of other organisations — women's groups like Saheli and Karmika, the Centre for Women's Development Studies and student bodies — also joined in.

The Manch took up a wide range of issues besides changes in laws — equal inheritance rights, registration of marriages and all gifts given at the time of marriage, family courts, legal aid and employment opportunities. The consistent pressure and a massive rally at the Boat Club in 1982 culminated in the Dowry Prohibition (Amendment) Act being passed.

But the practice has not even been dented. Rather, over the years it has spread — to communities and regions which were not practising it earlier — and intensified among communities which were practising it.

Will equal inheritance rights make a difference? Many believe it will — to an extent. For dowry, quite often, is seen as pre-mortem inheritance — inheritance before death. People, Saheli volunteers say, often give dowry instead of giving a share in property. This is one of the reasons why girls themselves are not willing to forgo dowry, even as a matter of principle.

But there are basic differences, not the least that one comes into an inheritance only after a parent's death, which may well be 20 to 25 years after marriage. Dowry, on the other hand, caters to the immediate needs of the in-laws for cash and luxury goods.

In a paper on "Women and Land Rights in India" in the Journal of Peasant Studies, Bina Agarwal of the Institute of Economic Growth lists five differences between dowry and inheritance:

The quantum of dowry has no relation to the shares of sons in ancestral property. While the sons' shares are fixed, the amount of dowry depends on a range of factors such as the economic situation of the family, the affluence and qualifications of a groom and the social status of his family, the attractiveness of the bride, the marriage alliance contracted by her sisters.

Whether or not dowry is given
depends on the discretion of the parents and brothers; unlike inheritance, it cannot be demanded as a right.

Dowry is not often in a woman's control. Dowry is not a universal practice even among propertyed groups nor is its incidence uniform across the country. Yet Bina Agarwal anticipates "that if equal inheritance rights become a reality, it will make a dent in dowry." In support of this argument, she points out that in communities where women have equal inheritance rights, dowry doesn't exist.

There are others like Urvashi Butalia of Kali for Women, the feminist publishing house, who feel dowry and inheritance should not be linked, apart from the fact that inheritance is an issue only for a very small group. "They are two separate issues. By accepting the link we are helping dowry to continue. We should say women should have equal rights to inheritance. And women should not be bought or sold."

In any case dowry has become a marriage ritual in itself and girls' parents see their status and images as being involved. So unless the family really cannot afford to give both, dowry will continue. And dowry will continue to remain an issue for those with no property. For example, most middle class families only have one house which, it is assumed, will go to the son.

"All we have done, equal inheritance rights by themselves will not ensure that women have greater control over their assets. Urvashi Butalia points out that there are hundreds of women who give up property voluntarily. Besides fathers and brothers are themselves averse to equal inheritance rights as they fear a division of property. Given all this, how do equal inheritance rights make a difference?"

This is not to argue against granting equal inheritance rights. But clearly, something more is needed.

"The real issue," says Bina Agarwal, "is how to ensure that women live with dignity and independence, how their bargaining position can be strengthened." What they need, according to her, "is economic and political empowerment."

One way of doing this is economic independence, giving the maximum job opportunities. "A job is a source of great personal strength," say Saheli volunteers. But this view ignores the fact that most women work only to accumulate their dowries and that they have no control over their salaries — either in their parental or marital home.

So what becomes essential is giving women a greater say in decisions affecting their lives. Right now they have none, even in such personal matters as dress, in extreme cases. "I have seen husbands buying brass for their wives while the women stood in a corner," exclaims a Saheli volunteer, "That is really the pits."

No wonder then that women themselves do not take a stand

WANTED, A CHANGE IN ATTITUDE: As long as marriage remains a commercial transaction between families, the dowry system cannot be wished away.
Over the years the practice of dowry has spread to communities and regions where it wasn't prevalent before. Will equal inheritance rights make a difference? Many believe it will — to an extent. For dowry, quite often, is seen as pre-mortem, i.e. inheritance before death. People, say women's activists, often give dowry instead of giving a share in property. This is one of the reasons why girls themselves are not willing to forgo dowry, even as a matter of principle.

As long as girls continue to be seen as a burden, not just financial, they will continue to be married off to those accused in bride-burning cases. This is what happened in the Sushe Gaur case, says Mr. Madhok. The husband had been given a death sentence by the trial court, but was acquitted by the Delhi High Court and was freed. After an appeal, the Supreme Court sentenced him to life imprisonment but the sentence was not carried out for 18 months. Meanwhile, the man remarried and had a child by his second wife. A Saheli volunteer narrated a similar case.

The case of tackling dowry

As long as marriage is looked upon as a solution to dowry, it only adds to the problem. As Saheli volunteers put it, "Arranged marriages, as long as marriage is a transaction between two families where the determining factor is their respective financial status and not the individuals, dowry will stay. If a man is seen as taking a liability away from the parents, he has to be compensated for the burden he is taking on."

Until such time as society's attitude towards single and divorced women changes, women will not be able to take an effective stand against dowry. The pressure on a girl to get married and stay married is a major factor in her agreeing to take a dowry along with putting up with harassment. Parents themselves are not willing to give even moral support to a woman who walks out of her marital house.

As long as girls continue to be seen as a burden, not just financial, they will continue to be married off to those accused in bride-burning cases. This is what happened in the Sushe Gaur case, says Mr. Madhok. The husband had been given a death sentence by the trial court, but was acquitted by the Delhi High Court and was freed. After an appeal, the Supreme Court sentenced him to life imprisonment but the sentence was not carried out for 18 months. Meanwhile, the man remarried and had a child by his second wife. A Saheli volunteer narrated a similar case.
NEW DELHI, August 7.

MORE than 922 women were burnt to death in 1988 due to dowry, the Lok Sabha was informed today.

In a written reply to Prof. K. V. Thomas, the minister of state for home affairs, Mr. P. Chidambaram, said the dowry prohibition Act, 1961 was amended in 1984 and 1986 to make the law more stringent. The Indian Penal Code, the Criminal Procedure Code, 1973 and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 have also been amended to deal effectively not only with dowry death cases but also with cases of cruelty to married women.

CIVIL SERVICES: In the civil service examinations last year, the percentage of successful women was 16 per cent, against 14.6 per cent in 1987, the minister told Mr. Vijay N. Patil, report agencies.

179 dowry deaths in State

New Delhi, July 20 (UNI): Maharashtra registered the largest number of dowry deaths in the country during 1988, followed by Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh.

Minister of State for Personnel P. Chidambaram told the Rajya Sabha on Thursday.

In a written reply, he said Maharashtra reported 294 dowry deaths, Karnataka 179 and Madhya Pradesh 135.

Yet another dowry death in Capital

By A Staff Reporter

NEW DELHI, August 7:

THERE was yet another dowry death in the Capital last week, when 32-year-old Vimlesh met with a tragic and horrible end at the hands of her in-laws at their house in the Morena Railway colony in north Delhi.

Vimlesh died of burns at the Jayaprakash Narayan hospital on Friday. In her dying statement, she said that her in-laws had set her on fire, and that they had been torturing her since her marriage two-and-a-half-years ago. Their demands were specific: give us the houses belonging to your brothers in Vikaspuri and in Dilshad Gardens. Five of her in-laws were arrested, but her father-in-law, Nahar Singh, a railway employee escaped, and was still absconding.

Vimlesh came from Anand Parbat, in Central Delhi, where she lived with her widowed mother and six brothers. She married Vinod, a 28-year-old businessman in early 1987. She had two daughters, 18-month-old Kanchan, and a four-month-old baby.

Her family alleged that she was regularly beaten up. She was often kept hungry for days, and her in-laws refused to let her use the phone or meet her brothers.

Last Wednesday, she was beaten up before she was set on fire, according to her family. She sustained 100 per cent burns. She was taken to hospital where she succumbed to her burns.

A case of murder was registered, and a manhunt launched for Nahar Singh.

In another case, Kanta, 25, of Old Seemapuri, was found severely burnt in her house on Sunday. She was rushed to Guru Tegh Bahadur hospital, where she was referred to Lok Nayak Jayaprakash Narayan hospital, but she succumbed to her burns.

While the police were investigating, Kanta's brother lodged a complaint saying that she had been continually harassed by her mother-in-law, Munni Devi, and her brother-in-law, Ram Kishore. The police arrested the two accused.
Dowry Harassment: A young housewife of Rajajinagar has complained to the Subramanyan police yesterday that her husband and father-in-law allegedly harassed her for dowry.

Mrs K R. Nalini also alleged that her husband, V N. Murthy, and his father, who are in possession of her jewellery worth over Rs one lakh, have disappeared from their house. She suspected that they might be shifting houses to escape from being caught.

She said she married Murthy in 1984. After a year, Murthy and his father reportedly started harassing Mrs Nalini to bring Rs 50,000 more from her parents. They also demanded that a site which was in her name, should be transferred to her husband's name.

She has also alleged that before the marriage her husband concealed the fact that he was an epileptic patient. The police are investigating.

Atrocities on women on rise in Bihar

By ANEETA SHARMA
The Times of India News Service
PATNA, July 20:

ATROCITIES on women in Bihar are on the rise. According to the state government's report, 76 cases of rape, 74 cases of kidnapping, 95 cases of outraging modesty, 22 dowry-related murders and 15 cases of bride burning have been registered this year. The official statistics further reveals that during last five years as many as 994 women were murdered because of dowry disputes and another 516 brides were burnt to death.

The same period saw the registration of 2,421 cases of rape and of these just one year that is 1986 witnessed 691 cases of rape.

The period 1983-87 also, registered a significant rise in the number of kidnapping cases. Of 1,874 cases filed as many as 442 cases were registered in 1987 alone, making it the "year of kidnapping." But 1988 saw a tremendous upsurge in police atrocities on women. While official statistics were silent, the newspapers were filled with stories of police atrocities on women with the Parasia case hitting the headlines all over the country.

In fact the year ended with the Papri Bose Roy kidnapping case of Bhagalpur in which the state government did everything possible to protect the criminals who were responsible for the outrage.

The citizens of Bhagalpur took to the streets and for one whole week the city was paralysed. Social activi-
Barbaric outrage against woman

Pratik Kanjilal

On 14 November, the entire village of Souratha, under the jurisdiction of the Santaraj, 50-year-old social worker, was gang-raped and tortured. This is the most recent attack on women in this remote territory, where a Santaraj has been perpetuated for years. The Sambali, a village in the northeastern Uttar Pradesh, is without any protection. The attractive and educated woman, widowed six years ago, had married a Muslim four years earlier, resulting in the burning of her house.

It was defence for beyond the man's suffering. And he was silenced when the whole village watched as they were married. The Santaraj's marriage was the talk of the town. The Santaraj, a government official, began to live a disciplined life. The couple became the talk of the village, respected by all.

In the afternoon of June 7, Mr. Yadav barged into the house. In the trances that ensued, Mr. Raza was beaten up by the headman's Hindus. The police arrived and removed the three prosecutors to the Cooch Behar police station. Subsequently, they were released on bail. Mr. Yadav's house was searched. The police found a bill of Rs. 200.

The victim's husband, Mr. Raza, is a social worker. He has been released from jail but goes visiting anyone. This reporter,

As embarrased constabularies then carried out a report filed by the village chowkidar. Three persons, Mr. Raha, Mr. Jethu and Mr. Ramteja, were arrested in a dawn raid. According to eyewitnesses, Mr. Yadav and Mr. Phool Singh tried to bribe the sub-inspector. They were arrested and eventually surrendered in court. Astonishingly, all five were granted bail. It is alleged that no case was filed against Mr. Raza, a key figure.

Police Grandee

Cooch Behar's Special Superintendent of Police, Mr. Manoj Kumar, has transferred all personnel who were on duty at Cooch Behar. The incident and the filing of the report, and has instituted a search for the missing woman and the 13 accused. He has done more than the average IPS officer, but he is an idealist who goes strictly by the book. His expectations are perhaps unrealistic, and he has no sympathy for the women. As the put it: "Why should I fight for someone who is not prepared to fight for himself? Why does he not return when he has made it safe for her to do so?"

Refuses to accept the fact that there is no such guarantee of safety outside city limits, that the woman would have to be insane to bank on the police and the crime against women.

He takes a legalistic stance and this incident ranks pretty low in his carefully graded scale of crimes against women. Major premise: no one has been killed; minor premise: no bride has been burnt; therefore it is a commonplace case of rape. Period. He prefers to ignore the on-trend hypocrisy of the perpetrators and all that it implies. And anyway, the gravity of such a grotesque crime cannot be evaluated by conventional standards. Further, he dismisses any publicity given to the incident as petty sensationalism.

(NEWSCRIPT).
Rush for marriage solemnity

GURUVAYUR (Kerala), July 16
(UNI): While ecstatic devotees jostle
inside the temple for a darshan of
Lord Krishna, there is a rush outside
of eager brides and bridegrooms in all
their finery, waiting for their turn to
tie the wedding knot before the lord.

The scene has become quite famili-
lar and the famed Guruvayur temple
has emerged as a major marriage
centre in Kerala.

Getting married in the sanctified
precincts of temples has been an
accepted custom in Kerala, but the
pride of place goes to the Guruvayur
temple where between 30 and 100
marriages are solemnised almost ev-
ey day. On a single day last year as
many as 172 couples tied the knot in
front of this temple, perhaps the only
place in the country where such a
large number of marriages are sol-
menised every day," said an official of
the Guruvayur Devaswom which
administers the temple.

Generally, Hindu marriages are
 taboo in the Malayalam months of
'Mithunaam' 'Karkatakam', and 'Kan-
sa'. But months make no difference in
Guruvayur as marriages taking place
even during these months, are mostly
of Gulf Malayalees faced with time
constraints.

Until ten years ago, marriages were
held inside the temple, near the gol-
den flag-mast, but when the number
increased, the venue was shifted to
the outside, on the eastern gate-side
where two mandapams were built for
the purpose.

The mandapams, however, are far
too inadequate to cater to the increas-
ing requirement as the horde of cou-
ples queue up.

A special feature of Guruvayur
marriages is that 'thalikettu' (tying of
the sacred 'mangalasutra' around the
brides neck) is performed even during
the inauspicious 'rahukalam', usually
shunned for all holy purposes.

At Guruvayur, all the time that the
sanctum sanctorum remains open is
auspicious time. Weddings can be
held any time between 5 am and 17.30
pm, and between 4.30 pm and 8.30
pm. The preference is generally for
the morning session.

Due to the rush and the limited
number of mandapams, each couple is
allowed barely seven minutes for the
wedding ceremony. After going
quickly through the rituals, including
change of garlands at the mandapam.

"The time allotted is sufficient for
Nair marriages which are very sim-
ple," a temple official said.

The marriage boom in Guruvayur
has led to the mushrooming of new
hotels where wedding feasts are
served. The hotels charge between
Rs. 16 and Rs. 24 per head for the
feast depending on the number of
'payasams' (pudding) served.

The Kerala State Tourism Develop-
ment Corporation (KSRTC), which
has two hotels near the temple,
undertakes up to a maximum of ten
feasts a day.

Most of the marriages held in Guru-
vayur are in fulfilment of vows taken
by parents.

The boom is partly attributed to the
increasing number of love marriages
and inter-caste marriages. Non-
Hindus, however, are not permitted to
use the 'Mandapam'.

Malayalees working in the Gulf
countries prefer to have their mar-
riages conducted in Guruvayur as
they could perform the ceremony on
any day they like.

Unlike other temples, there is no
particular festival season or special
religious occasion for this temple.

The temple has no facility for the
registration of the marriages, but this
could be done at the office of the
Guruvayur township.

Since the seven minutes is too
inadequate time for some, specially
the Brahmans, the remaining rituals
are performed in nearby 'satrams' (a
lodging place) after the formal ex-
change of garlands at the mandapam.

"The time allotted is sufficient for
Nair marriages which are very sim-
ple," a temple official said.

The Kerala State Tourism Develop-
ment Corporation (KSRTC), which
has two hotels near the temple,
undertakes up to a maximum of ten
feasts a day.

Most of the marriages held in Guru-
vayur are in fulfilment of vows taken
by parents.

The boom is partly attributed to the
increasing number of love marriages
and inter-caste marriages. Non-
Hindus, however, are not permitted to
use the 'Mandapam'.

Malayalees working in the Gulf
countries prefer to have their mar-
riages conducted in Guruvayur as
they could perform the ceremony on
any day they like.

Unlike other temples, there is no
particular festival season or special
religious occasion for this temple.

There is an unceasing flow of de-
voes into the sacred abode of Lord
Krishna throughout the year.

The revenue collection of the tem-
ple is about Rs. 22 lakh a month.
MARRYING IN CHINA

A poignant sidelight on the plight of Chinese students, whose agitation in Beijing was so brutally suppressed, is provided by a report which suggests that not only can educated young men in China not look forward to a good job and a prosperous future but, as a corollary, they cannot even hope for a suitable bride. They seem indeed to rank disappointingly low in the marriage market, with nubile young women quite plainly spurning them. A college student who advertised for a wife in his local newspaper, the Zhejiang Workers News, is said to have been told by a woman, in cruelly strong terms, that pen-wielders like him were nothing less than fools or beggars and that they took the prize for being behind the times. For, learning, she told him, was not food on the table, ideas were not money to spend, and people like him could only hope to marry 50-year-old housewives. She then advised him that if he still decided to marry he should not send his children to school: "Five years of primary school are enough, nowadays. Everyone uses calculators." It is, of course, possible that some overwhelming personal frustration lay behind that withering contempt for education and the educated, and that the woman was merely taking it out on the hapless young man, but there was also, very clearly, much truth in what she wrote. For the report also says that in striking contrast, a rural entrepreneur in the same region who advertised in the Shanghai newspaper, Xinmin Wanbao, for a bride, specifically mentioning that he was looking for a Shanghai spouse and not a rural one, received a flood of replies, a number of them from college-educated young women, including some who were doctors or engineers or teachers.

The clue to this astonishing response lay, perhaps, in the man's careful drafting of the advertisement, mentioning that he had his own enterprise, earned a substantial income, and had a large house in his native village as well as an apartment in Shanghai. Evidently intrigued by that response, the Beijing Review is said to have conducted a survey of the respondents to the second advertisement and reached the conclusion that the young women were attracted by the rural entrepreneur's sturdy independence and success, and, indeed, that they preferred his kind to students or academics who were condemned to low wages and poor living conditions. That finding must have been particularly galling to young men generally in China. The demonstrators in Beijing's Tiananmen Square, who were said to be clamouring for greater democracy, may also have been propelled by rising despair over their bleak future.
STAFF WANTED

ALLIANCE invited for Project Engineer buy B.E. (Civil) with professional registration from Indian Institute of Technology to work on various projects. Experience in construction projects. Salary Rs. 35,000/- p.m. Contact No: 04562-200001.

ALLIANCE invited for Junior Assistant buy B.Tech. in Information Technology. Experience in software development. Salary Rs. 20,000/- p.m. Contact No: 04562-200002.

ALLIANCE invited for Accountant buy B.Com. with proficiency in Tally. Experience in accounting. Salary Rs. 25,000/- p.m. Contact No: 04562-200003.

ALLIANCE invited for Driver buy H.L.C. Licence. Experience in driving. Salary Rs. 15,000/- p.m. Contact No: 04562-200004.

ALLIANCE invited for Security Guard buy H.L.C. Licence. Experience in security. Salary Rs. 10,000/- p.m. Contact No: 04562-200005.

ALLIANCE invited for Janitor buy 8th standard. Experience in cleaning. Salary Rs. 5,000/- p.m. Contact No: 04562-200006.
EMLOYEDA Businessman match from same caste for Rapist 23/165 fair Intermediate slim girl no dowry. Write with full details Box 936-JIC Pioneer. Lucknow 2G[836-JIC]R

SUITABLE employed match for Saxena mangli B.A. well settled in household affairs 27/165 slim girl. Write with full details and horoscope to Box 940-JIC Pioneer. Lucknow 2G[940-JIC]R

EDUCATED employed handsome groom for 27/150 BA Govt employee beautiful Brahmin Kumaon girl Caste No bar from same caste prefers Write Box 921 JIC Pioneer Lucknow 2G[8211-JIC]R

MATCH for beautiful fair brahmar Kayastha girl M.A. (Hindi) 26/150 no dowry early marriage. Well versed in household work. Write Box 893 JIC Pioneer Lucknow 2G[893-JIC]R

WANTED suitable Kanyakubja Brahmin match for beautiful slim 27/153 cm. Post graduate girl earning from four emoluments in a semi-government establishment. "No dowry. Send" horoscope and detailed particulars Write Box 928 JIC Pioneer Lucknow 2G[828-JIC]R

SRIVASTAVA per cent invites proposals from Engineers/ Bank Officers well-placed groom for slim 27/158/2000 Graduate, Central Govt employee early decent marriage. Write Box No 915 JIC Pioneer Lucknow 2G[915 JIC]R

KAYASTHA tall girl technically qualified girl for 26/165 computer engineer. Canada qualified highly trained in household. Write Box 982 JIC Pioneer Lucknow 2G[882 JIC]R

SUITABLE match for 27/160/1500 M.Com. beautiful fair bank employed Agarwal girl No bars. Write Box 884-JIC Pioneer Lucknow 2G[884-JIC]R

BRAHMIN groom for fair slim good looking talented 39 years (looks much younger) Kumason Brahmin. convent educated unmarried teacher. good at household work. Father was IAS officer. Write Box 94 JTV The Pioneer Lucknow 2G[94-JTV]

WELL SETTLED KAYASTHA WELL SETTLED KAYASTHA MATCH FOR ATTRACTIVE. HIGHLY QUALIFIED & EMPLOYED SHERAFENA GIRL 28/163/ 2006. HIGH CONNECTION. DECENT MARRIAGE WRITE BOX 387 JT PIONEER LUCKNOW

MATCH for Sunni Doctor girl 31/180 cm M.B.B.S.M.D employed in PMS early marriage. Write Box 1060 JIC Pioneer Lucknow 2G[1060 JIC]R

MATCH FOR Sunni girl B Sc 32/160 cm fair colour smart household expert early marriage. Write Box 1061 JIC Pioneer Lucknow 2G[1061 JIC]R

SUITABLE match from same caste for Kanyakubja Brahmin 21/158 M.A. beautiful smart well versed in household affairs. write Box 963-JIC Pioneer Lucknow 2G[963-JIC]R

BRIDES & GROOMS

SUITABLE matches for Sunni Syed handsome brother 29/167 Central government employee own house and homely beautiful sister 25/180 M.A. Write Box 1058 JIC The Pioneer Lucknow 2G[1058 JIC]R

EMPLOYED, match from same caste for Kayastha 32/165/2000 divorcee, educated girl, must educated girl no dowry early marriage. Write Box 1039 JIC Pioneer. Lucknow 2G[1039 JIC]R

MATCH for Kayastha Srivastava girl 26/155/graduate medium complexion beautiful, homely girl, father Govt. pensioner, uncles class 1 officers in ONGC. caste no bar. early and simple marriage. Write Box 85 JIC Pioneer Lucknow 2G[85-JIC]R

MATCH for Matari girl 37 years 155 cm M.A. M.Ed fair complexion sub-caste no bar. Write Box 89 JIC Pioneer Lucknow 2G[89-JIC]R

KHARE practising medicopr. wheatish. single constitution. girl 26/155 B.A. D.M.T. RMP. AAMRC invites Kayastha alliance. write Box 1275 JIC Pioneer Lucknow 2G[1275 JIC]R

AGRAWALA divorcee 26/148/500 M.A. M.Ed. Headmistress needs life partner to Vanish Lucknow. resident/Contact with full details Box 1083 JIC Pioneer Lucknow 2G[1083 JIC]R

ALLIANCE invited from Scientists, lecturers, engineers, bank officers for Gori Kayastha girl M.Sc. Ph.D. 29/180/3000 Central Govt employee. Lucknow basis. Write Box 98 JTV Pioneer Lucknow 2G[98-JTV]

KANYAKUBJA Brahman match for first class M.Sc. M.Ed. 30/154 and her brother 28/175/4000 computer engineer in public sector. Write Box 91 JTV Pioneer Lucknow 2G[91 JTV]

KANYAKUBJA Office for Kanyakubja 22/166 M.A. (Sociology) beautiful girl gazetted/equivalent officer preferred and well versed in household affairs beautiful tall girl for 24/185/4000 doing own business handsome boy. Write Arun Mishra 64. Khrushed Bagh. Lucknow 2G[944-JIC]R

SAXENA look for 28/163/2500 bank employee. bank employee/equivalent girl preferred and suitable match for his sister 23/153/MA (Music) wheatish towards early marriage. Write Box 906 JIC Pioneer Lucknow 2G[906 JIC]R

KAYASTHA matches for Srivastava-Khare beautiful good looking cost 24/158 decent marriage and tall girl slim beautiful bride for handsome brother M.Sc. LLB 29/172/2500 state subordinate services girl man considers full particulars write Box 97 JTV Pioneer Lucknow
BATHING BEAUTIES

Soaked heroines ensure showers at the box office

BOMBAY BUZZ

Our movie-makers could well be magicians, what with psychic tricks up their sleeves and miraculous surprises under their non-existent top hats.

Well, how else could they work such wonders as they do with our leading ladies?

They can convince all our sensible, intelligent and no-nonsense actresses of the need for them to put on the skimpiest or the most diaphanous of outfits in cinematic situations where it is not at all called for by any stretch of irrationality.

They can call up the rain gods (over a non-existent earth-to- heaven telephonic hotline!) to request showers at any time and at any place, wherever and whenever they happen to be shooting, in the midst of any season, let alone the monsoon. And the rain gods at once comply with the request so that the cameraman and the dance director can enjoy a combined 'frak-out', creating any visual symphony (or disharmony) of eroticism they feel like.

Our film-makers can always convince our heroines that getting soaked right through to their shapely bones any place and any number of times during the day (and that too in the flimsiest of costumes!) is the best thing for their health.

They can also convince our leading ladies that the best outdoors are always on the edges of lakes or rivers, ponds or swimming pools - so that they can conveniently exercise their psychic power to bump the ladies into the water without even budging from the director's chair.

To the best of our knowledge, it was the Hollywood movie mogul Cecil B. DeMille who first preached in cinematic terms about cleanliness being next only to godliness through a movie he made in 1919 called "Male and Female". It presented some hitherto unseen and elaborate aquatic scenes, thereby attempting to reveal the sheer beauty and ecstasy of bare female bodies. elevate undressing to a fine art form and bathing from a mere sanitary duty to a lavish erotic ceremony. And after that, expectedly enough, a whole lot of film-makers followed suit in Hollywood and elsewhere, including our own country, of course. In the early 40s Kedar Sharma made a film called "Chauralekha" with some bathing scenes which obviously owed their inspiration to the pioneering efforts of Cecil B. DeMille.

But then we created our own Cecil B. DeMille in the name of Raj Kapoor who refined this particular art form through the years and his films all the way from "Awaara" to "Ram Teri Ganga Maili".

And if such cinematic cleanliness is just about as groovy as godliness at the box-office for our so-called commercial film-makers, well, it's no less so for our so-called art cinema practitioners either. Remember "Chakor?" Haven't they too preached the same maxim since then?

- Subroto Mukherjee
12 prostitutes, 14 lechers arrested in raid

By Our Staff Reporter

VARANASI, July 29—Twelve prostitutes and 14 lechers were arrested this evening in a joint operation launched by the Chowk and Dashashwamedh police in the Dalmandi area.

The men arrested from the brothels included a Local Intelligence Unit (LIU) sleuth, an MBBS doctor. All the men along with prostitutes have been taken to the Chowk police station.

The raid was conducted at about 7.30 P.M. which caught the prostitutes and brothel-runners off guard. The rumpus ensued the knock at the door by the police, in which, according to a source, a lecher got his leg fractured while trying to escape by jumping from a wall.

But the Circle Officer and the District Welfare Officer were conspicuous by their absence in the raiding party, who used to make a part of the raiding party, a source alleged.

It is to be mentioned here that the brothel was transferred to Madwadi, outskirts of the city from Dalmandi. Later, the local authorities developed Dalmandi as a major trading and business centre. But the oldest profession was not extirpated from here, it was realised only recently.

Women held for stripping another

BHOPAL, Aug 3 (HTC)

About half a dozen women have been arrested in connection with stripping naked a 35-year-old woman near Biora in Rajgarh district, a report reaching here said.

The woman, Geetabai, who was evicted from the Mah community was undressed by a group of women. Her face was blackened and an attempt was made to parade her on a donkey.

Geetabai in the meantime fainted and could not be mounted on the donkey. On getting the information, police reached the spot and registered cases against the women.

The Mah community was irked over the conduct of Geetabai who had recently accepted a Hanjran youth as her eighth husband after deserting her earlier partners.

Murder bid in eve-teasing case

By A Staff Reporter

NEW DELHI, August 7: An incident of eve-teasing led to an attempted murder in West Delhi yesterday.

The police said the trouble began when Kala slapped a boy who had allegedly teased her sister, in Shanti Nagar, north-west Delhi. The boy related the incident to his friends who got enraged and launched a hunt for Kala.

Instead they found Kala's friends, Deepak Dua and Nirmal Kumar, both standing on the road leading to Shanti Nagar. After a heated argument, one of them took out a knife and stabbed Deepak.

Deepak was rushed to Deen Dayal Upadhyaya hospital. The police arrested the three men, identified as Satyawan, Sanjay, and Virender, all residents of Uttam Nagar, for attempted murder.
Conjugal harmony a bipartite process

P. K. Rameshchandra

Irrespective of the religious tenets, from time immemorial marriage has been practised and prevailed in human society with a sense of tradition and organised effort. As advanced modern technology would have, it discrimination against women also advanced. In the modern era, the consciousness is on the rise, but women's emancipation from the traditional sex role-combination is not complete. While child marriage, illiteracy among women, dowry system etc., play a major role in such unfortunate episodes, lackadaisical attitude of the law is clearly exploited by the culprits who perpetrate the most heinous crimes against women and society at large. With the changing social structure, the male-dominated position in society is not being a priority in most cases. Hence, it is a major concern that women's status and rights are not given due attention. In a society of ours, a husband, extending due respect, affection, and faithful service to his wife is a remote possibility, and he may be a husband who is kept secret by one end or the other. The actuality is that a husband who is kept secret by one end or the other is a matter of concern. In the matrimonial contract they are in a status, and the husbands have a moral duty to respect their wives with faithful service if they expect the same from their wives. Here some simple but relevant tips and advice are offered to keep the couples as happy as they were.
the responsibility of both of them to keep quiet on such matters and do not try to mingle them with the sole intention of putting the life-partner to humiliating ordeal. In case the life-partner is involved in some quarrels or arguments with somebody, always appoint, help and assist him/her and do not join hands with the ex-laws even if the life-partner is doing something wrong. There are many ways to set the matter right and joining hands with the ex-laws would be suicidal. Comparing the life-partner with others, with a view to belittle him/her is to be avoided from the inception of wedded life. Mrs A is very proficient in computer programming or Mr B has very attractive manners would be sufficient to jeopardise the harmonious wedded life. Instead, displaying love and affection towards the life-partner vociferously in front of others would strengthen the marital relations. Contrary anger bursts into quarrels similarly, non-expression of love and affection is also harmful. On the other hand, appreciative expression would pay the dividend. In deserving instances, the life-partner is to be congratulated and praised for the good work done or great achievement attained. Such occasion of exhilaration occur very rarely in life and it is the life-partners bounden duty to express the joyous occasion celebrated and applauded. Another reason for marital squabbles is the life-partners discussing pertaining to their relatives. In our society, relatives have nothing to do with a husband and wife since after the marriage, relatives becomes a non-entity as compared to life-partners’ separate identity. The subject matter of relatives should be kept away from our family affairs and either of the life-partner should never bring that subject for discussion or arguments. If you have spare time, utilize it exclusively with the mate, arrange picnic programmes, spend time in playing cards with the partner or maintain gardens or the like. The whole time is not meant for the office work, kitchen duty, bearing and rearing of children alone. Always bear in mind that sarcastic remarks against one’s mate are not used. Cultivate simple, amiable and affable manners, words and remarks towards one’s life-partner as we are aware that sometimes the basic reason for family quarrels is a single word or group of words used by either of the partners. Cast no bar marriages run in troubles due to the in-laws. Frequent taunting remarks coupled with boasting assertion about their ancestral popularity and property, family background etc.

In as far as sexual matters are concerned, we may conclude that it is an explosive area of matrimonial discordency. While sexual impotency or deficiency etc could be solved with proper treatment/counselling. Infidelity and adultery may lead to breakage of the marriage contract. If the relations are strained due to pecuniary problems, planning and budgetting from the present is queue. Device a family budget and plan a family consisting of the barest minimum children to avoid frictions. Children are to be brought up in a mutually agreed manner and not according to one of the partner’s whims alone.
Women entitled to half of budget: Alva

NEW DELHI, Aug. 2

A question on the welfare of women led to a virtual half an hour discussion on the subject during the Question Hour in the Rajya Sabha today, with Minister of State for Women and Child Development Margaret Alva responding enthusiastically that "we have a right to 50 per cent of the national Budget."

The question asked by Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee and Mr Kailash Pati Mishra (Bharatiya Janata Party) related to the National Perspective Plan for Women.

In a supplementary query, Mrs Kanak Mukherjee (CPI-M) wondered whether the Plan would remain in paper only as it stated that it required no extra financial allocation. Was it only for propaganda, she asked.

Mrs Alva said there was no need for separate allotment of funds for the Plan. Each Ministry could take care of the portion of the Plan relevant to it and provide suitable funds. A separate allocation for the perspective plan would make it appear as if women wanted charity. In fact they had a right to half the national budget.

Mr Vajpayee said 75 per cent of the women were illiterate and their drop-out rate from schools was high. Would a 30 per cent reservation for women in the Panchayats solve the problem, he asked.

The Minister said bringing women to Panchayats or Parliament itself would not solve the problem. They would have to be associated in the decision-making process.

Mrs Alva announced that the Government would soon take a decision on the recommendations contained in the perspective plan and found implementable. Of the 353 recommendations, about 200 were found acceptable. The process of consultations with State Governments and other agencies was required to be gone through.

When Mrs Jayanti Natarajan (Cong-I) referred to a "statement" by BJP member Vijaya Raje Scindia in favour of Sati practice, Mr Vajpayee protested that one should not go by press reports. Mrs Natarajan said she could withdraw her comment if Mr Vajpayee maintained that the reports were incorrect.

Mrs Alva said it was true that a member did say something on Sati and it was widely reported. She said that law provided that a member could not propagate the practice.
BOMBAY, July 15 (PTI): Noted film actress and winner of the international human rights award, Shabana Azmi, today called for a change in the social attitudes to end human rights violation.

A constant and concerted effort should be made to strip tradition off its legitimacy wherever it resulted in discriminatory labour, Ms. Azmi, replying to a felicitation at a function held here.

Ms. Azmi said she believed that violations of human rights could take many forms. It could be violated "internationally by individuals as when a person is denied entry to a eating house on racial grounds or can be structural like when a worker is rendered unemployed by force of market mechanisms", she said.

Social and structural denials of human rights of workers, especially of the migrant workers, of women, of the minority communities and of children, were "universal", she added.

Ms. Azmi said India was the largest democratic country in the world and the 10th largest industrialised nation.

She said: "On one hand women are worshipped as deities having supreme powers and on the other there were 700 dowry deaths in Delhi alone last year".

Azmi also referred about the 'other ways' of violations of human rights when 'obsolete and hazardous technology is thrust upon people, when multi-national corporations exploit its cheap labour market, foist dangerous drugs banned in the west, upon an ignorant but captive market'.

Concluding that human rights could not be discussed in a vacuum, Azmi said everyone should pause to question the value-system that created inequal balances and power structures.

The function was presided over by the Minister of Industry, Mr. Ramrao Adik.
Women protest against sexual abuse

WOMEN employees of the Chandigarh Union territory administration have threatened to launch a stir if action is not taken against officials allegedly involved in cases of sexual abuse and harassment, reports TOINS from Chandigarh.

The UT Women Employees' Welfare Association (UTWEWA) has served a 15-day notice on the administration to secure them justice or face the consequences. The association has also decided to apprise the Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, of the plight of its members.

The association president, Mrs. Harjinder Jhewanda, and its general secretary, Mrs. Kuldip Sodhi, have alleged that women employees are not safe during office hours. They cited the alleged rape of 10 ayahs working under the district education officer. Some male employees are alleged to have taken these ayahs to Maloya Village on the pretext of getting them appointment letters. The women were allegedly raped in the village.

They also cited another case where two women employees were allegedly raped in the office of an IAS official who was on leave. The culprits were the official's personal staff. They alleged that though the police raided the office and caught the culprits red-handed, no further action was taken against them.

Women traffic cops storming another male bastion

NEW DELHI, July 16 (PTI): Women cops now regulate traffic at some of the busiest intersections in the capital, storming yet another traditional male bastion.

These women cops, smartly controlling the movement of traffic and holding sway in both sweltering heat and chilly mornings, have fought the hard way to overcome family compulsions and demolish myths about their social and rural backgrounds.

About ten such women constables are posted at some of the most overburdened crossings of the city, whose roads are jammed with an estimated 1.4 million vehicles.
HOW often do men say, "In our family women do not work?"

This undervaluation of women's work has built up a value system in the country that recognises women as primarily domestic workers and thus only "supplementary earners" in the labour market.

According to Dr Vibhuti Patel, a social scientist working in the field of women studies, the lack of recognition and appreciation of women's work has led to prejudice against their role and contribution in society. These prejudices, in turn, have slotted women, already low on their self-image, into a lower secondary status and that justifies their being paid low wages.

Thus the female labour force is regarded merely "as an auxiliary labour force to be hired last during periods of economic upsurge and to be fired first during periods of economic recessions."

Dr Patel has criticised the dichotomy posed between social and domestic labour and subsequently industrial and household production and called for such an assessment of women's economic contribution to society that takes into cognisance the borderline activities between housework and economic work which the majority of third world women do.

According to her, the housework that women do like cooking, cleaning and child care, among others that are vital for the subsistence of the family and take up a major part of the day, are not treated as economically productive. And even if, alongside their usual housework, women do "productive work" that directly or indirectly contribute to family income, this is generally lost sight of by all.

However, at the same time, men working within the household are not ignored and are included in the labour force even if they are doing "non-wage" work.

This happens because at times women's own perception of their role in household production, although they may be highly economically active, is similar to that of new. They go along with the presumption that men are the natural heads of the household and women the supplementary wage earners, even though they may be the sole providers for their families.

According to Dr Joy Deshmukh, such biases arise due to the bypassing of the inter-relationships within the household which is never treated as a unit but only as a unit of analysis.

The household must be treated as an arena of activity so that traditional definitions and approaches are altered and the distance between facts and presumption bridged effectively.

Emphasising the need to make the household an object of study, Dr Deshmukh says the household more often than not conceals the beginning of gender based inequalities — economic, social or cultural — with women at the wrong end of the equation.

A study of the households as a unit can throw light on women's lives and work as different households accord women different statuses and the type and structure of the household ultimately has a bearing on that status. Of course, this status is concealed in issues related to women's fertility, work productivity, authority and independence.
Giving women the upper hand

By a Staff Reporter

A twist and a punch — and the victim is thrown to the ground, unconscious. Until recently, the fair sex getting the better of their male counterparts in a brawl was rather difficult to imagine. However, women can now pay eye-teasers, robbers and members of their clan back in their own coin by the apparently fortissimo manoeuvres of judo and karate.

The "self-defence" courses started by the Delhi Police will enable a smooth journey for women on buses and in Delhi roads.

In south-west Delhi, the judo-karate craze is catching on like wildfire. Nearly 1,000 girls have been enrolled for these classes in less than 6 centres since the launch of this programme on June 10.

Every morning and evening in local parks in Janakpuri, Mayapuri, R. K. Puram and Vinay Nagar are swarming with budding female Bruce Lees, being trained in the martial arts.

"We had to close admissions and extend the course up to July 10, on public request, said the senior special police officer of R. K. Purnum.

Judo and karate needs concentration, alert mind and quick reflexes. It is actually a few tricks one has to remember to render the other person helpless. When the weak points in a body are known controlling movement is not difficult.

The programme was launched last month with a view to inculcate self-confidence among women. "This will enable the women to defend themselves from everyday harassment," says Mr. A.S. Khan, Deputy Commissioner of Police, South-West district. Even housewives or elderly women, if properly trained, can prevent daylight robberies and apprehend intruders, he said.

However, most of those enrolled are young girls aged between 6 and 25, almost all of them students. "This will not only help us to move about freely but also to protect other women," says Jasleen Nanda, a student.

Dr. Khan said, however keen to have more housewives on his course. Housewives are probably interested, but they feel the timing inconvenient.

But for Bimla Passi, an employee of the P & T department, timings are no obstacle. "I leave office at 6 p.m. and make it a point to be here by 6.30 p.m., she says. She feels learning judo and karate is not only a weapon for self-defence but a sport in itself.

Her enthusiasm is shared by other participants. "The Delhi Police should approach all the schools to make courses like this compulsory for girls, suggests Jasleen.

This is easier said than done. "It is intriguing and rather unfortunate that a programme like this evoked response only from the educated upper middle class," said Mr. Khan. Jasleen's suggestion is supported by a large number of enthusiastic parents, who come to watch the rehearsals everyday. "If these courses are started in schools then we won't have to come here everyday to drop and pick up our daughters," said a gentleman who comes all the way from IIT with his daughter, waits for an hour and then takes her back.

However, there still are parents who are deterred by distances, and still others who balk at the idea of their daughters being trained by male coaches. Thus, it is imperative that the idea should first be accepted by families.

If this programme in south-west Delhi is successful then steps would be taken to begin these in all community centres or even health clubs, female coaches would be provided and other facilities made available. At present, of course, only enthusiasm and determination can carry coaches and participants along.

Only a few coaches from Sports Authority of India, Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium and a few others have volunteered to train the students free of cost. Mr. Shy Kumar Kohli, a record holder in judo and a coach at Janakpuri and Vinay Nagar, enthused, "I don't mind putting in some money from my own pocket if I bring out talent in some students. A few of them really have it."

However, a coach at R. K. Puram does not totally agree. What do minor children know about self-defence? They join the classes for the fun of it. The motivation is greatest among those who have actually been harassed.

The DCP admits the uniforms would make it all look formal. But financial constraints and other irregularities have all combined to make the classes resemble a fancy dress show.

Whatever the drawbacks and shortcomings of the scheme, it has taken a lot of effort on the part of police to motivate even a handful of people. They went door to door on an awareness campaign. Then there were meetings with the SPOs and the welfare association to initiate the programme. The Delhi Police has now decided to give certificates at the end of the session. "After all they need an incentive too," the organizers say.

The efforts of the police will finally be awarded if and when these trained women come to us with a smile on their faces and an offender dragging behind them.

It might take some time for others but Bimla has already done it. A few days of coaching have already made her confident enough to embarrass a ruffian and give him a blow or two. Recounting the incident, Bimla said she had managed to punch an eye-teaser on his nose and virtually throw him out of the bus. Had it not been for others, the ruffian would have been in the hospital by now, she says with a smile on her face. That would surely raise the morale of the police officers.
CALCUTTA: CITY OF JOY
CALCUTTA: THE CITY OF JOY

Oh Calcutta, the City of Joy, is soon to celebrate its 300th birthday. After seeing Calcutta one can wonder how did it manage to reach that number. And, like many of its American urban counterparts, I'm not sure how many more years that city will have until more and more of its infrastructure collapses under the weight of its population's demands. Dominic LaPierre's book entitled The City of Joy is a wonderfully written book describing this city. To call it a City of Joy is truly an oxymoron. I have placed several excerpts in Volume 2 of this project. The pages that follow contain pictures of Calcutta that appeared in a Calcutta weekend supplement – they're typical scenes.
THE OTHER SIDE OF . . .

For Robert Clive, who saw Calcutta a little after its birth, the city which will soon celebrate its tricentenary was “the most wicked place in the universe”. In early 19th century, William Bentwick, found “the spectacle of Calcutta altogether the most curious and magnificent I have met with”. In the same century, Rudyard Kipling said it was “the city of dreadful night”. Mark Twain, who lectured in Calcutta in 1896, felt Calcutta is “enough to make a brass doorknob mushy”. And, it is said, Lenin had proclaimed that “the road to world revolution lies through Peking, Shanghai and Calcutta”. In more modern times, a book calling it the City of Joy became a best-seller. Here are some vignettes of the city, scenes which are unlikely to change after decades. The not so affluent, joyful part of Calcutta. But, nevertheless, a part of the city.

THE CITY OF JOY
INDIA: FEELING ITS CURRY
INDIA: FEELING ITS CURRY

Forty years young and also thousands of years old - an interesting play on numbers - modern India, most imperialism, after the Raj, is a new nation industrializing, looking out to the future, and growing in strength.

I suppose one could look at India as an old civilization, ebbing and flowing, like the cycles of life - expanding, contracting with cycles measured in terms of centuries or perhaps generations; Harappan, Gupta, Mauyra were Indian empires all - and we know (at least I know) very little about these.

India is feeling its political, economic, or military oats. She is still somewhat preoccupied with her Moslem rival, Pakistan; but a few years back India's support of Bangladesh's independence movement certainly weakened her enemy. Nepal, Sikkim, and Bhutan have been enveloped, absorbed, and made satellites to a varying degree; only Nepal has maintained a degree of autonomy. Recent inclinations (overtures) to Red China incurred the wrath of Mother India - articles so noting that follow. Sri Lanka is another story. Eons ago Indian Tamils migrated to Sri Lanka seeking work. These industrious people helped to further the development of this island nation. As a minority the Tamils were persecuted by the native majority Sinhalese. There are obvious parallels to other immigrant groups the world over. India, perhaps in coveting this island, either encouraged or didn't discourage native Tamil separatist movements both in India and in Sri Lanka. (The Tamil separatists are quite fractionalized, and they have been known to turn on themselves as much and as easily as on the government controlled majority Sinhalese.) India used the unrest to send a peacekeeping force here - sound familiar. Some 2000 deaths later, the IPKF is being gradually pulled out. It's an election year in India (1989-1990).

Several activities come to mind in using the material in this section.

A) Compare India today as a young 40 year old nation to the USA at a similar stage. In our early years we added Louisiana 1803, pushed the Cherokee Nation into Florida, and got Texas and our southwest through a series of wars and near wars with Mexico; this compares to India in S. Asia with Nepal and Sri Lanka.


C) Role playing offers you an excellent opportunity to get students involved; assign students to be the foreign minister of Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal, and India. Have them express their nation's points of view vis a vis each other.

D) Have the students compare India and China in S. Asia to the U.S. and U.S.S.R. on the world scene. Differences in government, economic approach and the wheeling and dealing for control in an area are good parallels to use.
An area of discord

India's confrontation with Sri Lanka leads to the cancellation of the SAARC foreign ministers' meeting and throws South Asia into disarray

South Asian politics is the art of the impossible. At least as far as India is concerned. And the result: mid-1989 finds India's regional diplomacy touching new lows with the only major SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) country not openly hostile to Big Brother being Pakistan. Who would have thought that Pakistan, traditionally always at loggerheads with India, would be its closest ally in South Asia? And even a year back, how many could predict that India’s most bitter critics in the region would be its long-standing friends — Sri Lanka and Nepal?

Last December, when leaders of the seven member countries of SAARC posed for the world media at Daaman-e-koh, a picturesque retreat in the Margalla Hills near Islamabad during the fourth summit, it seemed as if this regional grouping—derided by cynics as a mere “talk-shop”—was finally fulfilling its laudable objectives. After all, it had brought Rajiv Gandhi and Benazir Bhutto, heads of two countries considered sworn enemies in the region, to the negotiating table. It was the first time in almost three decades that an Indian Prime Minister had visited Pakistan—never before had leaders of these two countries established such a good rapport in so short a time. As the beaming faces of 44-year-old Rajiv and 35-year-old Benazir stared out from TV screens and newspapers wrote about the almost conspiratorial smiles the two exchanged at the joint press briefing on the final day of the summit, it looked like the beginning of a new, and dramatic, chapter in South Asia.

But recent events gave a handle to SAARC’s critics to scream that the organisation was just a “mirage”. Hope of South Asian unity were shattered as Sri Lanka announced that it would not attend the foreign ministers’ conference scheduled to begin on 1 July at Islamabad in protest against “India’s intransigence”. In a six-page letter to his Pakistani counterpart Sahebzada Yaqub Khan (copies of which were distributed to all other foreign ministers assembled at Islamabad), Ranjan Wijeratne, the Sri Lankan foreign minister, said that his country’s decision to stay away was a protest gesture to highlight its differences with India on the question of withdrawal of the IPKF (Indian Peace Keeping Force) from Sri Lankan soil.

Sri Lanka’s adamant stand led to the cancellation of the first day’s session of the SAARC senior officials’ meeting, creating a record of sorts. It was the first time since SAARC’s birth in December 1985 at Dhaka that the committee of senior officials had been unable to hold its sittings prior to those of the standing committee of foreign secretaries and council of ministers, comprising the foreign ministers of the seven nations.

Sri Lanka's adamant stand led to the cancellation of the first day’s session of the SAARC senior officials’ meeting, creating a record of sorts. It was the first time since SAARC’s birth in December 1985 at Dhaka that the committee of senior officials had been unable to hold its sittings prior to those of the foreign ministers of the seven nations.

Telephone trunk lines among the SAARC capitals buzzed incessantly as frantic efforts were made to persuade Colombo to revise its decision. Pakistan, the current head of SAARC, apparently suggested that India issue a statement placating Sri Lanka, but India was determined not to bow to pressure. A foreign office spokesman told pressmen in New Delhi on 26 June, “We refuse to accept such blatant violations of the SAARC charter, especially Article 11, which clearly states that bilateral and contentious issues shall be excluded from SAARC deliberations. We appreciate the concern of Sri Lanka, but this should not have stood in the way of its participation in the Islamabad meeting.”

The boycott of the SAARC meet was the most dramatic of the gestures through which Sri Lanka has sought to internationalise its differences with India over the continued presence of the IPKF on the island.

As the SAARC charter stipulates that all decisions have to be taken unanimously, Pakistan announced the postponement of the ministerial meet. The ensuing crisis, though the gravest, is, however, by no means the only one in its four-year-old history. The road to regional cooperation in South Asia has always been riddled with pitfalls. De-
spite stipulations in the association's charter that bilateral issues would not come under its purview, the latter have often come in the way of the organisation's smooth functioning. As a senior diplomat of a SAARC country posted in New Delhi told SUNDAY, "Unlike other regional groupings, like the ASEAN or the EEC, the SAARC does not have a common threat perception. Again, unlike the first two, there are vast discrepancies within its member states. India is a giant with pygmies all around. And India is also the only country in the association which has common borders with the other countries...In SAARC, instead of a common threat perception, there is suspicion of mutual threat..."

The recent boycott was the most dramatic of the gestures through which Sri Lanka has sought to internationalise its differences with India. In May 1985, at the Thimpu meeting of foreign ministers, Sri Lanka had alleged that Tamil militants were operating from bases in India and threatened to stay away from the conference. At the eleventh hour, it was persuaded by the host, King Jigme Wanchuk, to attend.

Then again in June 1987, when the SAARC foreign ministers were to meet in Delhi, Sri Lanka objected to India unilaterally sending food supplies to Jaffna. Rajiv personally spoke to the then president, Junius Jayewardene, to ensure his country's presence at the council of ministers in the Indian capital.

The immediate fall-out of the postponement of the foreign ministers' meeting is the prospect of a headless SAARC secretariat. The term of the present secretary-general, Abul Haq of Bangladesh, expires in mid-July. His successor has to be chosen by then. At this stage, Sri Lanka had been reportedly asked whether it would endorse decisions taken at Islamabad even if it stuck to its stand of staying away from the ministerial meeting. However, according to diplomatic sources in New Delhi, it did not agree to this.

Last week, as the impasse at Islamabad continued, the Sri Lankan high commissioner in Delhi, Mr Stanley Kalpaga, a former chemistry

Unlikely friends, likely conflicts

Who's afraid of a Siachen agreement?

The Lankans want out of the accord they signed with such fanfare only two years ago. The Nepalese believe that Big Brother wants to starve them. And the Bangladeshi remain intensely suspicious of their one-time 'liberator'. That leaves India and Pakistan as the unlikely friends in the subcontinent, and both Rajiv Gandhi and Benazir Bhutto spare no effort to broadcast their new-found harmony.

The problem with unlikely friendships, alas, is that they ignore all too likely areas of conflict. So it has been with India and Pakistan. Both countries have armies eyeball-to eyeball each other on either side of the border at sub-zero temperatures in the Siachen glacier. As the glacier is of no use to anyone ("There is not a blade of grass there," the late Gen. Zia-ul Haq said in 1985), the whole thing is no more than a prestige issue. And prestige issues can never be easily resolved.

Last month, attempts to talk away the differences led to a fiasco, with a diplomatic rebuke for Pakistan foreign secretary Humayun Khan and egg all over the face of his Indian counterpart, S.K. Singh.

After talks between the foreign secretaries and defence secretaries of the two countries were over, Khan and Singh decided to address the media. They agreed that the talks had gone well and Khan added that the two countries would withdraw their armies to the 1972 positions. S.K. Singh seemed happy with this statement and the next day, this 'agreement' made the headlines. Score one for good neighbourliness.

Not quite. The very next day, the external affairs ministry put its official spokesman up to denying that any agreement had been reached. But surely, Singh had gone along with Khan's claim? No, said the spokesman, he had simply not contradicted it.

Bizarre enough. But there was more. The statement issued after the defence secretaries' meeting suggested that there had been a breakthrough: "There was agreement...based on deployment of forces...so as to conform with the Shimla Agreement." This suggested that India had accepted Benazir's claim that the reasons between the two countries should be governed by the 1972 Shimla Agreement and strengthened Khan's contention.

So what had happened? The answer seems to be that India and Pakistan had agreed to pull back from Siachen and from the pointless conflict (initiated by India in 1984). But no dates were set and India wanted it done quietly. Khan, however, thought that this was a good way to get some domestic acclaim for Be-
Since no decisions involving the association can be taken unless all seven member nations agree, it is not clear how the next secretary-general will be selected. A lot, of course, will depend on Abul Hasan's scheduled visit to Colombo in the first week of July and whether he will be able to impress upon the Sri Lankan government the urgency of holding the postponed ministerial meeting soon so that SAARC's functioning is not disrupted. For instance, the budget for the SAARC Agricultural Information Centre in Bangladesh has to be approved so that the programmes do not grind to a halt.

But the most important aspect of Sri Lanka's recent boycott is the question it has thrown up about the norms governing the behaviour of member countries of SAARC. "The question is whether there should be a common norm of behaviour in the South Asian region. Or should there be one convention for a big country and another for smaller countries. India was invited by Sri Lanka. Now the host is asking the guest to leave, but the guest is refusing. The question is: should India justify its actions by setting its own rules that contradict universally-accepted norms of inter-state relations?" wonders a New Delhi-based diplomat of a SAARC country.

The Sri Lankan high commissioner, Dr Kalpage, asserted at a recent meeting of the Indo-Sri Lankan Cultural Council, "There is no attempt to wreck SAARC. There was no attempt to embarrass India. We were simply not in a mood to attend the meeting (at Islamabad)." He also noted, "If we had intentions of raising the issue of IPKF withdrawal at the SAARC meeting, we would have obviously attended it. The decision to stay away was a gesture of protest. My foreign minister wrote to his Pakistani counterpart not to say that Sri Lanka wants to disrupt the meeting. The letter merely said that we have a problem with India: we understand that SAARC meetings are not meant for raising bilateral issues, but because of present circumstances, because of what we termed 'India's intransigence', we would like to make a symbolic protest... We know we are not in a position to sort out our problem with India by force.

President Premadasa believes in non-violence. And the protest gesture was to express our people's anguish and anger, like Mahatma Gandhi's satyagraha."

Was Sri Lanka's protest gesture warranted? New Delhi's position is as uncompromising as Sri Lanka's. "SAARC has to take a firm decision on whether it will allow any one country to act in a petulant manner and bring the whole organisation into disrepute," says South Block officials firmly. India asserts that it "will not be browbeaten", though it will not do anything to "break SAARC". New Delhi has also made it clear to Pakistan that as the current head of SAARC, it is that country's responsibility to diffuse the current tension. "SAARC is Pakistan's baby right now. Surely, it does not want the baby to die in her own lap," said an Indian official.

Another pointed out that "even on previous occasions, Sri Lanka had threatened to boycott SAARC meetings, but had been eventually persuaded to attend. If Sri Lanka persists with its current stand, it would only mean that Pakistan does not have enough clout."

The current imbroglio has also given SAARC critics the chance toonce again claim that the organisation is nothing but a forum which offered "opportunities to other countries to gang up against India".

Originally, it was Bangladesh's idea to set up an organisation to promote South Asian regional cooperation. Bangladesh had been having problems with India over water-sharing and Farakka. And it thought that a forum like SAARC would help its cause as it could be used to exert moral pressure on India. Indira Gandhi was not keen on the idea, but eventually agreed after a great deal of persuasion by the late Bangladeshi President Ziaur Rahman.

nazir and announced that even on Siachen India had accepted the Shimla formula suggested by her.

The problem is that India went past the 1972 boundaries in 1984 (arguing that she had a legal claim) and so Khan's assertion sounded suspiciously like saying that the Indians had agreed to retreat. Obviously S.K. Singh's political masters could not accept that and hence, the retractions and recriminations.

However, neither side has cancelled the next defence secretaries' meeting. So perhaps the Siachen conflict will be de-escalated, eventually. Only, both countries will be more discreet this time.
Big Brother gets angry

The humiliation of Nepal is almost complete

India seems to be the only one to have gained from the massacre at Tiananmen Square and the resulting chaos in China. With Asia's biggest power at war with itself, super India has found its position considerably strengthened. Nowhere is this more apparent than in its dealings with the Himalayan kingdom of Nepal.

While both sides offer long and tedious justifications, the dispute is really over Nepal's attempts to free itself of its dependence on India. The Nepalese had begun courting the Chinese, had tried to reduce imports from India and had made other assertions of independence.

Such moves did not go down well with Big Brother. India retaliated by telling land-locked Nepal that it could only have transit rights if it agreed to club these with trade. When the Nepalese seemed hesitant, imports of fuel and other vital supplies from India dried up and all transit points, except for two, were boarded up.

Nepal called the Indian move a blockade and warned, through gritted teeth, that it would suffer temporary hardship but when the blockade was over, would end up in the Chinese sphere of influence.

India laughed away the threat and now, South Block is in hysterics. With China in upheaval, the Nepalese find that their problems are of no consequence to Beijing and have received, cap in hand, to New Delhi.

The mandarins at South Block have cooled. They took a month and a half to reply to a letter from the Nepalese foreign ministry requesting talks, and ignored four reminders from Kathmandu. New Delhi has been advised by Arvind Deo, its canny ambassador to Nepal, that King Birendra cannot hold out for long.

After a few weeks of flag-waving, the Nepalese have begun blaming their King for the shortages of essential commodities. Five student groups have urged the Nepalese Prime Minister to settle and the banned Nepali Congress is using the discomfiture to launch a movement against Birendra.

At present, the betting is that New Delhi will wait till Nepal is desperate and then force its terms on Kathmandu. In the process, it will probably alienate the Nepalese but then, isn't that what being a regional super power is all about?

SAARC was born in December 1985 at Dhaka. There is some substance in the charge that SAARC has not progressed beyond fringe issues and token gestures, such as declaring 1989 as 'SAARC year against drug abuse' and 1990 as 'SAARC year of the girl child'.

Of course, there has been greater cultural interaction between the member countries and several agreements have been signed such as the convention on suppression of terrorism and the South Asian food security reserve. But the most important issues, which are inevitably bilateral in nature (and thus out of bounds according to the SAARC charter), have not been thrashed out. At SAARC meets, leaders have religiously proclaimed that the forum is meant to emphasise what binds the seven countries rather than what divides them.

SAARC's real contribution, however, as a diplomat of a member country pointed out, is the opportunity it offers leaders of its member countries for 'informal consultations'. The Rajiv-Bernard tete-a-tete at Daaman-e-Koh in Pakistan signalled the beginning of a new era in bilateral relations.

Bangladesh, as the originator of the SAARC idea, is naturally worried about the future of the organisation and was upset about the cancellation of the ministerial meet at Islamabad. Its foreign minister, Ahsanul Islam Mahmud, declared in Dhaka that the postponement of the conference was likely to hamper the functioning of SAARC.

Mahmud termed the circumstances that led to the cancellation as "most undesir..."
Relations between India and Sri Lanka plummet to an all-time low as President Premadasa copes with internal strife

Relations between India and Sri Lanka plummet to an all-time low as President Premadasa copes with internal strife

Relations between India and Sri Lanka plummet to an all-time low as President Premadasa copes with internal strife

Relations between India and Sri Lanka plummet to an all-time low as President Premadasa copes with internal strife
The origins of Sri Lankan Tamil militancy have not been adequately understood and remain somewhat obscure. In the early Seventies, the Tamil Manavi Peravi, better known as the Tamil Youth Front (TYF), was formed under the patronage of the Tamil United Front (TUF), which later went on to become the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF). While it would be inaccurate to describe the TYF as a militant outfit, it attracted many youths who were not averse to using violence for political ends. By the mid-Seventies, some TYF leaders had established their own militant groups. For some time, there existed only three or four organisations, but with the advent of the Eighties, the Tamil guerrilla movement splintered into a large number of groups. Many of these failed to gather an adequate following and internecine rivalry took care of some of the rest. Today, there are only a few which matter.

LTTE: The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam emerged as the most powerful group in the early Eighties. It is also perhaps the most brutal (the Tigers have savaged rival militant organisations), the best disciplined and the most committed (the cyanide capsules that they wear around their necks in the event of capture testify to this). Its leader, Velupillai Prabhakaran’s refusal to accept the Indo-Sri Lanka accord meant having to face the might of the Indian army. Two years of warring with the IPKF may have weakened the Tigers militarily, but their popularity in the north remains undiminished. Recently, the LTTE tried to keep the IPKF off its back by negotiating directly with Colombo—ostensibly to find a way of being accommodated within the democratic process. But from all appearances, the turnaround is only tactical—aimed at pressuring the government to withdraw the IPKF.

EPRLF: The Eelam Peoples Revolutionary Liberation Front attracted widespread notice only a few years ago, after the abduction of an American couple it suspected of being CIA agents. Low caste Tamils form its main constituency and the group enjoys grassroots support in the island’s east. The Marxist outfit has always boasted of a strong ideological framework. Organised demonstrations in support of the Palestinian struggle, the Sandinistas and so on have been very much a part of its activities. The EPRLF, which survived the LTTE’s wrath in mid-’86 (when some 70 members were killed and 500 forced to surrender), now runs the Provincial Council in the Northern Province. The Perumal Perumalai-led government which is propped up by the IPKF, is nervous that it may be dismissed by Colombo in order to appease the Tigers. The group, which accepted the terms of the accord, is now preparing to return to arms in the face of such a prospect.

PLOT: The Peoples Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam is a breakaway group of the LTTE that was formed by Uma Maheswaran in 1980. Maheswaran and Prabhakaran—once good buddies—fell out over the former’s affair with a pretty young thing called Urmilla Prabhakaran opposed it by arguing that “this sort of intimacy is against our code of conduct”. Later, the two were engaged in a shoot-out in Madras. PLOT was once believed to be the largest group after the LTTE and operated both in the Jaffna peninsula and the island’s east. Its importance also derived from Maheswaran’s close links with the M.G. Ramachandran government in Tamil Nadu. Today, however, the outfit has been marginalised—both due to poor organisation and Prabhakaran’s personal animus.

ENDLF: The Eelam National Democratic Liberation Front was formed three years ago by some breakaway members of PLOT. Sri
Lankan intelligence believes that the group was sponsored and aided by India's Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), which helped it to operate in the north and the east to counter the intransigent LTTE.

Led by P. Rajan, the ENDLF is the junior partner in the EPRLF-led coalition government in the North-Eastern Province. Like the EPRLF, the ENDLF is crucial to India's strategy of making the Tamil Provincial Council viable and strong.

**TELO:** The Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation is, by some accounts, the oldest militant group. It was once strong militarily and patronised by the DMK's M. Karunanidhi. However, serious infighting within the leadership undermined the TELO's strength and led to defections and breakaways.

The group's attempt to stage a recovery was thwarted when the LTTE, in mid-'86, launched a murderous campaign against it. More than 150 members were killed and its leader, Sabaratnam ('Tall Sri'), was shot dead in Jaffna. Today, the outfit is led by Selvaran who is based in the island's north.

**OTHERS:** It is difficult to say how many Tamil militant groups exist today, but Sri Lankan intelligence identified as many as 35 in 1985. Many of these were formed after the Sinhala chauvinist-inspired race riots in July 1983. The activities of some of them have been limited to pamphlet-distribution and poster campaigns.

Among the groups which operated a few years ago were those with fancy names, such as the Eagles Movement (EM), the Tamil Eelam Blood Movement (TEBM), the Tamil Eelam Liberation Cobras (TELC), the Guerrillas Aspiring for Tamil Eelam (GATE)—little was known about them then and even less is known about them today.

**EROS:** The Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students was established, oddly enough, by an elderly Marxist in London in 1975. For long, EROS was viewed as the intellectual face of Tamil militancy and sometimes dismissed as a small coterie of Britain-based beer-swilling ideologues who know more about books than bombs or bazookas.

This perception has changed somewhat of late. Although EROS is by no means a powerful outfit, its importance today derives from the fact that it is the only militant organisation which the LTTE is well disposed to. Its leader, Balakumar, is believed to have been instrumental in preparing the ground for the LTTE-Colombo talks.

**EROS' Balakumar:** Instrumental in preparing the ground for LTTE-Colombo talks

**EROS:** The Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students was established, oddly enough, by an elderly Marxist in London in 1975. For long, EROS was viewed as the intellectual face of Tamil militancy and sometimes dismissed as a small coterie of Britain-based beer-swilling ideologues who know more about books than bombs or bazookas.

This perception has changed somewhat of late. Although EROS is by no means a powerful outfit, its importance today derives from the fact that it is the only militant organisation which the LTTE is well disposed to. Its leader, Balakumar, is believed to have been instrumental in preparing the ground for the LTTE-Colombo talks.

**EROS' Balakumar:** Instrumental in preparing the ground for LTTE-Colombo talks

**TELO:** The Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation is, by some accounts, the oldest militant group. It was once strong militarily and patronised by the DMK's M. Karunanidhi. However, serious infighting within the leadership undermined the TELO's strength and led to defections and breakaways.

The group's attempt to stage a recovery was thwarted when the LTTE, in mid-'86, launched a murderous campaign against it. More than 150 members were killed and its leader, Sabaratnam ('Tall Sri'), was shot dead in Jaffna. Today, the outfit is led by Selvaran who is based in the island's north.

**OTHERS:** It is difficult to say how many Tamil militant groups exist today, but Sri Lankan intelligence identified as many as 35 in 1985. Many of these were formed after the Sinhala chauvinist-inspired race riots in July 1983. The activities of some of them have been limited to pamphlet-distribution and poster campaigns.

Among the groups which operated a few years ago were those with fancy names, such as the Eagles Movement (EM), the Tamil Eelam Blood Movement (TEBM), the Tamil Eelam Liberation Cobras (TELC), the Guerrillas Aspiring for Tamil Eelam (GATE)—little was known about them then and even less is known about them today.

**EROS:** The Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation of Students was established, oddly enough, by an elderly Marxist in London in 1975. For long, EROS was viewed as the intellectual face of Tamil militancy and sometimes dismissed as a small coterie of Britain-based beer-swilling ideologues who know more about books than bombs or bazookas.

This perception has changed somewhat of late. Although EROS is by no means a powerful outfit, its importance today derives from the fact that it is the only militant organisation which the LTTE is well disposed to. Its leader, Balakumar, is believed to have been instrumental in preparing the ground for the LTTE-Colombo talks.

**EROS' Balakumar:** Instrumental in preparing the ground for LTTE-Colombo talks

**TELO:** The Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation is, by some accounts, the oldest militant group. It was once strong militarily and patronised by the DMK's M. Karunanidhi. However, serious infighting within the leadership undermined the TELO's strength and led to defections and breakaways.

The group's attempt to stage a recovery was thwarted when the LTTE, in mid-'86, launched a murderous campaign against it. More than 150 members were killed and its leader, Sabaratnam ('Tall Sri'), was shot dead in Jaffna. Today, the outfit is led by Selvaran who is based in the island's north.

**OTHERS:** It is difficult to say how many Tamil militant groups exist today, but Sri Lankan intelligence identified as many as 35 in 1985. Many of these were formed after the Sinhala chauvinist-inspired race riots in July 1983. The activities of some of them have been limited to pamphlet-distribution and poster campaigns.

Among the groups which operated a few years ago were those with fancy names, such as the Eagles Movement (EM), the Tamil Eelam Blood Movement (TEBM), the Tamil Eelam Liberation Cobras (TELC), the Guerrillas Aspiring for Tamil Eelam (GATE)—little was known about them then and even less is known about them today.

**EROS' Balakumar:** Instrumental in preparing the ground for LTTE-Colombo talks

**TELO:** The Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation is, by some accounts, the oldest militant group. It was once strong militarily and patronised by the DMK's M. Karunanidhi. However, serious infighting within the leadership undermined the TELO's strength and led to defections and breakaways.

The group's attempt to stage a recovery was thwarted when the LTTE, in mid-'86, launched a murderous campaign against it. More than 150 members were killed and its leader, Sabaratnam ('Tall Sri'), was shot dead in Jaffna. Today, the outfit is led by Selvaran who is based in the island's north.

**OTHERS:** It is difficult to say how many Tamil militant groups exist today, but Sri Lankan intelligence identified as many as 35 in 1985. Many of these were formed after the Sinhala chauvinist-inspired race riots in July 1983. The activities of some of them have been limited to pamphlet-distribution and poster campaigns.

Among the groups which operated a few years ago were those with fancy names, such as the Eagles Movement (EM), the Tamil Eelam Blood Movement (TEBM), the Tamil Eelam Liberation Cobras (TELC), the Guerrillas Aspiring for Tamil Eelam (GATE)—little was known about them then and even less is known about them today.

**EROS' Balakumar:** Instrumental in preparing the ground for LTTE-Colombo talks

Negotiations currently under way between the LTTE and Colombo may be jeopardised if the IPKF cannot be prevailed upon to let up its offensive

The transport strike has brought Colombo port to a near standstill—a matter of grave concern for an island nation which imports everything from Rolls Royces to rice. Attendance at the port has fallen, according to government estimates, to under 50 per cent. But the real problem is the unavailability of drivers for government-owned lorries in the face of the JVP threat. Many of the ships waiting to be docked and cleared—as many as 17 on 28 June—carry food. 15,000 tonnes of rice, sugar and flour according to one estimate. The government's move to get the navy to work the port has eased the crisis somewhat and it claims that there is no cause for worry as the buffer stocks of rice and flour are sufficient to last three months. Yet, there are fears that if the present situation continues for much longer, the country could be faced with a food crisis.

The problems that Sri Lanka is facing on both fronts—at home and with India—are, of course, linked. Premadasa had the domestic situation very much in mind when he called for the withdrawal of the IPKF by July-end. By April this year, the JVP had begun posing a serious threat to the government. During March alone, a staggering 3,000 people were killed in JVP-related violence. Later, the proscribed organisation's underground leader, Rohana Wijeweera, demanded that all Indian goods be boycotted and said that the cost of disobeying the order would be 'punishment'. The order is remembered etm today. In Pettah, Colombo's bustling market area, shopkeepers have taken all Indian goods off the shelves. Indian saris, for instance—once a very popular buy—are virtually unavailable. Only after a customer convincingly establishes his credentials is a shopkeeper willing to produce a few samples that he had hidden behind the counter. Then there was the statement asking all Indians to leave the island—a call that led all officials of the Indian high commission to take refuge in the Taj Samudra and the Galadharan Menidien, two of the many new five-star hotels on the capital's Galle Face Esplanade. There were also the 'curfews' (the JVP expression for bandhs) which left many parts of the south paralysed.

To Premadasa, it was clear that the JVP's appeal lay largely in its adoption of a stridently anti-India posture. It was not an unreasonable assumption as the organisation was in something of a limbo a couple of years ago. The July 1987 Indo-Sri Lankan accord and the subsequent induction of the IPKF were the catalysts for the JVP to reassert itself.
By asking the IPKF to go home, Premadasa was attempting, among other things, to 'hijack' the JVP campaign and pull the political carpet from beneath its feet.

From all appearances, the strategy hasn't worked—not so far at any rate. For the JVP, it appears, has simply changed tack. The 'India go home' call is not heard as often as before. As the posters which recently appeared on walls in and around Colombo testify, it has given precedence to other demands—such as the dissolution of Parliament and the holding of fresh presidential elections. In doing so, the JVP has identified its target (Premadasa) and demonstrated its ability to make a determined bid for power through its tactics of 'curfews' and terror.

The lack of a positive response, either from the JVP or the people, does not seem to have deterred Premadasa. Over the last week, he set aside developmental work in Mahiyangana now and then to make hard-hitting speeches that reiterated his resolve to see the Indian army out of the island. Government spokesmen in Colombo also made out that Sri Lanka was in no mood to withdraw the demand. The strategy appeared to be directed at embarrassing the Indians into leaving. Already, much has been made in the local press about an Amnesty International report which details the IPKF's violation of human rights in the north and east.

Almost every political party in Sri Lanka is in agreement with Premadasa over one thing: that the IPKF should go. Their differences with him arise over the manner in which he has

Deserted streets of Colombo: a JVP 'curfew' paralyses the island

while explaining his country's reasons for not attending. "(SAARC's objectives) cannot be achieved unless the member states agree not to interfere in the affairs of other members or take undue advantage of their size and prominence." Hinting that Sri Lanka may also pull out of the SAARC summit to be held later this year, Wijeratne added: "We are aware of the rule in the SAARC charter that bilateral issues cannot be raised during the deliberations; so even if we do attend the meeting, we would not be able to present Sri Lanka's predicament."

By raising the 'bilateral issues' question, Sri Lanka was identifying itself with the other SAARC members who, in opposition to India, have been demanding that such matters be discussed. And if it does stay away from the summit, it would be a major setback for one of India's principal foreign policy initiatives. Unconfirmed reports have it that the Sri Lankan government is also considering raising the issue of the IPKF's presence at the United Nations and the International Court of Justice.

Velupillai Prabhakaran
13 March, 1988
India rejects LTTE's appeal for a ceasefire

10 October, 1987
IPKF says LTTE has not disarmed, launches action
October 1987 onwards
LTTE and India now
25 May, 1988
- IPKF launches offensive in the north-east

7 June, 1988
- First phase of withdrawal of IPKF.

19 November 1988
- Election to the North-Eastern Provincial Council is held.
- EPRLF-ENDLF coalition forms government with Varadaraaj Perumal as chief minister.

7 June, 1988
- First phase of withdrawal of IPKF.

19 November 1988
- Election to the North-Eastern Provincial Council is held.
- EPRLF-ENDLF coalition forms government with Varadaraaj Perumal as chief minister.

1 June, 1989
- President Premadasa demands the withdrawal of the IPKF.

26 April, 1989
- IPKF withdraws some troops to appease Premadasa.

5 May, 1989
- LTTE does deal with Premadasa.

1 June, 1989
- President Premadasa demands the withdrawal of the IPKF.

2 July, 1989
- IPKF ignores Premadasa's ultimatum and launches a major offensive against the LTTE.

The Indo-Sri Lankan accord is signed

Rajiv Gandhi, there was also the matter of being politically embarrassed in what is, after all, an election year. Understandably, no Prime Minister would like to face the electorate as someone who was kicked around by a tiny neighbour and a signatory to an accord that was forced to die a miserable death. His attitude to the diplomatic crisis has been questionable but consistent: India will leave only when it thinks that the accord has been satisfactorily implemented.

The result has been a diplomatic war of words over what the provisions of the accord really mean. The Indian argument for staying on hinges on one clause of the agreement, which says that “the Government of India will underwrite and guarantee the resolutions” of the accord. New Delhi has interpreted this to mean that India is obliged to see that all the provisions of the accord are implemented—particularly the one which relates to more power being devolved on the Tamil-majority areas. The suggestion is that the IPKF’s presence is necessary to fulfil India’s obligation of seeing the accord through.

The argument is specious, to say the least. For one, it doesn’t explain why India had planned—as early as January this year—to withdraw the IPKF by the end of December. Did it have any firm guarantee that the Sri Lankan government would, by that time, implement those resolutions that it had promised to do under the accord, such as the one that relates to the devolution of power?

And then, how could it be confident of fulfilling its own obligations by the end of December, such as enforcing the “cessation of hostilities” either between Colombo and the LTTE or between the Tamil armed groups? The political embarrassment that has been inflicted on India since the accord’s signing is matched by the diplomatic crisis that has ensued.

LTTE members led by A. Balasingham (centre) arrive in Colombo for talks.
If India and Sri Lanka do not work out a face-saving solution before the end of July, relations between the two countries may cease to exist.

Premadasa conducted his election campaign on a manifesto that promised the withdrawal of the IPKF and, in his first speech as President, invited both the LTTE and the JVP for unconditional talks with his government. It was perhaps the first overt indication that he was prepared to deal with the domestic situation without Mr. Bandaranaike, who warns against a premature IPKF withdrawal. "The President—rightly or wrongly—made the pull-out an issue in his election manifesto. He is the kind of man who has to see it through."

The Indians were alive to the prospect that the accord would be endangered in the event of Premadasa's victory. According to one theory, New Delhi knew that it would have to withdraw the moment he was elected. (Premadasa's main presidential rival, Sirimavo Bandaranaike, was also opposed to the accord and the IPKF's presence, but for reasons best known to South Block. It believed that it could make her come)

various militant groups? Secondly—and perhaps more importantly—there is no thing in the accord which links the presence of the IPKF to issues such as the devolution of power. The accord clearly states that the Indian army "may be invited by the President of Sri Lanka..." if so required". Doesn't it then tend to reason that the President may withdraw the invitation whenever he wishes—that is, when the IPKF is no longer required? It would need an ingenious legal brain to establish otherwise.

It is another matter, of course, whether Premadasa could have achieved his objective with a little more tact. Why did he demand the IPKF's withdrawal when it was planning to leave anyway? To outflank the JVP may be the main reason, but not the whole answer. Premadasa had opposed the induction of the IPKF from the outset. As Prime Minister, he could hardly afford to publicly criticise President Jayewardene for entering into the accord, but he made his

"The IPKF is required"
L.L. Meirotra, high commissioner to Sri Lanka, presents the Indian position

Lakhan Lal Meirotra, who was appointed high commissioner to Sri Lanka on 24 April, shares nothing of his predecessor J.N. Dixit's style. Dixit seemed to thrive on controversy, loved being in the public eye and always had time for the press. Meirotra, on the other hand, is a low-profile bureaucrat who has been somewhat press-shy. Some suggest that this may be because he is not yet completely conversant with Sri Lankan affairs. But Meirotra was relaxed, confident and articulate when he fielded SUNDAY's questions. Excerpts from an interview:

SUNDAY: Is it fair to say that Ind-Sri-Lankan relations are now at an all-time low?

L.L. Meirotra: It is difficult to comment on this. Because even in the aftermath of the India-Sri Lanka accord, a rather alarming situation had developed here. But I would say that there has been a fresh wave of tension during the last two weeks. Added to this, Sri Lanka has been facing a very difficult situation internally. In my view, the two are interconnected.

How?
The President (Premadasa) wants to meet the internal situation—that is, the challenge of the JVP. The JVP has always had an anti-India plank. The President wants to suggest that he is the one trying to send the IPKF back. He wants to divert the attention of the people somehow or the other from the internal pressures.

One could also argue that the President's demand that the IPKF leave has to do with the LTTE's turnaround.

It is entirely possible. The LTTE has also been asking for the IPKF's withdrawal. You could say that there is a certain community of interest.

Is India justified in keeping the IPKF on? After all, there is nothing in the accord which suggests that the IPKF's presence is necessary to fulfill India's obligation of "underwriting and guaranteeing" its proposals.

No. The IPKF is here to enforce and guarantee the cessation of hostilities...

But only "if so required".

But it is required. That is why it was invited. The clause you are referring to relates to the rationale for the IPKF coming to Sri Lanka. It is true that it came at the request of the Sri Lankan government. But the accord does not lay down the procedures for the withdrawal of the IPKF. Therefore, it follows that its withdrawal is a matter which both governments have to discuss and come to a conclusion about.

But the important fact is that the Indian government had been discussing the IPKF's withdrawal with the Sri Lankan government. Moreover,
The two governments had already arrived at certain conclusions about it. And then, the foreign minister, Mr Ranjan Wijetunge, even told Parliament on 31 March that a timeframe for a withdrawal had been discussed and accepted. So, what was the (Sri Lankan government's) problem?

How do you react to President Premadasa's statement that 90 per cent of Sri Lankans want the IPKF to go as this percentage of the electorate voted for pro-pullout candidates in the presidential election? The implicit suggestion perhaps being that the IPKF is a force of occupation because it is in Sri Lanka against the wishes of the large majority of the people.

But who wants to stay on? The IPKF is here to do a job. Let that entire process be implemented and then the IPKF goes. And if anybody had an earnest desire to withdraw the IPKF, it was us. We had already provided for this before the Sri Lankan President began talking of withdrawal. We knew he had made such a commitment to the electorate. And we ourselves came out soon after the presidential election with a plan for withdrawal. And they were privy to this.

Interviewed by Mukund Padmanabhan Colombo

of IPKF operations. On the contrary, there was no let-up in the intensified offensive against the LTTE, which began this January.

There was a good reason for maintaining the heat. India did not want to give the impression that its army was retreating from Sri Lanka. From its point of view, it was far more 'honourable' to knock the LTTE around a bit before calling it a day. It might then have been able to argue, somewhat disingenuously, that there was no need to stay on any longer as its obligations under the accord had been fulfilled.

It was the intensified Indian offensive which gave Premadasa what he saw as a golden political opportunity. The LTTE was badly hit and needed to get the IPKF off its back. By early April, the ground was being prepared for direct negotiations with Colombo. The Tigers had come around to the view that this was the only way to keep the IPKF at arm's length.

With this, Premadasa believed he had just what he wanted—a wonderful political slogan to rally the country together. 'IPKF go home' suddenly had a magical quality about it. It could, he reckoned, prove immensely popular with the majority Sinhalese, who have always respected the presence of the Indian army; defuse the JVP campaign by stealing its thunder; and persuade the Tigers to function within the democratic framework.

After the conclusion of the first round of talks between his government and the LTTE in May, Premadasa was convinced that the slogan would work its three-way magic. A couple of days before the second round was slated to be held, he went public with it in his now-famous 1 June speech.

There are two questions that Premadasa will have to address himself to sooner or later. What his slogan has achieved. And whether it was wise to adopt it in the circumstances. The answer to the first is precious little. The JVP has not been appeased—on the contrary, its campaign for the dissolution of the government has only intensified; the majority of the Sinhales now believe that Premadasa's first responsibility is to check JVP violence and that therefore the IPKF's presence is necessary to secure the northern front; while the Sri Lankan army deals with the south; and, finally, the LTTE-Colombo talks have made no substantive progress, despite being two months old.

As for whether it was politic, the answer also appears to be in the negative. For a start, the Tiger turnaround was almost certainly a tactical manoeuvre—directed at securing the short-term objective of keeping the IPKF off its back. The LTTE has not yet formally renounced separatism and it strains the imagination to believe that it has suddenly undergone a genuine change of heart. Moreover, it is highly unlikely that Premadasa can afford, in the present circumstances, to accede to even their non-separatist demands.
**THE ACCORD AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION**

Rajiv Gandhi has claimed that India will pull out the IPKF only if all provisions of the India-Sri Lanka accord are fulfilled. What clauses of the agreement remain to be implemented? D.B. Wijetunge, Sri Lankan Prime Minister, recently placed a statement in Parliament listing the obligations of the two countries under the accord and whether they had been put into effect or not. Excerpts from it:

### OBLIGATIONS OF SRI LANKA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATUS</th>
<th>REMARKS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Permit the Northern and Eastern Province to form one administrative unit from the date of election to Provincial Council to date of referendum.</td>
<td>Not implemented.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hold referendum in the Eastern Province on or before December 1988 to decide whether merger should continue or not.</td>
<td>Referendum originally fixed for 31 December, 1988, has been postponed twice and is now scheduled to be held in early 1990.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Create conditions to enable all persons displaced due to ethnic violence to return to areas from where they were displaced.</td>
<td>Not fully implemented.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cessation of hostilities to come into effect within 48 hours, militant groups to surrender all arms within 72 hours of cessation of hostilities.</td>
<td>Not implemented.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use for law enforcement and maintenance of security the same organisations and mechanisms of government as in the rest of the country.</td>
<td>Being implemented.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make special efforts to rehabilitate militant youths.</td>
<td>Not implemented.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### OBLIGATIONS OF INDIA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATUS</th>
<th>REMARKS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Take all steps to ensure that Indian territory is not used for activities prejudicial to the unity, integrity and security of Sri Lanka.</td>
<td>Sri Lanka expects India to have fulfilled this undertaking.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Give military assistance to Sri Lanka, when requested, to implement the agreement.</td>
<td>On request, India sent the IPKF. Sri Lanka has now asked that the IPKF be withdrawn by 29 July, 1989.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooperate with Sri Lanka to ensure the physical safety and security of all communities inhabiting the north and the east.</td>
<td>Not fully implemented.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### REMARKS

- India has assumed this obligation almost in its entirety because Sri Lankan security forces were excluded from operations in the north and the east. The IPKF took only a token Sri Lankan police presence to assist them.
- An appreciable number have not returned.
- Sri Lanka immediately stopped all military operations in the north and east; militant groups ceased hostilities, but this was only temporary. The LTTE was engaged in open hostilities against the IPKF by September 1987.
- Under the 13th Amendment and Provincial Council Act, the same mechanisms will be used in all parts of Sri Lanka.
- Will be done at the appropriate time.

permanent merger of the North and the East. (How would the JVP take to this?)

By proceeding on the assumption that he can persuade the Tigers to join the political mainstream, Premadasa has taken a huge gamble. The least he will have to do in order to convince them is allow them to run the North-Eastern Province. This would mean dissolving the Varadaraja Perumal-led EPRLF-ENDLF government, which in turn would spell other problems. The EPRLF has already indicated that it will declare 'independence' from Sri Lanka in case of such an eventuality. Moreover, it would only harden India's resolve to stay on.

As things stand today, Premadasa's first priority is to find a way of meeting the JVP threat. Last Saturday's massive crackdown on the 'rebels' was an indication that he has realised this. If the JVP-supported strikes persist, then the island is in danger of slipping into chaos. Already, there are some who talk of the possibility of military rule, though, at this stage, it is a view that appears unduly alarmist. What is true, however, is that the opinions of the army and police are already beginning to be taken into account. The declaration of emergency, for instance, was made at their behest.

Premadasa's next priority is to find a way out of the impasse with India. The 1 July call—far from making him a hero with the Sinhalas—has rebounded on him and become a political embarrassment. India has turned down his every demand and responded to his call to stop fighting the LTTE by stepping up the offensive last week. It also flew in more army personnel—5,000 according to one estimate—into Trincomallee last Thursday. The hero who would need his country of the foreign presence now appears to run the risk of being perceived as the man who tipped it into staying on.

The key is to find a face-saving solution for both sides. It is believed that consultations between India and Sri Lanka are already on to find a way to achieve this. One possibility is for India to pull out, say, two months after Premadasa's July-end deadline. India could then argue that it left only when it thought fit to do so and Premadasa could make out that he got the IPKF to leave even if a little later than he would have liked.

If such a stratagem is not worked out before the end of July, India will seek a more permanent solution. Relations may cease to be at an all-time low; they may very well cease to exist.
Brown imperialism doesn't pay

By Swaminathan S. Anklesaria Aiyar

In recent centuries, imperialism has been mostly white and profitable. But it is increasingly becoming brown and unprofitable. The outstanding examples of this are Vietnam's misadventure in Kampuchea and Libya's excursion into Chad. Outright colonial invasions are highly unprofitable; hence rare. India possesses a fairly muted form of brown imperialism, and so suffers a fairly muted degree of unprofitability. But both imperial pressure and its costs have been rising last. We will be better off shedding our tatty imperial and learning from the Japanese and German experiences. That abandonment dream of regional fiat, they can do a lot for your economy.

Imperialism, white or brown, usually rests on four foundations: (1) Military and economic clout. (2) The willingness to use your citizens as cannon fodder, and to denounce dissenters as unpatriotic traitors. (3) The notion that nature abhors a political vacuum: and that you must occupy all the imperial space you can. (4) The notion that the imperialist is doing the dominated nations a favour. The white man's burden was supposed to bring peace and prosperity to lesser breeds with a minimum of loss. For right-wing Englishmen, this implied the F-16 plane for Pakistan but could live with the F-5. To indigenous Indians, Pakistan nevertheless supplied the F-16. It never occurred to us that perhaps Pakistan should be consulted by the Soviet Union on what arms it could sell India. Such consultation is after all the prerogative of dominant powers, not lesser breed.

Expansible lives

The second foundation of imperialism lies in the readiness of human cannon fodder. The United States and Britain no longer have the stomach to take large casualties. President Reagan withdrew his troops from Lebanon after the death of just 200 marines. And he simply could not persuade the US Congress to intervene in tiny Nicaragua. After Vietnam, American military leaders have begun to turn to a low value in the continuum India does not turn a hair at the thought of a thousand indians being killed. Hence the concept of a power vacuum and you take over the region. Man does not rise by an ounce of machismo. It matters not the energy needs of Rajasthan and Madras. Indians have always gained a lot of satisfaction by kicking their neighbours and the world over has always gained a lot of satisfaction by kicking their neighbours. Some people say that the Americans were not interested in the region Man does not rise by an ounce of machismo.

The answer, my friend, is not blowing in the wind of Madras. The answer is: Bangladesh. The third foundation of imperialism is the notion of a power vacuum. We think we must fill as much space as possible in Nepal and Bhutan. According to an official in the Prime Minister's Office, 'we have to go into Nepal because otherwise the Americans and Pakistanis would have set up camp there. The gentleman must have known that the Indians that have been doing so well in Afghanistan are already doing people in Darfur a lot better. We would have been better served by the Germans that abandoned dreams of regional foreign policy. And they did not have the facilities to invest. The Britishuling they were the first to be in the wind of Madras. And the answer is: Bangladesh. The fourth foundation of imperialism lies in the readiness of human cannon fodder. The British and the US Congress to intervene in tiny Nicaragua. After Vietnam, American military leaders have begun to turn to a low value in the continuum India does not turn a hair at the thought of a thousand indians being killed. Hence the concept of a power vacuum and you take over the region Man does not rise by an ounce of machismo.

Military glory

Why then do we persevere with such an unprofitable venture? The answer is that imperialism has always been popular through history and has fallen into disgrace only in the last century and only in the subcontinent. Many countries still feel that no sacrifice is too great in the cause of military glory. Colonial India was partly a product of this phenomenon. Some people say that the Americans were not interested in the region Man does not rise by an ounce of machismo. It matters not the energy needs of Rajasthan and Madras. Indians have always gained a lot of satisfaction by kicking their neighbours and the world over has always gained a lot of satisfaction by kicking their neighbours. Some people say that the Americans were not interested in the region Man does not rise by an ounce of machismo.
Foreign Affairs/ Parmanand

The India bogey covers up for domestic failures

Nepal's partially elected and partially nominated unicameral national legislature -- the Rashtriya Panchayat -- has concluded its debate on the royal address. Obviously, the stalemate in Indo-Nepal relations since March 23 was the main focus of the speeches made by the various members of the House. What, however, appeared rather striking was India-baiting by many members, who perhaps are the political and socio-economic future as dependent on the existing non-democratic Panchayat system.

Demands for democratisation, including the establishment of a bicameral unicameral system, ensuring human rights, made by the various segments of Nepali society may have made these members apprehensive. Hence, they tried to express their solidarity with the system through their speeches by making flattering criticisms of India on various planes.

Former Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhandari (Chaudhary) said: "India's attitude towards Nepal has always been bad. India has shown hegemonic tendencies in the internal affairs of Sri Lanka, Maldives and Nepal and created friction with Pakistan."

Former Prime Minister Manohar Singh (Bahadur) warned that the Nepali people would never forgive the government if it backed down on the stand which it claimed to have adopted in the context of the current stalemate in Indo-Nepal relations. He demanded that Nepal seek the abrogation of all "unequal and humiliating treaties" between Nepal and India.

Padma Raja Tuladhar (Katalmandu) said: "The present relationship between Nepal and India is unequal. All unequal treaties must therefore be abrogated." He also demanded a debate in the House on the 1970 Indo-Nepal Treaty of Peace and Friendship and the 1961 Act on the extension of the Indian consular and diplomatic missions in Nepal.

Former Prime Minister Mokshi Prasad Singh (Bharatpur) said: "The government's foreign policy was not really based on non-alignment. For it continues to maintain a special relationship with India. For instance, no Nepali is granted a passport to visit China. How then can one say that we treat India and China on an equal basis? We have to be non-aligned in respect to India and China also."

Former Prime Minister Shri Prasad Bhandari (Nawalparasi) expressed its concern over the Indian government's move to abrogate all treaties with Nepal. "It should be noted that Nepal had not made any comments on the Indian government's action against the Sikhs in the Golden Temple in Punjab and on the Comilla massacre. As these were the internal affairs of India." he said.

"India's attitude towards Nepal has always been bad. India has shown hegemonic tendencies in the internal affairs of Sri Lanka, Maldives and Nepal and created friction with Pakistan." he said.

Former Prime Minister Manohar (Bahadur) warned that the Nepali people would never forgive the government if it backed down on the stand which it claimed to have adopted in the context of the current stalemate in Indo-Nepal relations. He demanded that Nepal seek the abrogation of all "unequal and humiliating treaties" between Nepal and India.

Padma Raja Tuladhar (Katalmandu) said: "The present relationship between Nepal and India is unequal. All unequal treaties must therefore be abrogated." He also demanded a debate in the House on the 1970 Indo-Nepal Treaty of Peace and Friendship and the 1961 Act on the extension of the Indian consular and diplomatic missions in Nepal.

Former Prime Minister Mokshi Prasad Singh (Bharatpur) said: "The government's foreign policy was not really based on non-alignment. For it continues to maintain a special relationship with India. For instance, no Nepali is granted a passport to visit China. How then can one say that we treat India and China on an equal basis? We have to be non-aligned in respect to India and China also."

Former Prime Minister Shri Prasad Bhandari (Nawalparasi) expressed its concern over the Indian government's move to abrogate all treaties with Nepal. "It should be noted that Nepal had not made any comments on the Indian government's action against the Sikhs in the Golden Temple in Punjab and on the Comilla massacre. As these were the internal affairs of India," he said.

"India's attitude towards Nepal has always been bad. India has shown hegemonic tendencies in the internal affairs of Sri Lanka, Maldives and Nepal and created friction with Pakistan," he said.

Foreign prime minister Abdul Rahim (Bhat) said: "It is natural that differences should often arise between neighbours. But this does not mean that they should stop respecting each other. The Indian media campaign against Nepal's most respected institutions is condemnable. Such actions must stop immediately. Talks should be started soon to conclude treaties that are in the interests of both."
KATHMANDU, Aug 3. — The Nepalese Foreign Minister, Mr. Shailendra Kumar Upadhyaya, said about India: "Some have, of late, forgotten the principles of the Panchsheel and have even discarded the very principles propounded by their own grandfathers," reports PTI.

Mr. Upadhyaya left no one in doubt about the target of his attack by saying: China has always stood firm by this principle of Panchasheel.

The Foreign Minister said Nepal wanted to live in peaceful co-existence with "the country of Gandhi" as well as the country of Mao and Chou En-Lai. "But this relation cannot be established without first respecting the independence of a nation," he said.

Mr. Upadhyaya said, Nepal hoped to receive the kind of friendship, goodwill and understanding shown by China from other neighbouring countries as well.

He said the construction of the "Arniko Highway" had brought China and Nepal even closer.

Political circles said that it was through this "Arniko Highway" that "hundreds of trucks carrying sophisticated Chinese arms" came to Nepal.

The Chinese Ambassador in Nepal, Mr Li Debiao, avoided any mention of India, and said China "appreciates Nepal's policy of not interfering in the recent incidents in Beijing, which was an internal affair of China".

The Nepalese Government has floated the idea of forming a "union" of all land-locked States of the world "to protect their rights". Mr. Shyam KC, the editor-in-chief of the Government-owned The Rising Nepal, has smelt a rat in the "sudden closure" of the Budge oil jetty in the Calcutta port for repair and maintenance and found a hand of the Indian Government in it to break the back-bone of Nepal and its economy.

The editor asked: "What are the land-locked countries to do if transit States resort to this kind of practice which can throw the economics of land-locked States to the winds? Isn't it high time that all land-locked States get together to protect their rights to ensure that their transit rights are not used as a political lever by Transit States?"
India does not want to end impasse: Nepal

KATHMANDU, Aug 2 (UNI) The Nepalese Foreign Minister, Mr. Shailendra Kumar Upadhyaya told the Rashtriya Panchayat—National Parliament—on Wednesday that India did not show any interest in holding India-Nepal talks, besides its "gesture" of agreeing with the agenda.

Mr. Upadhyaya was replying to a discussion raised by the former Rashtriya Panchayat chairman, Mr. Rajeshwar Devkota, and the former Prime Minister, Mr. Lokendra Bahadur Chand.

The Foreign Minister said Nepal was continuously trying to end the impasse as early as possible. He alleged that the Indian Government was delaying the negotiations by "keeping quiet" over the June 26 letter of the Nepalese Foreign Ministry.

Mr. Upadhyaya said that Nepal would continue its effort to settle various issues on the basis of the principle of peaceful coexistence. Nepal was keen, he said, to strengthen the friendship and cooperation between the two countries, he said.

Meanwhile, five members of the Rashtriya Panchayat on Wednesday demanded the resignation of the Prime Minister, Mr. Marich Man Shreshtha, charging him with inability to settle the trade and transit issues with India, "even after four months of impasse."

The members included the former Finance Minister, Mr. Yadav Prasad Pant, and another former minister, Mr. Pashupati Shamsher J. B. Rana. Mr. Pant was also critical of the Indian Government for what he called the "sudden closure" of Calcutta port, which he said caused inconvenience to people of Nepal.

Speaking at a function organized by Nepal-China Friendship Association to mark the 34th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, Mr. Upadhyaya said China, India and Nepal developed their relations on the basis of the principles of panch-sheel.

Mr. Upadhyaya left no one in doubt about the target of his attack by saying: "China has always stood firm by this principle of panch-sheel."

In an obvious reference to India again, Mr. Upadhyaya expressed concern at what he called, "increasing militarization in the region", and said "on the one hand, we talk about peace, while on the other, we are engaged in an arms race".

"In this context, the role played by China in promoting trust and peaceful co-existence with her neighbours is highly admirable", he said.

Nepal changes unacceptable

HT Correspondent

NEW DELHI, Aug 3

Union External Affairs Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao today said in the Lok Sabha that one or two amendments suggested by Nepal to the comprehensive agenda proposed by India for discussion of the entire gamut of bilateral issues were not easy to accept.

Replying to a question of Janata Party member, Syed Shahbuddin, Mr. Rao said New Delhi had suggested a review of the functioning of 1950 Indo-Nepal treaty, and not a review of the treaty itself.

The Minister added that India's suggestion for a review of the operation of the treaty was based on its feeling that the implementation of the treaty had become so one-sided that it was eroding the provisions of the treaty from time to time.

Responding to a supplementary of Congress member R. L. Bhatia, the Minister accused Nepal of violating the treaty's provision regarding citizenship.

Nepal Terai residents' complaints

Express News Service

NEW DELHI, Aug 3

People of Indian origin, staying in the Terai region of Nepal, are being discriminated against, a spokesman for the Nepal Sadbhawana party said here on Thursday.

The spokesman, while affirming their faith in the King's government, said that the Terai region has been deprived of kerosene, salt and sugar, while all these commodities were freely available in the Kathmandu Valley. The result was that the price of kerosene rose to around Rs 25 a litre in the Terai, said the spokesman.

The spokesman said that arrangements should immediately be made to supply essential commodities to the Terai. That apart, the Terai demanded that representatives of all communities in Nepal be hired in Government services on a proportional basis.
India has discarded Panchsheel: Nepal

From R. C. Mathur

KATHMANDU, Aug 2

Nepalese Foreign Minister S. K. Upadhyaya yesterday accused India of discarding the principles of 'Panchsheel' and said that 'China, India and Nepal developed their relations based on the principles of 'Panchsheel' over the decades, but some have of late forgotten the principles. But China has always stood firm by this principle.

He was speaking at the function hosted by Nepal-China Friendship Association to mark the 34th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Nepal and China.

The Minister said that as a zone of peace, Nepal wants to live in peaceful co-existence with the country of Gandhi as well as the country of Mao and Chou En-lai. But this relation cannot be established without first respecting the independence of a nation.

Stating that the late King Mahendra had added a new dimension to the friendship with China after the introduction of panchayat system, Mr. Upadhyaya said that the construction of the Araniko Highway had brought the two countries closer.

Expressing concern at the increasing militarisation in the region the Minister said that on the one hand we talk about peace but on the other we are engaged in arms race. In this context the role played by China in promoting trust and peaceful co-existence with her neighbours is highly admirable.

The Chinese ambassador Li Debiao observed that the formal establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries in 1955 had added a new chapter in the traditional friendship. Saying that the two neighbours have ever since been respecting understanding, supporting and cooperating with each other the Chinese envoy said that the friendly cooperation between Nepal and China could be a good example for developing good neighbourly relations on the basis of the five principles of peaceful co-existence.
Kathmandu to blame, say Nepal MPs

Kathmandu, July 26 (PTI): The Rashtriya Panchayat members, during the last few days of discussion in the finance committee meeting of the commerce ministry, criticised the Nepalese government for its delay in concluding the trade and transit treaty with India in view of the hardships faced by the people.

The members blamed the hawks in the government for being oblivious to the hardships of the common people because of steep rise in the prices of essential commodities, and said, "His Majesty's government does not seem to be worried about the current relations with India because nothing about this has been mentioned in the government's policies and programmes."

A member said: "A lot is being done to strain the relations with India than improve them."

Another member suggested that it would be better for Nepal to conduct trade with India "on the traditional pattern."

The members maintained that the trade policy of Nepal was meaningless in the absence of a trade treaty with India.

They regretted that the farmers on the southern border were facing difficulties as they had not been able to export their produce and medicinal herbs to India.

The Rashtriya Panchayat members underlined the need for importing only essential goods through the open general licence (OGL) system without bringing in luxury goods, make proper utilisation of hard-earned foreign exchange and hold the price line.

They said Nepal's export-import trade did not fare well in the absence of trade and transit treaties with India over the last three months and that the volume of trade being carried out by the government-owned National Trading Limited was declining.

They complained that only a handful of people were controlling the country's trade. "Impostion of Customs duties on medicines and fruits on the one hand and provision of concession for import of luxury goods on the other, were not quite consistent," they added.

Trade with China urged

Three members in the Rashtriya Panchayat urged the Nepalese government to open trade points with China to reduce what they called over-dependence on India. The members are M. Chakra Bahadur Shahi (Humla), Mr. Bhupal Kiran (Solukhumbh) and Ms Kamala Neupane (Sunsari).

They suggested that the Nepalese government open trade points with China and enter into better trade with it. They also demanded facilities for currency exchange with China adding there should be a long-term trade policy in the country.
Pak offers joint ventures to Nepal

Kathmandu, July 26 (PTI): Pakistan today offered various kinds of machinery, consumer goods and joint ventures and technical knowhow to Nepal as fresh avenues of co-operation between the two countries.

The offer was made by the Pakistani minister of state for finance, economic affairs, planning and development, Mr. Haseeb Haq Piracha, in the opening statement at the third session of the Pakistan-Nepal joint economic commission here today. He suggested that both the countries must set up targets for bilateral trade to expand their trade relations.

Various kinds of machinery including cement and sugar plants could be supplied to Nepal on mutually acceptable terms. Mr. Piracha said. Similarly, he said there were possibilities of increasing export of textile items, essential oils and perfume, miscellaneous food products and medical instruments and appliances from Pakistan to Nepal.

'I am sure that it is possible to similarly identify items which can be imported by Pakistan from Nepal,' he said.

The Pakistani minister said joint ventures with Nepal could be established on both bilateral and trilateral basis. Pakistan could provide technical knowhow, machinery, raw materials and semi-processed goods, whereas, capital exporting countries or international financial organisations could provide finance.

Joint ventures between Pakistan and Nepal for designing and construction of projects wherever feasible, could also include buy-back arrangements, he said.

Referring to the trade pattern between Pakistan and Nepal, Mr. Piracha said the volume of two-way trade between the two countries had been varying between $0.6 million in 1984-85 and $2.5 million in 1987-88.

Mr. Piracha said Pakistan gave high priority to her relations with the countries of the region. The developments in the south Asian region had always been a matter of vital concern to Pakistan, he said.

“We are, therefore, engaged in sincere and earnest efforts to resolve and avoid conflicts. We sincerely hope and desire that Nepal would soon be able to overcome its present difficulties. On our part, we assure you of all possible help and support in your efforts to overcome these problems,” he said.

“We are determined to foster closer economic relations with Nepal for the mutual benefit of the people of the two countries,” he added.
Nepal may ban papers, journals from India

Kathmandu, July 24 (PTI): Distributions agents here say that a list of fifty popular Indian news magazines and journals, including those for women, children and on films, has been prepared for a ban by the Nepalese government.

The magazines and journals have a large readership among the intelligentsia and politicians as well as the common folk of Nepal. They said that the zonal administrations had summoned the distribution agents in their respective areas recently and told of the proposed ban.

Knowledgeable circles are of the view that after watching the reaction, the administration would move one step further to ban the daily newspapers from India which are very popular in Nepal, but at times unpalatable and embarrassing to those in power because of their forthright assertions.

Indian newspapers, journals, and magazines have a big sale here. There are queues every afternoon to buy them after they are censored and cleared.

Already there is an unofficial ban on certain news magazines and journals in the Himalayan kingdom.

Nepal ban on magazines

The Times of India News Service

KATHMANDU, July 18: Nepal today banned the entry of over 50 Indian magazines. A directive to the effect was sent to Sandeshghriha, the sole agents importing newspapers and periodicals for the Kathmandu valley.

The order has been conveyed through a government circular, copies of which have been forwarded to the postal and customs authorities for immediate action. The order covers all Indian publications, including those for children and women - "Nandan", "Chandamama", "Femina", "Eve's Weekly", "Sun", besides other magazines like "Filmfare", "Stardust", "Star and Style", "Manohar Kahaniyan", "Maya", "Indrajal" and "Amar Chitrakatha"
TRICK OF THE TRADE
Roots Of Indo-Nepalese Crisis

The trade between India and Nepal has been a subject of considerable interest and debate for a long time. The nature and extent of this trade have implications for both countries and for the region as a whole. The trade is primarily based on the exchange of goods and services, with a significant portion of the trade being conducted through barter or exchange without the use of money. The trade is characterized by a wide range of goods and services, including agricultural products, manufactured goods, and services such as tourism.

The Indian government has been actively promoting trade with Nepal, both through diplomatic efforts and through initiatives aimed at encouraging businesses to engage in trade with the country. The trade agreement between India and Nepal, which came into effect in 2015, is seen as a key step in enhancing bilateral trade relations. The agreement has provided a framework for the expansion of trade between the two countries, with a focus on increasing exports of Indian goods and services to Nepal.

The trade agreement has also facilitated the exchange of goods and services, with a particular focus on agricultural products and services, such as tourism. The Indian government has also been promoting the development of tourism in Nepal, with a view to increasing the flow of Indian tourists to the country.

Despite these efforts, the trade between India and Nepal remains a subject of concern for both countries. There are several challenges that need to be addressed to make the trade more sustainable and beneficial for both sides. These challenges include the lack of infrastructure, the need for better access to credit, and the need for greater transparency and accountability in the trade process.
DELEGATION ASKED TO STAY BACK

Lanka turns down India's condition

Talks on verge of collapse

From Our Special Correspondent.

NEW DELHI, Thursday. — The negotiations between India and Sri Lanka over the withdrawal of the IPKF appear to be on the verge of breaking down. Although hopes of a settlement were aroused after the Sri Lankan delegation met the Prime Minister yesterday, the subsequent discussions have widened the gap between the two sides.
600 IPKF men sail for home

India, Sri Lanka discuss time frame

Over 150 killed in fresh violence

TRINCOMALEE (Sri Lanka), July 29 (PTI) - The Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) in Sri Lanka today recommenced its withdrawal and 600 IPKF personnel set sail from here for Madras by INS Mahar.

Acting Sri Lankan Foreign Minister John Amaratunge, Deputy Information Minister, R. Vijayasinghe, Defence Secretary, Seppala Athidi and Gen Hamilton Wanasinghe and the Commander of the IPKF, Lt Gen A.S. Kalkat, were present to see off the first batch of the pull-out.

The returning military personnel will reach Madras tomorrow.

Meanwhile, India and Sri Lanka today began consultations on determining a time frame for the withdrawal of the IPKF from north-eastern Sri Lanka and reviewed the progress of implementation of the Indo-Sri Lanka accord, including devolution of powers to the Tamils.

The first round of talks began after the two Foreign Ministers, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao and Mr. Ranil Wickremasinghe, exchanged views on the entire gamut of bilateral issues without sides.

Mr. Wickremasinghe arrived at New Delhi earlier in the day from Colombo by a special flight, leading a 10-member high power delegation including the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Bernard Tillakaratne, and the former Foreign Secretary, Mr. W.T. Jayasinge.

The Indian High Commissioner, Mr. L.L. Mehrotra, and Mr. Tillakaratne had on Friday at Colombo signed a joint communiqué in the presence of President Ranasinghe Premadasa, setting at motion the recommencement of withdrawal by the IPKF and paving the way for Mr. Wickremasinghe's visit to New Delhi.

The two sides are also scheduled to discuss the question of cessation of offensive military operations by the IPKF and the safety and security of all communities in the North-Eastern Province of Sri Lanka.

President Premadasa in a nation-wide TV broadcast had welcomed the agreement describing it as a turning point in Indo-Sri Lanka relations.

The Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, who had succeeded to President Premadasa's request for the recommencement of withdrawal of the IPKF had in a message expressed the hope that it would mark the beginning of a new chapter in the relations between the two countries.

150 KILLED: At least 150 persons, including 34 JVP 'extremists' were killed in separate incidents of violence, anti-IPKF demonstrations and attack on police stations in the Sinhale majority central and southern parts of the island despite a country wide curfew now in force.

The Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, who had succeeded to President Premadasa's request, expressed the hope that it would mark the beginning of a new chapter in the relations between the two countries.

Protection for Tamils urged
IPKF’s Withdrawal: Confusing Issues

By NANDENDRA GUPTA

The situation in Sri Lanka continues to be confusing. Each of the Sri Lankan players involved seems to be tugging and pulling at the national fabric to meet personal ends without thinking of the welfare of the island nation as a whole. The token withdrawal of the IPKF and the subsequent talks have not materially changed the situation.

President Premadasa has not fully defused the crisis even though he has given up his unilateral July 29 deadline for the withdrawal of the IPKF. In any case, it was unlikely to be complied with. There was talk, however, of Sri Lanka taking this issue to the U.N. It would be useful, therefore, to see if there was a similar situation earlier and what happened at that time.

As many would recall, a peace-keeping force called the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) was created in 1957 and deployed on the Egyptian side of the border with Israel in Gaza and in the Sinai. This force had a large Indian army contingent with a number of Indian officers, including the commander of the force. The UNEF was instrumental in keeping the peace between the two adversaries.

In 1967, the UNEF was withdrawn in response to a request from president Nasser because it was on sovereign Egyptian soil. This decision by the U.N. secretary-general, U Thant, was opposed by many countries because they knew full well that the withdrawal of the UNEF would lead to war between the Arabs and Israelis which did take place in June 1967. During the war, the Indian component of UNEF, along with other contingents, suffered many casualties. For agreeing to this withdrawal Thant was roundly criticised by many countries. In fact, it seems even president Nasser later asked him why he had agreed to withdraw the UNEF.

Both Forces

The parallels between the UNEF in 1967 and the IPKF in 1989 are many. Both forces were deployed to keep the peace between warring groups. Both were located on another country’s sovereign soil. Both were asked by the host nation’s government to leave. The UNEF was withdrawn because the U.N. secretary-general took a purely legal view about the sovereign rights of the country hosting foreign forces, without taking into account the realities of the situation which were obvious to all concerned. A similar situation prevails in Sri Lanka.

Many articles in the media project the same totally legalistic view that the IPKF must withdraw from the island only because president Premadasa has said so. These columns are not, unfortunately, taking an overall view of the situation. June as in 1967 the withdrawal of the UNEF led to war, it has to be noted that the total withdrawal of IPKF at this juncture is likely to lead to a most horrendous bloodbath.

The indications are already there. The bloody murders of Anuradhapura, Yogeshwaran and Uma Maheshwaran by LTTE cadres leave no doubt about the LTTE’s desire to decimate the other Tamil groups and seize power for themselves. The only impediment to their plan is the presence of the IPKF. The Colombo government: also appears to have a similar interest in getting the IPKF out. This is because of the sentiment of the Sinhala people and the pressure from the JVP which has made the presence of the IPKF the central issue in the insurgents’ campaign of violence.

The Colombo government is supportive of the LTTE demand for the IPKF withdrawal as well as for an immediate cease-fire of the IPKF operations against the LTTE. It is probably felt that the LTTE would weaken considerably in the interregnum strife with the other Tamils, and the Sinhala militants or the Sri Lankan army would thereafter be able to eliminate the LTTE and achieve a final solution of the Tamil problem.

Would those taking a purely legal view about Colombo’s sovereignty agree to and be a party to such a disaster? The realities of the situation need to be faced up to and addressed. It is no wonder that no major powers have had anything to say against the continued presence of the IPKF on the island. The world is aware that without the devolution of power promised to the recently formed Tamil government in the north eastern provinces, it is in no position to protect itself against either the LTTE or the Sinhalas.

Civil War

Were the IPKF to withdraw at this point of time and the Tamils declare a “war” as they have threatened to, the result would most likely be a civil war with a consequent refugee problem for India. What would India do then? In any case, the setting up of a “new” government would not be in the interest of Sri Lanka or of India. Sri Lankan sovereignty and the prerequisite of Sri Lankan consent for the IPKF to operate on Sri Lankan soil are not questioned by any one in India; the need to withdraw the IPKF is early as possible is also accepted. Discussions on these issues are futile. These points are to be taken as given. The real issue is how to implement these objectives with minimum bloodshed in the aftermath. Several senior members of the Sri Lankan cabinet have made their opposition to the precipitate IPKF withdrawal publicly known. The Sri Lankan army with its capacity fully stretched by the JVP insurgency has also made known its objections to an immediate withdrawal. It is a facile assumption that the JVP insurgency is solely motivated by the presence of the IPKF in Sri Lanka. The fact that they tried to disrupt the Sri Lankan elections although Mr Premadasa had pledged to get the IPKF withdrawn would show that the aim continues to be the overthrow of the democratic order in Sri Lanka.

The LTTE, which refused to lay down arms on the grounds that the Indian accord with Sri Lanka had not fully satisfied Tamil aspirations, cannot possibly be genuine in its dealings with the Sri Lankan government which has been unwilling over the last two years even to devolve the limited power promised to the Tamils. In these circumstances, the right question to debate is how to create the best possible conditions which will enable the IPKF to come home and to minimise, if not avoid, the massive bloodshed in the Tamil areas of Sri Lanka afterwards.

Getting into legalistic arguments while overlooking the political issues and the ground realities may do credit to lawyers but would hardly constitute statesmanship. In this context the U Thant experience remains relevant.
37 killed in Lanka, Indian banks bombed

COLOMBO, July 26. — Suspected anti-Government militants bombed two Indian banks in the Sri Lankan capital today as violence elsewhere left at least 37 people, including 18 Indian soldiers, dead in the island, reports AFP.

In the island’s east, Tamil rebels exploded a land mine under an Indian Peace-Keeping Force truck when it was passing on a highway in Trincomalee district late yesterday, killing 18 soldiers and injuring three, security sources here said.

It was the biggest such attack in recent weeks. But no further details were available and Indian diplomats declined comment. The attack was blamed on the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

An unknown number of men threw bombs at the State Bank of India and the Indian Bank here, causing slight damage to the buildings and injuring two employees, police and witnesses said. The two banks are within walking distance of each other.

The attacks were widely suspected to be the work of the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP).

A rocket allegedly fired by the Sri Lankan Army blasted the EPRLF office in the island’s north late yesterday killing one person and injuring two, Tamil sources said. A blast hit the Tamil People’s Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) office at Kilinochchi town.

The violence came as the Government asked people to stay away from JVP-sponsored anti-Indian protests beginning today to demand the immediate withdrawal of the IPKF.

The JVP has asked Indian businesses and the three Indian banks here to shut down or face consequences. Security sources said today’s attack on the banks might be aimed at enforcing the threat. The bombs caused loud explosions which could be heard up to one km away.

Another explosion occurred at a building housing an Indian firm. A Buddhist monk was shot dead by unidentified men in Kagalla district, says UNI. The bodies of five suspected rebels were found by security forces in the district.

The attacks came as the JVP called a five-day strike asking employees to attend their offices but to refrain from doing any work till Monday as part of its campaign for immediate IPKF withdrawal.

Our Special Representative reports from New Delhi: As the deadline for the IPKF pull-out set by President Ranasinghe Premadasa approaches, India is preparing itself to face any eventuality. The picture is now far from clear and there is total uncertainty as to the possible course of action that Mr. Premadasa might take if the IPKF does not move out of Sri Lanka by July 28 the deadline set by him earlier.

Lanka may go to U.N.

COLOMBO, July 26. — The Foreign Minister, Mr. Ranjeet Wickremesinghe, has called a meeting with foreign diplomats for Friday, sparking off speculation that Sri Lanka is ready to take the issue of the withdrawal of the IPKF to the U.N., diplomats said here today, reports Reuter.

“Quite what they are going to do they haven’t said, but the signs are they’ll take the issue to the U.N. and make a big fuss,” one diplomat said.

Foreign diplomats saw no early end to the crisis.

“The Indian attitude is that they are morally right and don’t care what the world says,” an Asian diplomat said.

“The fact is that India and Sri Lanka have put themselves in a no-win situation. Both are acting against their national interests in a manner that leaves one breathless,” a Western envoy said.

“For Sri Lanka, its economy is in a mess because of guerrilla wars, it is the height of folly to make an enemy out of its greatest potential source of help and its biggest potential market.”
India agrees to IPKF pull-out

Seventy-five killed in Sri Lanka violence

NEW DELHI, July 28. — The withdrawal of Indian troops from Sri Lanka begins tomorrow, according to a joint communiqué issued at the end of three days of talks between the Indian High Commissioner in Colombo, Mr J. L. Mehrotra, and the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister, Mr Ranjan Wijeratne.

The communiqué, released simultaneously in Colombo and in the capital, said that the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister would visit India to discuss the withdrawal of the remaining Indian Peace-Keeping Force contingent in Sri Lanka.

Mr Wijeratne is expected here tomorrow afternoon for talks with the Indian External Affairs Minister, Mr P. V. Narasimha Rao. The communication says that the talks will review the implementation of the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement. During the visit of the Sri Lankan delegation headed by Mr Wijeratne, the question of cessation of offensive military operations by the IPKF and the safety and security of all communities in the North-Eastern province of Sri Lanka will also be discussed.

Thus ended days of mounting tension following the deadline of July 28 set by the Sri Lankan President, Mr J. R. Jayewardene, for the withdrawal of the IPKF troops in the island. Later he set two conditions for India — accepting the President as the supreme commander of the IPKF and cessation of hostilities against the LTTE. India has agreed to withdraw an IPKF contingent on the last day of the President's deadline presumably as a face-saving gesture for Sri Lanka. On its part, Sri Lanka has agreed to send its Foreign Minister to India for talks on not only the further withdrawals of Indian troops but on the agreement itself.

The cessation of hostilities against the LTTE, which Sri Lanka is keen on, and on the safety and security of all communities in the North-Eastern province of Sri Lanka would like some guarantees.

An Indian Naval ship, INS Megyer, is expected to call at Trincomalee today to help in the pull-out of a contingent of Indian troops. India has so far withdrawn 1,000 troops before the beginning of January and in April-May. About 80,000 troops are still left behind in Sri Lanka. (According to PTI, to which the communiqué was released at New Delhi, approximately 1,000 soldiers would be pulled out tomorrow.)

A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said today the agreement with Sri Lanka on partial withdrawal and for talks should be seen as "a victory of reason, goodwill and good sense," rather than as rejection or acceptance of certain conditions. He expressed optimism about the forthcoming talks with the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister.

PTI reports from Colombo: The joint communiqué was signed by Mr Mehrotra, Indian High Commissioner, and Mr Bernard Tiilakaratne, Sri Lanka Foreign Secretary, in the presence of President Premadasa and Mr Wijeratne this afternoon.

Mr Premadasa has described the understanding as a turning point in the relationship between the two countries. The time has come for both to forge new ties of friendship, forgetting past differences, he is quoted by Mr Mehrotra as having said.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi has conveyed to Mr Premadasa a message saying it was the beginning of a new chapter in the history of the two countries and would strengthen the bonds of friendship and the cultural ties.

The former Lankan President, Mr Junius Jayewardene, congratulating the High Commissioner, said he was very happy it had been possible to sort out amicably what was a positive development, he observed. Mr Jayewardene rang up Mr Mehrotra soon after the communiqué was signed.

In Colombo, Mr Rajiv Gandhi called an urgent meeting of the Union Cabinet early today to discuss the conditions set by the Sri Lanka Government to end the deadlock between the two countries.

The state-run Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation reported that Mr Wijeratne will leave for New Delhi tomorrow by a special Air Lanka flight along with the Higher Education Minister, Mr A. C. B. Hameed, the Foreign Secretary, Mr Bernard Tiilakaratne, President Premadasa and adviser on International Affairs and the Attorney-General, who are part of an eight-member team.

The USA welcomed India's decision. The State Department spokesman, Ms Margaret Tutwiler said this development would lead to an agreement between the two countries.

On Page 6:
After July 28/ Friends and puppets in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, July 28. — More than 75 people were killed today in separate incidents of violence and anti-IPKF demonstrations in Sri Lanka, reports PTI. The demonstrations were held in defiance of the curfew in the Sinhalese-majority central and southern parts of the island, official sources here said.

Twenty-one killings were reported from Mannar and Trincomalee districts while 14 were reported from Kandy.

Meanwhile, the country-wide curfew clamped since mid-night last night has been extended till Sunday morning.

UNI adds: Security officials said those killed included two policemen and a soldier.

Clashes were also reported from Kiribathpaluwa and Kattalai in Kandy district leaving eight demonstrators dead.

Four anti-IPKF protesters were shot dead outside Kandy railway station this morning, the officials said.

They said the two policemen were killed by recoil of the Jantha Vilasini Peramuna (JV) in separate incidents in the north-western Kankasanthurai district, while the soldier was killed in the southern Mannar district.

The officials said that hundreds of demonstrators defied a 24-hour nation-wide curfew imposed by the Government from midnight last night and took to the streets in Kandy, Badulla, Mannar, Trincomalee and various other places.

In Badulla, Air Force helicopters were used to drop tear-gas canisters to disperse violent demonstrators. Police used water cannons to disperse a meeting of 300 people participating in a public meeting at Tripunuwada in Kandy district to protest against the IPKF presence in the island which were shot dead by the police last night.
India, Bully

Sir,—The so-called peace accord which India imposed on Sri Lanka as a solution to the Tamil terrorism (which India itself promulgated in the first place) has only resulted in a deep division among the ethnic groups in Sri Lanka besides causing violent conflicts and further destabilization of the island.

The Indian objective in the peace accord was to divide and vanq Sri Lanka. The accord divided the Sinhelas. As a result, police and pro-government gangs are continuing to massacre anti-peace accord protesters. To protect the Government accord, pro-Indian agents rigged the December 1988 presidential election and the February 1989 general elections in Sri Lanka, and during this period more than 4,000 Sinhelas were murdered, including 12 division candidates for Parliament. Attempts were made to assassinate the opposition leader, Mr. Srinavamo Bandaranaike, twice during this period.

The accord has also divided the Tamils. India openly armed and financed pro-accord Tamil terrorists to hunt down the LTTE terrorists opposed to the accord. Since its signing on July 29, 1987 more than 35,000 Tamils have been killed by different Tamil terrorist factions and the Indian army.

The devolution of power to the provinces, forced by India under the accord, created a highly-privileged position for the Tamils. The Tamils in the north and the east comprising only six per cent of the population, have been given nearly one-third of the island and 60 per cent of the coastline as a separate, racial "province". By granting to this "province" powers which even Indian states do not possess, India intends to weaken the Sri Lankan government. In effect, India has created a state within a state in the island.

The eastern province— one of the centres of the Sinhela civilization, and which has been ruled by a local Tamil king— has also been declared a Tamil province by the accord, a position which will never be accepted by the Sri Lankan people. This has sown the seeds of future conflicts between the communities.

The people of Sri Lanka were not given a fair opportunity to express their views and wishes on these vital changes affecting their sovereignty and independence. If they were, there is no doubt they would have categorically rejected the accord.

Dr CHANDRIKA IBRIYAGOLLE
London

Amirthalingam's son says:
'IPKF pullout will trigger civil war'

Express News Service

Madras, July 28: Tamil militant groups in Sri Lanka are on the brink of a civil war and only the IPKF is preventing an internecine bloodbath, assassinated TULF leader A. Amirthalingam's son Kandeepan has said.

The spectre of violence which would be unleashed if the IPKF left, loomed large before the ordinary people of the north-east, and they were mortally afraid.

Mr. Kandeepan is in the city on his way to Benares. Mr. Amirthalingam had wished that a part of his ashes be immersed in Benares and Tamil Nadu.

In the northern province, particularly in the Jaffna peninsula, the people were under the threat of execution by the Tigers, if they voiced their opinion, he said.

Sometime ago, the LTTE had driven home its point by attacking a group of starving citizens at Moolai (in Vaddukottai). Mr. Amirthalingam's constituency, who had approached the IPKF for food. The Tigers appeared on the scene and lobbed grenades just as the hungry people had sat down to eat.

The TULF would continue as a Tamil Political force, despite the LTTE plots to wipe out the leadership.

Only the secretary-general of the party could nominate a successor to Mr. Amirthalingam in Parliament. As he too had been killed, the general council of TULF would first have to re-elect a secretary general.

The Premadasa Government should establish that its conscience was clear in the Amirthalingam assassination by publishing the police investigation in the case, he demanded.

961 IPKF casualties

In Lanka
Top Tamil leader gunned down

By SEEMA GUHA
The Times of India News Service
COLOMBO, July 18.

The leader of the People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOTE), Mr Uma Maheswaran, was gunned down on Sunday evening.

He was said to have been walking along a crowded road when he was shot by unidentified gunmen. According to another version, he was riding a motorcycle.

Mr Maheswaran's wife and brother identified the body, which was lying in the mortuary, this morning.

The PLOTE leader came into the limelight last year during the coup attempt in the Maldives. His group is alleged to have sent the mercenaries which flew the body to Batticaloa on Sunday morning. He had told friends then about his apprehension that he would be the next target.

Mr Maheswaran had gone to pay his last respects to the TULF leaders, Mr A. Amritalingam and Mr V. Prabhakaran, the LTTE supremo, when he was shot.

Mr Maheswaran, like the other Tamil leaders of his generation, was an admirer of the slain TULF chief. It was Mr Amritalingam who initiated Mr Maheswaran to the Tamil nationalist (separatist) ideology.

Mr Maheswaran had gone to pay his last respects to the TULF leaders, Mr A. Amritalingam and Mr V. Prabhakaran, the LTTE supremo, when he was shot.

The defence ministry is understood to have initiated the planning to identify the areas from which the IPKF will begin moving out of the island-nation.

The first contingents will leave these areas as soon as arrangements are finalised to ensure that the safety and security of the Tamil population are guaranteed.

Details regarding the arrangements were not available. The moves made by the defence ministry are in line with the message spelt out in the Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi's last letter to President Premadasa. In this communication, Mr Ga... said that if Colombo refuses to identify the areas the IPKF will begin moving out of the island-nation.

The first contingents will leave these areas as soon as arrangements are finalised to ensure that the safety and security of the Tamil population are guaranteed.

Details regarding the arrangements were not available. The moves made by the defence ministry are in line with the message spelt out in the Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi's last letter to President Premadasa. In this communication, Mr Ga... said that if Colombo refuses to identify the areas the IPKF will begin moving out of the island-nation.

The first contingents will leave these areas as soon as arrangements are finalised to ensure that the safety and security of the Tamil population are guaranteed.

Details regarding the arrangements were not available. The moves made by the defence ministry are in line with the message spelt out in the Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi's last letter to President Premadasa. In this communication, Mr Ga... said that if Colombo refuses to identify the areas the IPKF will begin moving out of the island-nation.

The first contingents will leave these areas as soon as arrangements are finalised to ensure that the safety and security of the Tamil population are guaranteed.

Details regarding the arrangements were not available. The moves made by the defence ministry are in line with the message spelt out in the Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi's last letter to President Premadasa. In this communication, Mr Ga... said that if Colombo refuses to identify the areas the IPKF will begin moving out of the island-nation.

The first contingents will leave these areas as soon as arrangements are finalised to ensure that the safety and security of the Tamil population are guaranteed.

Details regarding the arrangements were not available. The moves made by the defence ministry are in line with the message spelt out in the Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi's last letter to President Premadasa. In this communication, Mr Ga... said that if Colombo refuses to identify the areas the IPKF will begin moving out of the island-nation.

The first contingents will leave these areas as soon as arrangements are finalised to ensure that the safety and security of the Tamil population are guaranteed.

Details regarding the arrangements were not available. The moves made by the defence ministry are in line with the message spelt out in the Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi's last letter to President Premadasa. In this communication, Mr Ga... said that if Colombo refuses to identify the areas the IPKF will begin moving out of the island-nation.

The first contingents will leave these areas as soon as arrangements are finalised to ensure that the safety and security of the Tamil population are guaranteed.

Details regarding the arrangements were not available. The moves made by the defence ministry are in line with the message spelt out in the Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi's last letter to President Premadasa. In this communication, Mr Ga... said that if Colombo refuses to identify the areas the IPKF will begin moving out of the island-nation.

The first contingents will leave these areas as soon as arrangements are finalised to ensure that the safety and security of the Tamil population are guaranteed.

Details regarding the arrangements were not available. The moves made by the defence ministry are in line with the message spelt out in the Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi's last letter to President Premadasa. In this communication, Mr Ga... said that if Colombo refuses to identify the areas the IPKF will begin moving out of the island-nation.

The first contingents will leave these areas as soon as arrangements are finalised to ensure that the safety and security of the Tamil population are guaranteed.

Details regarding the arrangements were not available. The moves made by the defence ministry are in line with the message spelt out in the Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi's last letter to President Premadasa. In this communication, Mr Ga... said that if Colombo refuses to identify the areas the IPKF will begin moving out of the island-nation.

The first contingents will leave these areas as soon as arrangements are finalised to ensure that the safety and security of the Tamil population are guaranteed.

Details regarding the arrangements were not available. The moves made by the defence ministry are in line with the message spelt out in the Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi's last letter to President Premadasa. In this communication, Mr Ga... said that if Colombo refuses to identify the areas the IPKF will begin moving out of the island-nation.

The first contingents will leave these areas as soon as arrangements are finalised to ensure that the safety and security of the Tamil population are guaranteed.

Details regarding the arrangements were not available. The moves made by the defence ministry are in line with the message spelt out in the Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi's last letter to President Premadasa. In this communication, Mr Ga... said that if Colombo refuses to identify the areas the IPKF will begin moving out of the island-nation.

The first contingents will leave these areas as soon as arrangements are finalised to ensure that the safety and security of the Tamil population are guaranteed.

Details regarding the arrangements were not available. The moves made by the defence ministry are in line with the message spelt out in the Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi's last letter to President Premadasa. In this communication, Mr Ga... said that if Colombo refuses to identify the areas the IPKF will begin moving out of the island-nation.

The first contingents will leave these areas as soon as arrangements are finalised to ensure that the safety and security of the Tamil population are guaranteed.

Details regarding the arrangements were not available. The moves made by the defence ministry are in line with the message spelt out in the Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi's last letter to President Premadasa. In this communication, Mr Ga... said that if Colombo refuses to identify the areas the IPKF will begin moving out of the island-nation.

The first contingents will leave these areas as soon as arrangements are finalised to ensure that the safety and security of the Tamil population are guaranteed.

Details regarding the arrangements were not available. The moves made by the defence ministry are in line with the message spelt out in the Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi's last letter to President Premadasa. In this communication, Mr Ga... said that if Colombo refuses to identify the areas the IPKF will begin moving out of the island-nation.

The first contingents will leave these areas as soon as arrangements are finalised to ensure that the safety and security of the Tamil population are guaranteed.

Details regarding the arrangements were not available. The moves made by the defence ministry are in line with the message spelt out in the Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi's last letter to President Premadasa. In this communication, Mr Ga... said that if Colombo refuses to identify the areas the IPKF will begin moving out of the island-nation.

The first contingents will leave these areas as soon as arrangements are finalised to ensure that the safety and security of the Tamil population are guaranteed.

Details regarding the arrangements were not available. The moves made by the defence ministry are in line with the message spelt out in the Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi's last letter to President Premadasa. In this communication, Mr Ga... said that if Colombo refuses to identify the areas the IPKF will begin moving out of the island-nation.

The first contingents will leave these areas as soon as arrangements are finalised to ensure that the safety and security of the Tamil population are guaranteed.

Details regarding the arrangements were not available. The moves made by the defence ministry are in line with the message spelt out in the Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi's last letter to President Premadasa. In this communication, Mr Ga... said that if Colombo refuses to identify the areas the IPKF will begin moving out of the island-nation.

The first contingents will leave these areas as soon as arrangements are finalised to ensure that the safety and security of the Tamil population are guaranteed.

Details regarding the arrangements were not available. The moves made by the defence ministry are in line with the message spelt out in the Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi's last letter to President Premadasa. In this communication, Mr Ga... said that if Colombo refuses to identify the areas the IPKF will begin moving out of the island-nation.

The first contingents will leave these areas as soon as arrangements are finalised to ensure that the safety and security of the Tamil population are guaranteed.

Details regarding the arrangements were not available. The moves made by the defence ministry are in line with the message spelt out in the Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi's last letter to President Premadasa. In this communication, Mr Ga... said that if Colombo refuses to identify the areas the IPKF will begin moving out of the island-nation.

The first contingents will leave these areas as soon as arrangements are finalised to ensure that the safety and security of the Tamil population are guaranteed.

Details regarding the arrangements were not available. The moves made by the defence ministry are in line with the message spelt out in the Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi's last letter to President Premadasa. In this communication, Mr Ga... said that if Colombo refuses to identify the areas the IPKF will begin moving out of the island-nation.
The Slachen camouflage

It began in 1947 when Pakistan illegally occupied the area around the Slachen glacier. Since the area was uninhabited and at heights of 23,000 feet and the centre point of the conflict was the valley of Kashmir, the Indian side did not pay much attention to it. Right through the last 40 years, Pakistan has been anchoring towards occupying the glacier. During the Shimla round of talks which followed the 1971 war, demarcation in the Slachen glacier area was shown as beyond point NJ 8842. The primary reason for this was that in the cordial atmosphere of the Shimla Pact talks after the bitterness of the war, the Indian side was extremely accommodating since the Pakistani side repeatedly said that the area was uninhabited and of no interest to either side. However, in the early 80s, Pakistan, after having refurbished her arsenal and expanded her armed might under the dictatorship of General Zia-ul-Haq, decided to fish in troubled waters. What started it off was permission given to foreign mountaineering teams to climb the peaks in the vicinity of the glacier. India had shown she had the right to this area over which Pakistan encroached.

In 1983 there have been casualties on both sides with the Pakistanis trying to dislodge the Indians at heights. Admittedly, the logistics of maintaining troops at that height is a nightmare, and for those who have to guard the ramparts, it is a battle against two enemies, the Pakistani troops and the elements. Be that as it may, India has always shown a spirit of accommodation in agreeing to thrash out many problems on this issue through talks without giving up its sovereignty over Slachen. Six rounds of talks at official level did not produce much but the dialogue was kept going. In the meantime, there was a change of government in Pakistan caused by the death of General Zia-ul-Haq in a plane crash. India's stance has been that Pakistan should give up its rigid stand that the line of actual control which ends at point NJ 8842, about 30 km north-east of Karakoram, extends no-farther right up to the Karakoram Pass. Most of the areas claimed by Pakistan have been under Indian control since 1947 and in all future talks it is necessary that while both sides should observe and respect the watershed principle, India should not in her magnanimity give away concessions about which she has had bitter experience with Pakistan in the past. There are some apologists in the country who talk of the area being barren and of no use. But they need to be reminded that nearly 30 years ago, the then Prime Minister of India, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, said in Parliament that "not a blade of grass grows in the Alaknanda basin and the Chinese in the north-eastern part of J & K". But that did not prevent China from building a highway on the territory illegally occupied that belongs to India. Let that be a lesson to our negotiators and government. Negotiate, yes, but from a position of strength, keeping in view long-term strategic interests of the country.
Do we really gain by partition

By Dr Q.P. Mehta

India's latest partition, a consequence of communal antagonism, seeded by vested interest politicians, has just completed four decades. The signs of socio-economic wounds were not even buried, the thunder of another communal antagonism launched at Partition. As Pakistan acquired itself after emerging as an Islamic nation it can fare remaining communities in minority to trace their footsteps? Has India remained so slow in the race of its material growth that the people of minority community cannot expect to come up by getting along with? The questions are not very difficult to answer. Indeed, different communities should take lesson and guidance from the relative achievement and failure of Pakistan to determine their future course of action.

GAINS OF PARTITION TO PAKISTAN

India got only 77 per cent of the total geographical area and 73 per cent of the cultivated area but had to share 82 per cent of the total population of undivided India to support with. After partition only 19.7 per cent of the total area now lie in India whereas that of 48 per cent went to Pakistan. India lost Sind and Punjab, the two food rich-provinces. India shared only 55 per cent of major allcos, 60 per cent of cotton and 19 per cent of jute producing area of undivided India. India acquired a relatively larger share of the urban population and also of the manufacturing Industries such as jute and textile mills where as major centres producing raw jute and cotton went to east and west Pakistan respectively.

Thus, independently developed Indian jute and cotton textile industries left with no alternative other than import of raw materials from Pakistan for their survival. Areas better off for their survival. Area now occupied by Pakistan constituted a sizable market for many Indian industrial products. Large quantities of glass ceramics, cotton textiles, enamel ware, foot ware etc. were marketed in areas now in Pakistan. Moreover some Industries like hardware, soap, silk and woollen textiles were also adversely affected due to partition of the country.

SUCCESS OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN

India initiated corrective measures to reestablish its economy shattered by the blow of second world war and subsequent partition through planned efforts. India efficiently tackled its food problem through green revolution. It emerged as a tenth industrial power and the sixth richest country in the world.

In 1985, India's gross domestic saving was 22 per cent of GDP while the same figure was only 5 per cent for Pakistan. In the same way, in 1984 India's gross domestic investment figure was 24 per cent of GDP against 17 per cent for Pakistan.

Do we

Cont'd from page 7

per capita food production for India for 1982-83 was 110 (taking 1974-76=100) whereas that was 104 for Pakistan. In 1984A, balance of payments in current account for India was in deficit by 2429 million dollars for Pakistan (i.e. for Pakistan (i.e. a little more than double) but, the gross International reserve in 1984, for India was 8536 million dollars as against 1610 million dollars for Pakistan (i.e. more than five times greater).

Describing the repercussions of Pakistan's decision to seek 800 million dollars from the IMF the reports estimate that from the next financial year Islamabad may have to pay more by way of debt servicing than it might get as foreign aid funds. And despite the external debt liability outstanding in 1997 would be more that 11 billion dollar. The day is approaching fast when the Pakistan's debt servicing burden reach Latin American proportions.

CONCLUSION

People of Pakistan were hoodwinked by a rose picture painted by the creators of Pakistan. Resource reservoir has been withering way in fortifying the regimentation of martial law administrators under whose dread shadow the desire of individual freedom has been taking its last breath. Number of reports observe that recent upheavals on the political front had caused a serious set back to the Pakistan economy and therefore the newly formed Pakistani Government may find repairing of shattered economy even more difficult than reviving democratic institutions.
Where China has scored over India

HT Correspondent

NEW DELHI, Aug. 3

Rural inequality in China is not very different from that in India despite all the revolutionary upheavals there, according to noted economist Dr Subramanian Swamy, MP.

But the urban sector in China exhibited impressive equity in incomes and not in the rural sector, he says in a new book, which was released by the President, Mr R. Venkataraman, today.

In terms of poverty levels, illiteracy and health, China has done decisively better than India, although the gap is not as wide as presumed, he says.

"For China, even in the mid 80s, there were 110 million very poor people and 200 million illiterates", he adds in the book titled "Economic Growth in China and India—A Prospective by Comparison".

Dr Swamy says that China and India belong to the group of “moderately growing” developing nations. But since 1992 in comparative terms, China attained a higher growth rate in national income than India, during the three decades and more of planned economic development.

The estimated growth rate for China during 1952-86 was 5.1 per cent per year and 4.0 per cent per year for India.

He says that a sectoral pattern of growth rates for the period 1952-86 as a whole shows that China is ahead of India in agricultural performance and far ahead in industrial growth (about double). Only in the service sector was India ahead.

The fact that the per capita incomes of the two countries are "so low is by itself not surprising", Dr Swamy says.

China’s and India’s per capita incomes are, even today, lower than Pakistan’s "but one cannot, on this fact alone argue that Pakistan is more developed than the other two".

The trend in industrial growth rates in both countries was also different, Dr Swamy writes.

The Chinese industrial economy had accelerated from a high annual 8.8 per cent in 1952-65 to an even higher 11.6 per cent in 1978-86.

In India the growth rate decelerated from a modest 5.8 per cent annually to an unimpressive 3.6 per cent in the ’90s.

In agriculture both experienced an acceleration in the growth rates due to investments made in modernisation, in cash crops and subsidiary agricultural activities.

He, however, observes that Indian agriculture appeared to have lost its steam in the post-1978 period when China sharply accelerated its growth by initiating economic reforms.

Describing China’s investment as "huge", Dr Swamy says that Beijing invested up to 34 per cent of the GDP for industrialisation compared to India’s 25 per cent.

Dr Swamy says that because the Chinese have been relatively more inefficient in the use of resources, they could not realise a much higher rate of growth.
Mothers battle with life and rebels

KABUL, August 7 (PTI). She lost a majority of her relatives either fighting for their homeland or in the rocket attacks by the mujahideen rebels.

Of her two sons, one is a soldier and the younger one is studying in school.

Middle-aged Sidiqua, slim and slick with the military cap partly covering her bobbed hair and the facial sternness conveying her will to fight with vengeance displays the agony of a woman who has lost almost all she had cherished.

Sidiqua is now a proud soldier of the women's regiment being raised in a fortified campus in a residential district here.

Although a fledgling of five months, some of the 300-odd troops of the women's regiment have already made it to the frontline near the strategic eastern city of Jalalabad; doing various jobs, from cooking food, nursing the wounded to actively participating in the war.

"We fought with the enemy. I killed at least eight of them, wounding some others", said Sidiqua, recalling her maiden venture to the frontlines in the Jalalabad sector.

"We were about 12 of us participating in the war during daytime. In the nights, we attended the medical camps", she said.

"The girls are proud of being a part of the armed forces defending their homeland. Their being on the jobs on the frontlines also works as a morale booster for the armed said Lt. Yasamin Ahmasangar, a senior officer of the women's regiment.

Besides doing the jobs of a cook, a nurse and a soldier, the girls also gathered valuable information about the enemy when sent to the frontlines, Lt. Ahmasangar said. The women soldiers, however, were being mostly used during the mopping up and search operations in Kabul and in the provinces, she said.
US & THEM: MISUNDERSTANDINGS
India and the United States have a long history of togetherness or so I found out this summer while travelling around India. Elihu Yale shipped ice on those fast clipper ships to Madras, and some generals of Revolutionary War fame, Burgoyne and Cornwallis, recouped some lost prestige on the battlefields of India.

Our present relations seem to be a bit on the downside. America's courting of India's enemy, Pakistan, and the U.S. in naming India, along with Brazil and Japan, as unfair trading partners has not endeared us to the people or the government of India.

An interesting aside but related to relations with India. The Fulbrighters', along with all other Americans in the New Delhi area, were invited to attend a July 4th celebration at the U.S. embassy. I was disappointed, tremendously so, by the reception we received. We had to pay for each and every frank, and every cola. It couldn't have cost more than one to two thousand dollars. Our ambassador, Mr. Hubbard, a professor of history I believe at USC who had previously contributed heavily to Mr. Reagan's past campaigns, frankly could have absorbed the cost; it was mere beans to him. More disturbing to me was the smugness, the air of disdain exhibited by many of the personnel present to those not affiliated with the embassy. I wondered if this was the way the British colonialists treated the Indians (their Wogs) during the Raj.

A) Have the students collect articles on India out of newspapers over a period of time. Ask the students to judge if the writer of the news story is being objective. You could give them one of the following articles and see if they could tell the author's frame of reference.

B) See if the students can find any other ties between the U.S. and India over the years. I've included an article about U.S. soldiers in Calcutta during WW2, a little known theater of operations for our GIs.
Sale of F-16s to Pak now through

WASHINGTON, Aug. 3 (ANI)

The Bush administration today successfully scuttled a concerted move in Congress to prohibit or slash down the request for the sale of 60 F-16 fighter jets to Pakistan. The approval for the $1.5 billion purchase by Pakistan came despite strong opposition from some Congressmen that the US sale would "mar" improving Indo-US and Indo-Pak relations, escalate military tensions in the subcontinent, besides impeding prospects for much-needed economic development in Pakistan.

A "resolution of disapproval" in the House of Representatives sponsored by Congressman Ted Weiss, and supported by Democratic Party Congressman Stephen Solarz, aimed at limiting the number of sophisticated warplanes for Pakistan. Pakistan's supporters and the Bush administration strongly justified the sale in that it was a necessary show of US "support" (political and military) for the new "fragile" democracy in Pakistan. A senior State Department official stated, "our relations with India and Pakistan are not a zero-sum game.

Testifying before a joint House, two senior Bush administration officials made a case for Pakistan's military modernisation against India's expansion programmes. Defence Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Near East and South Asia, Arthur Hughes, dismissed India's security concerns saying the sale will only "roughly maintain current force ratios (of the Pakistan air force) with the Indian Air Force."

Mr Hughes substantiated the Pakistani viewpoint that the ratio was three to one in India's favour. Pakistan's Air Force was in urgent need of US F-16s to replace nearly 170 Chinese-built F-6, technology of the 1950s being phased out by Islamabad. Mr Hughes underlined.
US confirms Pak helping terrorists

WASHINGTON, Aug 3 (ANI)
The Bush Administration has confirmed Pakistan's role in abetting terrorism in India. A senior State Department official today admitted in testimony before the US Congress that Pakistan has been providing "assistance" to Sikh terrorists engaged in subversive activities in India, and the process had not "ceased".

Today's remarks by the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for the Near East and South Asia, Mrs Teresita Schaffer, came as the first "outside" confirmation of the "extensive" role Pakistan played in training and arming extremists, even "helping the terrorists infiltrate" across the border into India. It is the first acknowledgment of international awareness of Islamabad's efforts to fuel terrorist activities in India, particularly under the late President Gen Zia-ul-Haq.

Testifying before the House Asia-Pacific Foreign Affairs, Arms control and International Security Subcommittees, Mrs Schaffer told Congressman Stephen Solarz that Washington feels "the activity has significantly diminished". Solarz had questioned Pakistan's role based on India's allegations. Congressional sources said the House subcommittee had seen documented proof of "Pakistan's activities" in training and supplying arms to Sikh terrorists, the basis for Solarz's question.

Informed sources told Asian News International today that Washington has come to know of "the extent" of the efforts through elements within the Pakistan Government and military under the Gen Zia to arm terrorists, especially from Punjab. They pointed out that, after discussions on the subject between the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan, there was a noticeable drop in Pakistan's activities. Schaffer testified today that Washington has made a note of steps taken by Bhutto's Government to curb these activities, even bring about a significant diminution.

In a brief discussion after the testimony today (which focussed on the sale of 60 F-16s to Pakistan), Mrs Schaffer told ANI that "it has been our (The Bush Administration's) impression that Pakistan had been aiding Sikh terrorists. However, the senior official emphasised that the new democratic Government had taken some measures to control the activity. Washington feels this has been made feasible through a "better understanding" between India and Pakistan of each other's concerns.

Schaffer did indicate that the problem of terrorism, as relates to India and Pakistan, was "also a communal one", and there have been allegations from both sides. Schaffer also pointed out that the situation in Punjab (Pakistan) is a very unsettled one. It is a region where, India claims, most terrorists infiltrating into the country have been trained.
Indo-U.S. relations in limbo

By GAUTAM ADHIKARI

The Times of India News Service

WASHINGTON, August 1: Lately, India's image in the US has suffered a bit in Indo-US relations, which appeared for a while to be improving steadily, can be described as being on hold for the time being.

A number of factors may be responsible for this. India's problems with Sri Lanka and Nepal are two. The US trade representative's decision to list India, along with Japan and Brazil, as an unfair trading nation under the provisions of the Super 301 law is another. India's successful testing of the Agni missile, with its intermediate range delivery capability, has created problems while reports about Indian-made chemicals being used by some West Asian countries for making poison gas have been presented in the media in a way that has generated further doubt about India's intentions even though it is quite apparent that Indian manufacturers of such chemicals had little idea of their possible end-use.

In the circumstances, India's public relation efforts here may have to be intensified. At the moment, the US administration, especially the state department, is still in a stage of transition. Not all appointees of the Bush administration have taken complete charge and in many areas of policymaking the situation is somewhat in limbo. But on Capitol Hill, there is a lot of activity and it is there that India recently managed to squeak past an outright Congressional censure. It was a close call indeed.

On June 29, the US House of Representatives debated the foreign aid Bill. Rep. Wally Herger, a Republican from California and a champion of causes of Californian Sikhs, who form an important part of his constituency, introduced an amendment asking Congress to reduce US economic assistance to India from $110 million to $85 million because of India's allegedly poor record on human rights. The amendment was defeated by 212 votes to 204, with 16 members abstaining.

An analysis of that voting suggests that India would need to redouble its public relation efforts on the Hill. At it is, a margin of just eight votes in India's favour shows the seriousness of the problem. In fact, it was at the intervention of Rep. Stephen J. Solarz, Democrat from New York and a friend of India, that a recorded vote was taken. On voice vote, the amendment had actually been passed. In a conversation with this correspondent, the speaker of the House, Mr Tom Foley, said, "I was myself surprised to see how close it was."

Mr Herger's amendment was ostensibly on the ground of human rights violations in Punjab. But he linked it to accusations clearly designed to sway Congressmen who might not otherwise have been all that concerned about Punjab.

"Mr Herger's amendment was ostensible on the ground of human rights violations in Punjab. But he linked it to accusations clearly designed to sway Congressmen who might not otherwise have been all that concerned about Punjab."

"Mr Herger's amendment was ostensible on the ground of human rights violations in Punjab. But he linked it to accusations clearly designed to sway Congressmen who might not otherwise have been all that concerned about Punjab."

Mr Herger threw in mentions of Nepal, Sri Lanka, India's reported nuclear weapons programme and the fact that it was leasing a nuclear submarine from the Soviet Union. Mr Solarz was the sole defender of India on these scores. All others, who chose to speak on the amendment, supported Mr Herger's move.

Among Democrats, 178 voted against the amendment and 136 for it. The voting appears to have taken place broadly along liberal-conservative lines, with the liberal opposing the amendment and supporting India. Even among Democrats, most of those from the conservative south lined up with the Republicans. From the rest of the country, comprising 306 seats, only 23 Democrats voted for the amendment and 144 against. Among non-southern Republicans, the tally was 92 for the amendment and 33 against. Of 24 black members of the House, 21 voted, all for India and against the amendment. So did the eight Hispanic members.

Interestingly, with the exception of Rep. Newt Gingrich, a Republican, all prominent leaders of the House - including Mr Richard Gephardt, Mr Les Aspin, Mr William Grey, Mr Alan Broomfield and Mr Robert Michel - voted against the amendment. Of the members of the House foreign affairs committee, all the Democrats voted against.
Clark may replace Hubbard

From Aziz Haniffa

WASHINGTON, July 23

The State Department has recommended William Clark, Jr., 58, a career diplomat, to be the next ambassador to India but it is uncertain if the White House will nominate him.

Administration sources said several Republican stalwarts who had contributed heavily to party causes were also in the running and "it is quite plausible that the president may appoint one of them".

The ambassador's position to New Delhi is expected to fall vacant in October when Congress adjourns because current ambassador John Randolph Hubbard, whose appointment was a recess appointment by former President Ronald Reagan, has not been confirmed by the Senate.

Senate Foreign Relations Committee chairman Claiborne Pell, who was quite peeved that Reagan went over the committee's head and used a presidential prerogative to appoint Hubbard, has strongly indicated that he has no intention of confirming Hubbard even if he is renominated by Bush.

Although the State Department is strongly pushing for Clark, it has a tough task, because compared to previous administrations, the Bush White House has been naming as ambassadors more political appointees with hardly any foreign policy experience than career foreign service officers. Their only qualification has been either their support for Bush, the party or their massive fund-raising efforts.

The proliferation of political appointees has caused rumblings in Congress, so much so that Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee chairman for South Asia Senator Paul Sarbanes said recently that many of Bush's appointees have had fewer qualifications than those of other presidents.

"They have gotten to the point here where the only reason some of them are being picked is big political giving," he said, adding, "I am not a purist on this, but they have gone too far."

He said it was much worse than during the Reagan administration. "There's more of it. It's more crass."

Although Clark has the necessary credentials required of a foreign service officer slated for an important ambassadorial posting, Indophiles here are disappointed that a little-known official may end up being the next envoy to New Delhi, "particularly at such a critical phase in Indo-US relations."

State Department officials, however, strongly defended career diplomats and pointed to the success of former Ambassadors Harry Barnes and John Gunther Dean as perfect examples of "superb professionals who did an excellent job."

Although not specifically rooting for Clark, one official said, "I hope we get a truly professional guy out there."

Sources expressed frustration that career diplomats may be shunted aside to give way for political appointees.

One source compared it to the days of former President Richard Nixon "when there was a price list for embassies. You wanted Ghana it was only $200,000, but if you wanted Paris, it would cost one million."

"I wonder how much India costs? You should think it would be an expensive country," the source remarked.

By arrangement with India Abroad News Service.
Unacceptable Hypocrisy

The Indian embassy in Washington has reacted with justifiable anger to criticisms emanating from the Bush administration about India's export of so-called poison gas. Unfortunately, the state department's official spokesman, Mr Boucher, has not seen fit to reject this slur categorically. A West German chemical company was contracted by Iran to supply thionyl chloride which is used for pesticide production. It is also a component of mustard gas. After enquiries by the West German government, the company cancelled its contract with Indian suppliers and both have seen fit to pass on the buck, as it were, to India arguing that this country should have more stringent laws concerning such items. the export of which is prohibited by West Germany. This issue has been picked up in Washington as part of its purported drive to make the world free of chemical weapons.

For a number of reasons this challenge to Indian bona fides is disturbing and unacceptable. This country's record on the issue of non-proliferation of chemical weapons and opposition to such means of warfare is second to none. India's positive and constructive role in seeking to perfect a system of worldwide control in this matter has been commended repeatedly, even by the West. There are a number of dual-use chemicals like thionyl chloride whose purchase may be motivated by considerations unknown to the supplier. But to single out Indian laxity is really to try and bell the wrong cat. Take the accusation about Indian supply of such poison gas for use in the Iran-Iraq war. Both politically and economically, western positions on this war contrasted negatively with India's principled stand of strict neutrality and its refusal either to encourage or turn a blind eye to any efforts by Indian companies to make money out of the lucrative weapons trade. The western record in this respect was far worse. If dual-use chemicals constitute a problem, and they do, the issue must be tackled in a comprehensive and equitable manner which does not single out a country like India. Indeed, a minimum condition for movement in this direction would be much greater information about the production, stockpiling and use of such chemicals in the west and much less secrecy about laboratory research with respect to militarily useful gases and chemicals. This would be to put the boot on the foot where it belongs.
Foreign Policy/ Mohan Guruswamy

We should avoid the US linkage-leverage trap.

INIMA and the United States may be at two ends of the economic spectrum but they have many similarities. We are both functioning democracies where the party structures seem to have collapsed. That has led to the rise of men-handed leadership of questionable calibre. It comes as no surprise therefore, that the conduct of diplomacy between the two countries has begun to show many similarities.

For example, the Reagan administration appointed John B. Hubbard as ambassador to India against the advice of the State Department and the Congress. As a result though, it has only been a few months since Hubbard has been here, a new ambassador to India is on the cards.

The appointment of the chief of the US embassy in New Delhi, Karan Singh, as the Indian ambassador to the US is however, not as well known as some of his predecessors. But he was a former president of the University of South Carolina. Unfortunately, Karan Singh has no such distinction.

Since his demotion of Indian Gandhi, Karan Singh has been a popular figure in India. His appointment as ambassador to the US is a sign that the government is trying to mend fences.

It is important to note that the US and India have a long history of cooperation in the field of technology. The US has provided India with a number of advanced technologies, including military hardware.

In conclusion, we should avoid the US linkage-leverage trap. It is a dangerous game that benefits no one.
THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

Seeing India without old blinkers

It may be out of ignorance that public opinion in the United States tends to take a distorted view of India's policies, domestic as well as foreign, but quite often the distortion is set right. The latest instance of this corrective process is the rejection by the House of Representatives of the amendment to the US Foreign Aid Bill aimed at censuring India under the pretext of "violation of human rights in Punjab". Republican Party member Wally Herger had moved the amendment calling for withholding US aid of $25 million earmarked for 1990. The three conditions which he had laid down for releasing the aid were that New Delhi should lift its economic blockade of Nepal, allow Amnesty International access to Punjab and reduce the human rights abuses in the border State. Though the amendment was defeated by 212 to 203 votes, the fact that 200 odd members voted in favour of it gives an idea of the extent of the misunderstanding about India in the US. Mr Herger accused India on various counts and many others in the House supported him. As usual it was left to Mr Stephen J. Solarz to defend India. Apart from the "violation of human rights in Punjab" Mr Herger found fault with New Delhi for its role in Sri Lanka, its stand on Afghanistan and for its "hostile" attitude to Nepal. In short, according to him, India is a "bully".

Obviously, the American critics of India neither know what is happening in India nor study the nuances of the Indian situation. Punjab is certainly a major problem so far as India is concerned and many unhappy developments have taken place in the State. But the Government cannot be blamed for its drive against terrorism. No country can afford to be soft to terrorists and stern action against them cannot be interpreted as violation of human rights. Similarly, New Delhi's Sri Lanka policy or its attitude towards Nepal is the reaction to certain developments in these two countries. It was at the invitation of the Sri Lankan Government that India had sent its troops to the island but throughout the crisis New Delhi has been stressing the need to preserve the territorial integrity and unity of the island republic. In Nepal, problems arose mainly on account of the short-sighted policies of the government there. New Delhi is on no account hostile to the Himalayan kingdom. If India's Afghan policy does not agree with Washington's perceptions, that is no reason why New Delhi's intentions should be suspected. The trouble is that Mr Herger and other critics refuse to comprehend the facts about India which perhaps explains their jaundiced view of this country's policies.
Members of the Indian People's Front burning an effigy of the US President, Mr George Bush, in New Delhi on Tuesday—Express photograph
India may turn into arms bazar: US

WASHINGTON, July 30 (UNI).—Despite repeated denials by India, US defence experts are harping on the possibility of it becoming a major exporter of arms in the near future.

Should India take such a path, the developing world may be flooded with a new wave of lethal weapons, says the South Asia expert, Mr Richard P. Cronin, in an article titled "India’s growing military might worries its neighbours" published in the "World and I" journal.

The policy architect, international president, Mr Rodney W. Jones, writing in the Washington quarterly, highlights the increase in India’s defence expenditure awareness but omits the fact that it had introduced a cut of over Rs 200 crores this year in its defence budget.

Pakistan’s defence expenditures increased from about $1.6 billion to $2.7 billion between 1971 and 1988 while India’s defence expenditure went up from $1.5 billion to just under $10 billion in the same period—more than six-fold increases, he said.

HARD CURRENCY

Experts say what may lure India into the arms bazar is the example of China which had of late been making hard currency by selling weapons. China’s military forces have secured the world for arms sales to pay for military modernisation.

The defence resources crunch may compel India to abandon its existing policy of not exporting arms, says Mr Cronin.

India’s participation this year in defence exhibitions in Ankara, Baghdad and Paris is considered nothing but a manifestation of its intention to look for potential buyers for its arms, especially small arms, he says.
NOW AND AGAIN

STARS AND STRIPES CALCUTTA

By JACK DANTES

OUTSIDE our classroom history was being shot to hell. The Dutch East Indies had fallen to the Japs. Then Singapore. Then Burma. It was the sticky bank. Who'd be the Japs think they were, sinking indubitable British aircraft carriers, chasing British troops out of 5 tropical empire made famous by Somerset Maugham.

It was 1943. Calcutta was next.

LANDMARK

Up went the battle walls. Out went the lights. The magnificent marble dome of the Victoria Memorial disappeared under a coat of black paint to deprive Japanese bombers of a landmark. It took years before we were heard at all. We got plenty of practice air raid warnings, sirens and all. It was not till the Christmas of 1943 that the Japanese bombers came right to the Kidderpore docks and let go a couple of dull thumps. If anybody was killed, it was a well kept military secret. Nothing like the loss of life for a real disappointment.

By then our streets were crawling with military trucks. Add to this the invasion of 20,000 American troops stationed in the numerous camps and around Calcutta. Picturesque names — the camp at the Piccadilly race course; Camp Hakea after the New York race-track. There was a difference to everything they did. Their flashing gold and khaki uniforms simply outshone the British soldiers — the Ceylon, the Bengal, or 20E.

Red Road, that lovely strip of macadam, a driveway stretching through the green expanse of the Kali, was closed. In front of the Victoria Memorial, was now being used as a runway for R.A.F. Hurricanes. We saw many a hurricane take off for Burma. A British plane called Pringle escaped a Hurricane in a hurry and had flown three Japanese planes in a hundred miles of track. It seemed that was the end of Calcutta. We all waited for the R.A.F. the next day.

Our loyalties were short-lived. In no time we were won over by the Americana who were "overpaid, overfed and over here." Calcutta never had it so good.

American G.I.s won thousands of friends with their subsidized super market goods — the giant hamburgers, chocolates and chewing gum, the Lucky Strikes and Chesterfields,okes and the movies that would appear five years later in Indian cinemas.

There was hardly a British soldier in sight. They were all busy fighting in Burma with Errol Flynn. The G.I.s were fighting their way into the toughest night spots in Calcutta — Casablanca, Puerto Rico, Victory Club, El Morocco, Mayfair — joints that have now disappeared with the last days of Pompel. Those were deadly wars between white Americans and black Americans. The difference between them was a beautiful word those days; it was a slap in the face.

The Americans had made an early hit with the Calcutta public by introducing one afternoon a real sports carnival of American games at the C.C. & S.F. ground. The whole of Calcutta was invited. There was no charge through a personal column advertisement with the added incentive of free refreshments. The whole of Calcutta guessed, up for free day of the biggest Polish race ever.

The other three million couldn't read English. The highlight of the evening was the great race with 400 tickets for a race headed by steel G.I.s with the pennant drumsticks in their hands. Tone by tone, their voices rang out through the hushed crowd. The British, the Shrieking sound of the G.I.s who pummelled the British, the British, the America's drumsticks the Japanese did not hear.

GOODWILL

After the war was over, the G.I.s were impatient to get home. They started drinking too much after the death of some young, normally reckless drivers, they were now careless, knocking down pedestrians. And when they killed somebody they didn't get into court, instead they were put in the electric chair and thrown into the army. There seemed a lot of goodwill.

Calcuta 1946 and the last of the American soldiers had disappeared. Calcutta was back for the next war — the Quit India campaign.
India not to bow to US: Dinesh

Express News Service

NEW DELHI, Aug 4

India will take up the issue of her being named unfair trader by the United States of America under the Super 301 provision of its Trade Act at the international fora. There was no question of discussing this issue with the USA. The statement was made by the Union Commerce Minister, Mr. Dinesh Singh, while replying to a calling attention notice on the subject in the Lok Sabha on Friday.

Mr. Dinesh Singh said the US stand was totally unreasonable and absurd. "We have made it quite clear that we shall not discuss the issue with them," he declared.

The minister said no country in the world had supported the stand taken by the USA and mentioned EEC, Switzerland, Australia, Japan, Brazil, Thailand, Mexico, Korea, Pakistan, Turkey, Egypt, Canada and Nordic countries, who had supported India.

"India has attempted to build a self-reliant economy which has given good impetus to our development. We are now a major industrial nation and the stand taken by the USA should not cause great concern," Mr. Dinesh Singh said.

He pointed out that USA, itself, had so many barriers to its markets. He said India had a liberal policy of investment and welcomed foreign investment in areas which had been designated as priority areas.

"What has surprised us is that in recent years their trade with us has doubled and yet they have described us as a priority country" along with Japan and Brazil, the minister told the House. He said India had not received any complaints from US banks or investors of any discrimination.

Mr. Dinesh Singh observed that the USA had chosen one area, insurance, and expected India to give more to US citizens than she gave to her own citizens.

He said India had already consulted Japan and Brazil and they had declared that they would not discuss anything under Super 301. "We shall participate in multi-national fora," the minister said.

The Minister said USA was an economic power but "there is no reason for us to bow down. They are also a defence power but we have not bowed down to them.

Referring to increasing trade between India and USA, he hoped that good sense would prevail and the USA would not initiate anything under Super 301.

He sought to dispel the apprehensions of the members and said India's trade was already well diversified. She was not dependent on one country or a group of countries, he said.

Earlier, making a statement before the discussion, he said the US Govt had not yet approached India for negotiations.

Mr. Dinesh Singh said the US had listed certain aspects of India's policies on investment and insurance as priority practices whose elimination it must seek within a time-bound period. The US was seeking to assume jurisdiction to determine whether certain aspects of India's domestic economic policies were fair or equitable.

"The step is unwarranted encroachment on India's sovereignty. We are under no international treaty obligations in these areas and we are free to pursue policies in pursuance of our development objectives," Mr. Dinesh Singh said.
THOSE MONSOON SHOWERS

MAY COME YOUR WAY
"Hey, congratulations. When are you going to India?"

"Oh, this July and August."

"That's too bad."

"Why?"

"That's the monsoon season. It's hot, humid with lots of rain."

With those condolences and others from my students and knowledgeable friends, I was off to India apologizing for my trip being in July. You know, us teachers can only travel in the north latitudes unless we want a double dose of winter. My other lament was I couldn't look the federal gift horse in the mouth and say sorry it's the rainy season; I'll go in the fall.

Much to my happy surprise and delight, we had rain only six days of my forty-two days; and those had little impact in my studies, visits, or sightseeing. Shiva looked after me, for it fell at night or when indoor activities were planned. By all accounts my home on Long Island had the Indian monsoons - a small, wet payback to my gloom and doom friends.

I was walking Connaught Circle looking for cassettes of Indian music when I had my first experience with a Delhi downpour. What had been a hazy, hot, overcast day suddenly turned gray then brownish with the light breezes picking up markedly, beginning to swirl. Papers and dust were being blown around in mini-cyclones. It was becoming difficult to walk, to breathe, and to move. I ducked into a store just before the rains came - a windswept downpour of some thirty minutes duration. Many of those people outside, stayed outside continuing on their journey as if impervious to the event.

The monsoon is so important to India; it's her lifeblood, for it nourishes the soil and thus the soul of the Indian civilization. I've been accused of being a bit too preoccupied with my own local weather, and that's probably true. But India, as a nation, is preoccupied with this weather phenomenon. TV reports daily cover the rainfall nationwide, newspaper columns are devoted to the centimeters fallen to date. It's a mixed blessing and has been since time immemorial. Too little rain produces a drought with all its socio-economic implications, too much rain produces floods with its share of additional miseries.

The articles range from the lovely editorials on the following page, to rainfall maps, a poem, and tales of floods.

1) Have your students obtain a weather map of the United States, and see if they can explain what is happening in various places. And, what would the impact be on the people of that area.

2) Summer floods in India are like U.S. floods when the snow melts?? Floods - have the students read the articles on the floods, and then do some role playing (a person who has lost a family member, a home, a boat, etc.).

3) Obtain a climate or rainfall map of India, and by location have the students describe the impact on someone who lives in Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Bihar, Tamil Nadu.

4) Insurance is a western phenomenon, may be even more American than European. So, we have flood insurance. Read some of the articles contained "They Were Swept to Death in Sleep," "Long Trail of Destruction."

- 88 -
Rain song
By Malati Jaikumar

The weather prophets may quibble over the terminology and waver about calling it a coloudburst, a pre-monsoon shower or a low pressure disturbances. But for a plain and simple rain-crazy Indian like me, rain is just rain—often a welcome relief, always a symphony of sounds, smells and sensations, to be felt and savoured.

A thunder-shower is a well-orchestrated piece of nature’s music, the movements clear and well defined, gradually progressing step by rhythmic step, leading unhurriedly up to a climax and tapering off to a sikocefa of deep contentment.

Like the darkening of a concert hall before the programme begins, the first sign is the darkening of the sky and the hushed silence, broken only by bird calls—the joyful call of the peacock full of passion reined in, held in check to beguile the leaves.

The symphony moves on again, softly slowly as the first rain drops splatter down-large and far apart. The staccato music slowly gathers pace, the drops growing smaller, faster and closer together, pelting down, rising to a crescendo and merging into one single song—the rain song. Rain, pouring down in sheets, in torrents, dazzling against the walls, trickling noisily down window panes, dripping over ledges, swishing down drains, collecting into puddles, gurgling down rain pipes, and drumming on roof tops in a rhapsody of tunes, each different yet all blending harmoniously.

That is when I long to rush out, to dance in the rain, get soaked wet, exhilarated by the cool shower after long weeks of hot and humid waiting. Yet all too soon the music grinds to a halt.

The quiet after the rain storm is a peaceful quiet, with the heart and spirit fresh—washed and fastening as the rain-washed roads and leaves. The mellow sun peeps out tentatively and then gathers courage to shine forth persuading the sheltering birds to strut out and ruffle their damp feathers. And as the colour stains the sky in a perfect rosanna of pink, all it feels good to be alive, inhaling the heady fragrance of damp earth and rain-drenched grass. The concert is over but the melody haunts the heart.

Monsoon musings

The clouds were not black, thick or menacing. They did not threaten rain. In fact the sky looked grey like drizzle. But suddenly, the rain came cascading down and unsuspecting people ran hither shelter to seek shelter.

You can never say for certain about the first monsoon rain. It can be a brief shower, a downpour, a heavy rainfall or even a storm of torrential rain. But whatever its intensity, the scene rising from the rain-hit earth brings the pleasant message of the coming rains.

Almost every language has a rich rain-inspired literature which captures the various moods of rain and its effect on the people. There are also some very interesting proverbs which have survived for centuries because of the people’s faith in them.

An interesting English proverb is: “Rain before seven, fine before eleven.” Who wouldn’t welcome such a rain-spell—neither too long nor too short? The Spectator of March 20, 1909 hailed it as “one of the most trustworthy of all weather savers.” In our own country, especially in the North, it is widely believed that if it starts raining on a Thursday morning it will continue raining for full seven days.

There’s another belief which is as widely prevalent. When after dry days it starts raining and the sun comes up towards the close of the day, be sure it’s going to be cloudy again the next day.

Rain, when it is timely, is a boon but if it falls to arrive on time, it can spell misery. An English saying points to this: “If it rains in February there is no rain, it’s neither good for hay nor for grain.”

Proverbs contain great wisdom. They come handy in emphasizing or proving a point. When they do neither they make conversation lively. Even when they do nothing else, they make things clear. They are always enjoyable. Take this very common saying: “It never rains but it pours.” Trollop used it in a dialogue in Barchester Towers like this: “A wife with a large fortune too. It never rains but it pours, does it Mr Thorne.” It is mostly used, though “sometimes archaically, to introduce an inevitable accompanying circumstance.”

There is one common sight in Punjab. When the first rain of the season falls, children rush out into the streets. They splash water and sing: “Send rain, O Lord! Send rain, send still more rain; let it be a downpour, for the heat has burnt the bricks and stones to cinders. O Lord, send us heavy rain.”

A similar song is also sung in UP. It says: “Barso Ram dharake se, budhiya margi fakese.” (O Lord, send heavy rain. End this drouth. An old woman has already died of starvation.)

The Bible says: “He maketh His sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and the unjust.” But Lord Bowen, a 19th century English poet quips:

There is sometimes unseasonal rain when some good person dies.

The belief is that Indra, the rain god, weeps on the death of a noble person. The English also have a saying with a similar meaning: “Blessed are the dead that the rain rains on.”
“Cheers!” to the short spell of showers that brought fleeting relief to the Capital on Tuesday afternoon, says the imitation Air-India maharaja. Or so it seems. — The Statesman.

Balmar
Widespread rain in A.P.

From Our Staff Reporter

HYDERABAD July 21
The South West Monsoon was vigorous over coastal Andhra Pradesh and Telangana with rainfall also reported from some places in Rayalaseema region today. Huzurabad (Karimnagar district) recorded 14 cm of rain, Cheepurupalli (Vizanagaram dist) 13 cm and Hanamkonda (Warangal dist) 12 cm during the 24 hours ended Friday morning.

According to the Acting Director of the Hyderabad Meteorological Centre, Mr. N. Pandurangnath, the widespread rainfall in the State has been caused by a well-marked low pressure system in the Bay of Bengal, located off the Andhra Pradesh coast.

A weather bulletin issued by the Meteorological Centre gave the other chief amounts of rainfall in the State as follows: Eturnagaram nine cm, Nandigama, Guntur, Dummugudem and Medak eight cm each, Nizamabad and Udayagiri seven cm each, Hyderabad Airport, Kaleswaram, Sangareddi, Perur and Tenali six cm each, Sattenapalli, Karimnagar, Hakimpet, Suryapet and Nirmal five cm each.

The forecast valid till Sunday morning says that moderate to rather heavy rain will occur at many places over coastal Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Light to moderate rain will occur at many places over Rayalaseema. Very heavy rain is likely at one or two places in the Telengana area.

VISAKHAPATNAM According to a spokesman of the Cyclone Warning Centre, Visakhapatnam, the low pressure area lying over the west central Bay of Bengal is likely to intensify further and move in north-westerly direction.

MADRAS: According to the weather office in Madras there will be scattered rainfall over north Tamil Nadu and isolated rainfall in south Tamil Nadu during the next 24 hours.

BANGALORE: Rainfall occurred at almost all places over coastal Karnataka and south interior Karnataka and at many places over north interior Karnataka. Heavy rainfall amounts (in cm):
- Medikere 9, Sullia 8, Agumbe 7
- The other amounts of rainfall were Belthangady, Puttur, Karkala 6 each, Madapura 5, Udupi 4, Sirkalpam, Karwar, Balehonnur 3 each, Shirale Mandalore AP, Bagnalore, Arakalgudi, Madugir, Srinavaspura, Channagiri, Hosanagar, Sorab, Korzager, Chikmagalur, Lakkavalli, Yelandur 2 each.

Forecast and farmers weather bulletin. Moderately to rather heavy rain/thundershowers will occur at almost all places over coastal Karnataka.
Without water we stutter.
Without water how we mutter.
Without water we flutter,
Without water we chatter.

Without water we shiver,
Without water we search for a river
Without water we feel heavier,
Without water we feel drier

Without water we dig.
For a well so big
Without water we search
Having water we stand in the lurch!
ORDEAL BY WATER

This relief provided by a bountiful monsoon has been offset in recent weeks by the widespread devastation caused by floods in many parts of the country. A feature of the havoc wrought this time is that very few States have escaped unscathed. From Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram in the east to Jammu and Himachal Pradesh in the north to Maharashtra and Kerala in the west and south, the picture is virtually the same. As always, Ministers and high officials have been undertaking routine aerial surveys, and the Air Force has been engaged in food-dropping missions, but what these emergency relief operations have once again exposed is how little has been done over the years to implement flood control measures. Apart from the unchecked deforestation in the upper catchment areas adding to the problem of soil erosion, it appears that even embankments are not always properly maintained, with the result that a sudden breach leaves little time for people in the affected areas to escape the rushing waters. The very idea of constructing embankments has also often been criticized, for they are supposed to interfere with the normal meandering course of a river, causing the silt to accumulate on its bed, instead of on the banks, and thereby raising the river's level.

It has been suggested, therefore, that some land on either side of the river should be left aside as flood absorbers, but this is not always possible because of the pressure of population. But even if such controversial measures are avoided for the time being, there is little doubt that if the outlay of Rs. 1,635 crores on flood prevention between 1951 and 1969 had been properly utilized, the situation would not have been so alarming. The losses caused by this annual ordeal are, of course, enormous - the total having risen from Rs. 533.28 crores in 1956 to Rs. 4,059 crores in 1965. In addition, thousands of lives have been lost, despite the improvement in weather forecasting techniques, because relief measures like the construction of monsoon shelters, proposed during the 1966 floods, are invariably shelved once the danger has receded. The official view is that nine million hectares suffer from floods every year, while another 13 million hectares were offered “protection” till 1965 at the cost of Rs. 1,763 crores. But considering the kind of corruption that is prevalent in all construction activity, it is doubtful whether these figures give a correct picture.

It goes without saying that the National Flood Control Programme, started in the wake of the inundation of 1954, has not exactly been a roaring success. Progress has been unsatisfactory in the States also. The master plan prepared by the Brahmaputra Board is yet to be implemented although Assam has more than three million hectares of a flood-prone territory. The failure of such schemes is, invariable, led to a rise in relief expenditure to such an extent that the Ninth Finance Commission has had to be told to review the existing norms for flood relief and to suggest steps in accordance with the need for avoidance of wasteful expenditure. But since a great deal of politics is associated with such spending, with the Centre being in control of the purse strings, it is doubtful whether financial “waste” can be entirely ruled out. It seems likely, therefore, that despite all the ambitious plans and the generous allocations, the suffering of ordinary people during the monsoon, especially in the countryside, will not be easily reduced.
Rain, floods unrelenting

NEW DELHI, July 30.

Rain and floods continued to take their toll on human lives and property in the North and North eastern States, while the death count in cyclonic storm in Maharashtra mounted to 685.

Seven deaths were reported from Jammu and Kashmir — two persons were killed in a cloudburst and three in landslides in the border district of Poonch while two died in house collapses in Kathua district.

More than 16,000 people living in the Pargwal island have been cut off from the rest of the Jammu region as the Chenab is flowing five feet above the danger level.

The Srinagar-Jammu and the Srinagar-Leh national highways have been closed for vehicular traffic since yesterday following landslips triggered by torrential rain. Over 3,000 vehicles, including 30 tourist buses, are stranded on the Srinagar-Jammu Highway.

Bridge washed away: A bridge on the 434-km-long Srinagar-Leh road near the Sonamarg tourist resort was washed away in flash floods.

Landslips in Himachal: Three persons were killed and three injured in landslips in Shimla in the wake of continuous rain for the fourth consecutive day in Himachal Pradesh. Several interior places have been cut off from the rest of State due to landslips.

All the rivers and their tributaries are in spate due to incessant rains in the catchment areas. Reports from Shimla said Dharamsala was the wettest place in the State with a rainfall of 150

Rain and floods continued to take their toll on human lives and property in the North and Nor theastern States, while the death count in cyclonic storm in Maharashtra mounted to 685.

Seven deaths were reported from Jammu and Kashmir — two persons were killed in a cloudburst and three in landslides in the border district of Poonch while two died in house collapses in Kathua district.

More than 16,000 people living in the Pargwal island have been cut off from the rest of the Jammu region as the Chenab is flowing five feet above the danger level.

The Srinagar-Jammu and the Srinagar-Leh national highways have been closed for vehicular traffic since yesterday following landslips triggered by torrential rain. Over 3,000 vehicles, including 30 tourist buses, are stranded on the Srinagar-Jammu Highway.

Bridge washed away: A bridge on the 434-km-long Srinagar-Leh road near the Sonamarg tourist resort was washed away in flash floods.

Landslips in Himachal: Three persons were killed and three injured in landslips in Shimla in the wake of continuous rain for the fourth consecutive day in Himachal Pradesh. Several interior places have been cut off from the rest of State due to landslips.

All the rivers and their tributaries are in spate due to incessant rains in the catchment areas. Reports from Shimla said Dharamsala was the wettest place in the State with a rainfall of 150...
Rain likely in few days

NEW DELHI, July 6

The stalled monsoon in North India, particularly Delhi, is dampening the otherwise excellent record "of the best rainfall in nine years" for the rest of the country. Despite his supercomputer the weatherman has no reasons to explain.

The best that the Meteorological Department can do is to explain that a "lull" in the monsoon has affected this area. They do not know when it will lift and for which regions. However, they have statistics to prove that Delhi has received just 25 per cent of the rainfall normal for this time of the year - only 22.6 mm instead of 80 mm expected.

The Met Department is optimistic that the rain will come here in the next few days.

"Yes, the temperatures are very high in Delhi for this time of the year and the rainfall should have been heavier but that is all we can say. And the reason is that neither the low temperatures nor the westerly winds persist long enough for it to rain," says Mr G S. Mandal, director, Meteorological Department.

But even though he cannot explain the cause for the delay in monsoon in the North, he says that in Eastern and Southern India, particularly, the monsoon has been the "best since 1980".

Rajasthan too has received a good rainfall compared to the last few years. In Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and West Bengal, it is torrential. However, it has bypassed Delhi where first few showers were on schedule but ever since the Capital is in a state of "lull".

20 feared drowned

HYDERABAD, July 16 (PTI): At least 20 persons, mostly women and children, were 'presumed dead' as a bus, stranded on the causeway of a hill stream in Nalgonda district, was washed away today in a flash flood, according to reports reaching police headquarters here.

The reports said the driver and conductor of the bus and two passengers had been rescued while only one body had been recovered so far.

Slum-dwellers evacuated as Yamuna rises

By A Staff Reporter

NEW DELHI, August 1: Slum dwellers along the Yamuna Bank were evacuated by the administration to temporary camps along the Ring Road at Vijayghat this morning following a sudden rise in the river.

Huts along the shore were flooded, something routine at this time each year. The sudden rise was due to heavy rain at some places, leading to a lot of extra water flow from Tajewala, the last major headworks upstream of Delhi.

After rising beyond the warning level of 204 m at the Old Railway Bridge (the warning is for the huts, not the rest of the city) this morning, the water-level was declining by the end of the day.

Around 96,000 cusecs (cubic feet per second) gushed through yesterday and today's was barely a fourth of that.
Rapti crosses danger mark

LUCKNOW, July 29 (PTI) - Intermittent rains in the eastern Uttar Pradesh during the last 24 hours have led river Rapti to cross the danger mark by 0.2 meters at Birdghat in Gorakhpur, whereas river Ghaghara has shown a decline since yesterday at Elgin Bridge.

According to the Central Water Commission, Hardwar received a maximum rainfall of 182 mm, followed by Ghazipur, Bareilly, Jaunpur, and Rigaull between 100 and 100 mm.

All the other rivers are flowing within the safe limits.

Meanwhile, the Uttar Pradesh Government is engaged in formulating a plan to take long-term measures to check the floods in Basti, Gorakhpur, Gonda and Sidharth Nagar districts in the state.

The state would seek financial aid from the Centre, the Minister of State, Mr. Jagdambika Pal, told newsmen here today.

Mr. Pal, who accompanied the Union Finance Minister Mr. S V Chavan, on a tour of the flood-affected districts in eastern UP yesterday told newsmen that the World Bank also likely to be apprached for assistance for the flood-control works.

Mr. Chavan had said that a central team would soon visit the flood-affected areas to assess the loss, Mr. Jagdambika Pal said.

Mr. Chavan also favours the construction of dams at Basti and other places to control the floods, Mr. Pal added.

The State Irrigation Minister, Mr. Lek Pati Tripathi, who also toured the area, said that a plan on flood control would be formulated soon.

SRINAGAR, July 29 (PTI) - Two persons sustained injuries where a bomb, believed to have been planted by secessionists in their bid to blow up the Punjab National Bank branch, exploded here late last night.

Brahmaputra rising

GUWAHATI, July 29 (PTI) - The Brahmaputra and its tributaries were raising menacingly disrupting rail and road communication in several parts of the state for the second day today, according to latest official reports reaching here.

The Brahmaputra was flowing above danger level in Dibrugarh and Naamalighat in upper Assam, while in the lower Assam districts, the level of the river was almost touching the danger mark.
They were swept to death in sleep

JAMBULPADA, (Maharashtra). July 30.

Jambulpada village, in the giant shadow of the
Sudhagad Fort looming over the countryside
from the Sahyadri range of mountains, has sud-
denly turned into a living "Mohenjodaro" or The
Mound of the dead after last Monday's deluge.

The hamlet is in Raigad district.

The official body count is 68, according to the
Deputy Collector, Mr. Avinash Subedar, but re-
liable estimates by long-time residents put the
figure of dead at at least 160, with many more
missing. Entire families have vanished, washed
away with their houses and the only memorials
to them are mounds of mass graves packed with
bloated bodies bruised and battered beyond rec-
ognition along the rocky course of the Amba
river.

"It was around 3 a.m., when the waters over-
whelmed the village and many people were
swept away in their sleep," said Dr. S. J.
Kulkarni, an ayurvedic physician practising at
the village for the last 25 years.

Dr. Kulkarni said he and his family survived
only because they slept in the upper storey of
their house which is on a relatively higher
ground. Single-storey houses to the east of the
village were swept away by walls of water.

75 cm rainfall in 5 hours. According to the rel-
ief committee members, 75 cm of rainfall within
five hours against an average rainfall of 20 cm
in the village and the "suspected" release of water
from the Vaivan Dam and the barrage at the Na-
val installation, INS Shivraj, near Lonavala led to
the unprecedented flooding.

Enquires about the stacks of wood piles near
the river banks show that deforestation has been
going on in the jungles to the south of the village
in the last eight years. This would account for
what some survivors describe as "massive flows
of water from the south towards the river which
had overflowed banks."

Heart-rending stories: Moving stories were
told by the villagers. The body of Circle insep-
v. S. Dvokie was found clinging two of his
young sons to his chest. His wife and daughter
also perished in the flood. There is no trace of
their house except the bare foundation.

Six persons from Thane, near Bombay, literally
came to die at the village as they ironically came
to visit their relative on Sunday last. Dadabai
Pednekar, president of the Jambulpada Doord
Udajade Sangh, lost his wife, two daughters-in-
law and three grandchildren. Pednekar and his
two sons survived as they slept in the upper
storey of their house, while the rest of the family
were carried away by the raging waters.

Bodies are being found as far away as Pel
village, about 15 km away and Nagathane, al-
most 17 km distant.

All temples in the village have been damaged
and the roof and walls of the Hanuman temple
blown away. Pillows, blankets, sarees and cloth
and distribute provisions and medicines to the
people.

The last such devastation took place here in
1923 when a dozen people perished following
heavy rains. A woman was washed away in
1962.

The local MLA, Mr. Visage Sawant who was
camping at the relief camp set up by the Govern-
ment said that even two days after the tragedy,
neither the District Collector nor the Superin-
tendent of Police visited the village under the
pretext that the communication system had been
cut off.

"We were left high and dry for the first two
days by authorities," he said and demanded an
inquiry on from where the destructive water
which created havoc in the village had come.

Exh-eriting the tragedy at Bhaje. Repeated eff-
orts are still on to evacuate bodies buried under
debra at Bhaje village in Pune district where a
landslide killed 37 persons and left several de-
to last Monday.

The village, situated at the foot of a hill, had
only 20 houses. The hill caved in due to the tor-
rantal rains around 3 a.m. on the fatal day.

The village, despite being about 4 km away
from the Bombay-Pune highway, could not be
reached. The muddy three-foot wide pathway
turned into an ankle-deep sinking land due to the
heavy downpour and made it difficult for any ex-
cavator or other machine to reach the place for
help. — PTI, UNI

Lost TV, not vision

RAIGADH (Maharashtra). July 30.

He held onto his new colour television
set in a bid to save it, but the flood
waters would have none of it.

Rajaram Jadhav, who had retired a
month ago as headmaster of the New
English School in Jambulpada village
where he was swept by flood waters on
Monday last, told a visiting team of
reporters yesterday that on being alerted
of the flood waters, he first tried to climb
to a safe place with his colour TV but in
seconds his house was engulfed.

The TV set was purchased by his son
the previous evening and hence the first
thought that occurred to Rajaram was to
save the precious possession.

However, as the flood waters rushed
into his house he grabbed his 13-year-old
grandson and within seconds they were
washed away. However, he held on to a
tree and was saved along with his
grandson. — UNI

Krishna water
surrounds villages

From Our Correspondent

BLAUPUR, July 30.

The flood waters of the Krishna today encir-
cled three more villages Aski, Kadke and Kan-
kawanwadi in Jamkhandi taluk of Byapur district.
Karnataka, according to reports received here.

Water was flowing just one foot below the
Padasalgiri bridge (height 43 ft) 40 km from
here.

Yesterday, the State-owned KSRTC buses did
not ply in the night because of the flood.
Long trail of destruction

By KUMAR KETKAR

The unprecedented cloud burst that struck Raigad district on the night of June 19, recording a staggering 72 cm of rain in 24 hours and leading to crippling disaster, wiping out villages, snapping bridges, washing away roads and causing widespread damage to industrial complexes — will remain a meteorological mystery for a long time to come.

The district is yet to recover from the shock of the havoc. Between 3 and 7 am on Monday, July 1, the Amba river received a record rainfall of 40 to 63 cm, flooding the river's banks, Petla Patan, Kattwadi and tributaries in the hill region, swallowing villages in the associated valleys.

The Raigad alone may turn out to be about 1,000, officially. The authorities have been able to notify 991 deaths in the whole state, including flood-victims in Raigad, Ratnagiri and Marathwada.

No count would be able to reveal the number of "missing persons" because several migrant laborer families, employed by private contractors working in the industrial complexes, have been swept away. Their names and addresses simply do not appear when compared with their contractors. But the surviving migrants in the refugee camps tell harrowing tales of their co-workers who perished in Petla Patan and Anjuna author, Manish Mundhe, a social worker and Shiv Sena activist at Raigad, had formed youth groups which had rescued 20 people from the ravaging floods. The group also recovered 28 corpses from the receding waters. These bodies were cremated at a姿势中.1.

Similarly, the Kerala government immediately sent a team of doctors and nurses to help those affected and made arrangements for medical supplies. "As a public sector unit, it is our philosophy to provide help to the people of the affected districts. " he said.

No one would be able to provide vehicles to carry their bodies. Nor have the private sector units in the Palghar belt shown any philanthropic gesture, helping to rehabilitate people and reconstruct the villages affected. There are some few low-cost contractors like Padalkar and Bhatkar, but no one is doing any good in adopting any of the villages.

A total of Rs 4,000 crores are invested in this belt by the private sector in 61 small, medium and big chemical units. Top executives of all these conglomerates have visited their plants in the flooded areas, but none has bothered to pay a visit to the helpless villages around, say the social workers here. True, they have given relief in cash and kind to some of these villages, but, by and large, the private sector in Palghar has appeared indifferent to the tragedy around.

The burden of relief assistance, coordination and rehabilitation has fallen on the public sector units, Hindustan Organic Chemicals (HOC) in Petla Patan.

Dr Nambudiri, in-charge of medical facilities at HOC, provided over 7,000 vaccinations and offered medicines to the affected people. He also arranged for medical supplies.

Petla Patan, June 19. An aerial view of the affected areas shows the extent of damage caused by the floods. The river Amba has overflown its banks, submerging many villages in the valley. The high-rise buildings and factories in the industrial belt are visible in the background.

The river Amba has overflown its banks, submerging many villages in the valley. The high-rise buildings and factories in the industrial belt are visible in the background.

---

Streamline flood relief. Observed Mr. V. T. Gondal, manager of Excel and honorary secretary of the Roha Industries Association, "we cannot be too appreciative of the generous assistance given by the public sector units."

Public sector units like HOC, Indian Petrochemicals Limited in Nagathe and RCF in Alibaug became model agencies in-ordinating relief in association with collectorships and government teams. In most areas, the MDC and MSEB swung into action to restore water and power supply. And yet, it will take at least another week to resume normal production in the industrial belts.

Many of the areas are still quite inaccessible as the bridges have collapsed and roads have been washed away. The telecommunication systems are in shambles. Though government teams have successfully prevented the outbreak of cholera, the rotting food grain and decomposed cattle still create an ab-periating stench. Clearing operations could go on for more than a month.

Nearly 50,000 families have been worsted. Over 5,000 traders and businessmen have lost their stocks and equipment. All the 30 units in the Vishwakarma Industrial Estate near Petla Patan, for instance, have been wiped out.

The rivers and tributaries in the region have collected an enormous amount of mud, raising the river beds. Hundreds of uprooted trees,
Bodies of cyclone victims being fished out from the swollen Patalganga river in Raigad district after last fortnight's storm. — Picture by Deepak Kambli.

stones, items of furniture, household effects and even stray office equipment and damaged machinery have got caught mid-stream. Raw materials and finished goods stored from the chemical factories have been lost. Now that the water has receded and even the mud is slowly settling, buses, trucks and scooters, cycles and scooters have begun to surface, half-buried in the earth.

Another alarming feature is the leak of hazardous chemicals. As the flood waters entered the chemical plants, it washed away hundreds of drums containing chemicals poisonous, polluting and inflammable. Acres of rice-fields have been ruined as a result. In some areas, the police jeeps had to move around appealing people not to open any of the sealed drums. Three villagers near Nagphane died after drinking methanol.

While the government encourages industrialisation of backward areas, the disaster revealed that adequate attention has not been paid to infrastructure. The flood-affected region was totally cut off for the first three days. Incidentally, except for a couple of industrial units, no factory was covered by flood insurance.

A unit on the Khopoli-Pali road, Baddhaigot Rabbit, has been thoroughly destroyed. Not a single machine, vehicle or even guest house has survived the fury of the river. Three people in the factory lost their lives. It was the only medium-sized, completely indigenous plant that supplied textile cots and approns to textile mills all over India. This unit alone has resulted in a loss of around Rs 1.5 crores.

The widespread damage to Reliance, Loxa, Allyl Amines in Patalkanga and Colour-Chem, Excel and other 38 units in Roha shows that the overall thinking on disaster planning was extremely inadequate.

The flash floods that caused such widespread ruin, have obviously led to some controversies. Why did the meteorology department not issue an advance warning? What kind of alert system are called for? Who could have issued an alarm and how, if the catastrophe was foreseeable. Were the Tata Electric Company lacs responsible for causing floods?

The last question in the series is now conclusively answered. The TBC lakes could not have caused floods. They are on east-bound rivers and could flood the Indrayani and Bhima rivers, taking water to Pune, not to the west, in Ambika valley. The discharge of water from the dams on the west side is insignificant.

The water levels in the TBC lakes had not reached alarming levels in the early hours of July. The dam in question are "non-gated", therefore, the question of opening the gates does not arise. Any discharge from Khopoli would first be felt at Shilphata, where shops are located almost 5 ft. above the normal level of the river. Moreover, the cloudburst had resulted in a flow of 1,25,000 cubic feet per second (cusec) of water in the Ambika valley on that Black Monday morning. The TBC dams could not have substantially added to this torrent, even if water was discharged into these rivers.
Fishermen's tale of woe

Express News Service

RAIGAD, July 31

"We couldn't see the boat nearest to ours because it was so dark. The heavy rains and high winds churned the sea and we didn't even have time to think of dying because we had to battle the huge waves," say surviving fishermen who encountered the cyclone last Sunday.

Eight days after the worst storm in recent times, which claimed the lives of more than 300 fisher folk among the Konkan coast, those who lived to tell the tale of their encounter with nature at its angriest, speak of the bravery of their colleagues, the friends they lost and the roughs they clutched to safety.

Ganesh Moreshwar Koli, 23 years, left from Uran along with seven others on 'Hari Om Sai' on July 21. The seas were calm with no hint of the impending storm "We had gone towards Ramangiri for fishing and the storm hit us on Saturday itself. The cyclone reached the Raigad coast on Sunday night. We tried to get back to Bombay but the huge waves capsized our boat and six of us were thrown into the sea," he said haltingly.

Two others were trapped in the cabin and could not come out. They sank with the boat. Ganesh said that a small wooden box that was floating on the waves was grabbed by all six who were tossed along towards Alibag. Near Sakar village along the coast, three fishermen got separated from the rest.

"I lost confidence when this happened and through that th. was the end but somehow I was determined to get to Alibag. I was familiar with the area as I had done a fisherman's training course there. So I pointed out the direction of the Alibag Fort and we swam towards it.

It took ten hours before Ganesh could reach the Alibag Fort after he was cast into the rough seas. The island was deserted as most people, including the temple priest, had gone to mainland. About half-an-hour later, another fisherman, Vasant Motiram Mhatre of Jite village, managed to reach the fort. The two slept in the temple.

Ganesh then faced a different ordeal on land as he tried to secure some drinking water, medical aid and transport for himself and his injured colleagues.

Sitaram Janardhan Naqva, also from Karanja, had left by 'Vijayakshi' on that fateful Saturday, with no warning from the weather forecasters of any storm. "Our ordeal started on Sunday night at about 9 pm when the storm started. We struggled for over ten hours, constantly removing the water as the waves hit us but our boat capsized on Monday evening and we were thrown into the sea," he recalls.

Sarpan and the seven others on his boat were lucky as that fisher folk from the boat nearest to theirs, the "Amrutamayi" threw ropes and managed to drag them out. The water pump of their boat had failed, their engine broke down and the high winds prevented them from reaching the shore till Wednesday.

For Jagannath Khandu Bhagat, barely 24 years old, an attempt to rescue a boat belonging to a relative of his boat's owner, proved disastrous. "We were nine persons on board 'Mangalmurti' and found the other boats near Murud coast. We began towing it back when the storm got us, so we broke the rope attached to the boat," he said.

Jagannath could barely speak as he related his experience with the black seas. They managed to reach season docks and found a watch map of the defence establishment who directed them to the nearest bus stop.

The fishermen, now getting over the shock of their experience and their narrow escape, have many stories to tell. But what they are all extremely upset about is the failure of the weather bureau to put up any kind of warning. They are also up in arms about the lack of any cooperation from the Coast Guard.

says Tukaram Ramachandra Naqva, chair person of the Karanja Machimar Cooperative Society, "We have lost about 53 boats out of total 82. The storm was approaching from Ramangiri to Raigad by Saturday itself. We didn't see a single warning signal till Wednesday July 26. Out of the 450 boats from Karanja, 350 left from Sasan Docks and the rest from Karanja. At least 215 have died only from the Karanja boats, he maintains.

According to Mr Naqva, on seeing the storm a group of representatives from the society met Commodore A K. Sharma of the Coast Guard to request boats to locate stranded fishermen. The latter reportedly delayed extending help and agreed to send boats only on Thursday, after they complained to Chief Minister Manohar.

Earlier, they had met Fisheries Minister Hatanker, who was also unable to provide boats. "If only they had listened to us, we could have saved more people. Now, all we can do is sit here and mourn our fate," said another member of the cooperative.
Rescue work in full swing

From page 1
not yet been able to locate the fishermen missing at sea.
Bombay-Pune link cut off. Road and rail traffic between Pune and Bombay remained cut off for the second day due to landslides, and derailment near Vagdaon yesterday following torrential rains in the surrounding region.

A report from Bombay quoted the Chief Minister Sharad Pawar as saying that more than 200 people had been killed during the past 36 hours after the cyclone.

However, with reports of the recovery of over 150 bodies which were washed away in flood waters in Bindusaradum of Beed district alone, the unofficial toll was put at more than 300.

Airdropped: A Hyderabad report said IAF and Naval helicopters today airdropped food packets over the marooned villages in Nuzamabad district and Eluru town in West Godavari district, even as the Godavari was rising at many places in Andhra Pradesh.

A report from Munna quoted the Endrowa Governor, Mr. P. Venkata Subbaiah, today making an aerial survey of five rain-affected taluks of Bider district.

Later, he told newsmen that the damage to the crops was more than the assessment of Rs. five crore made by the district administration. He asked the authorities concerned to reassess the damage.

All the major rivers in Karnataka continued to be in spate with their water level still rising today, and many houses had collapsed since yesterday following heavy rains in several parts of the state.

More than seven hundred people were shifted to safer places in Nanjangad town in Mysore district, as the overflowing Kabini inundated several areas there.

Torrential rains, accompanied by gusty winds, uprooted electric and telephone poles and trees, besides damaging a number of houses in Chikmagalur district. Landslides were reported in south Kanara.

Trains to Bombay cancelled, diverted

Express News Service

Madras, July 25: Railways have cancelled operation of six trains between Bombay and centres in the South and diverted three others till July 31 due to breaches in the Pune-Kalyan sections of Central Railway.


In addition to this, train Nos 3/4 Madras-Howrah-Madras Mail arriving at and departing from Madras Central on July 26 have been cancelled.

The trains diverted are: Nos 11/12 Madras-Dadar and Dadar-Madras Express, 81/82 Kanyakumari-Bombay V T and Bombay V T-Kanyakumari Express. 129/130 Bangalore-Bombay and Bombay Bangalore Udyam Express.

In addition to these, consequent on the cancellation of Train No 81 Bombay-Kanyakumari Express leaving Bombay on July 24, the return train No 82 leaving Kanyakumari on July 27 has been cancelled.

According to Southern Railways, full refund will be made to passengers not undertaking their journeys. The authorities have also nominated duty officers and opened an assistance booth to assist public round the clock at Madras Central. Further information regarding the services at Madras Central can be had with the telephone Nos 563218, 567575, 567585.

Heavy rain in Coimbatore

Coimbatore, July 25: Valparai here received 86 mm rain for the fourth day in succession. Due to landslides and falling of trees, the Valparai-Pollichi road is still cut off for vehicular traffic. Due to heavy rain, schools have been closed till Thursday.

Water supply to Coimbatore city was disrupted on Monday due to landslides and blockade of inlet pipes, following heavy rain in the catchment areas. Corporation authorities are working round-the-clock to remove the blocks.

Thanks to recent rains, all the rivers and tanks in and around Coimbatore have received copious inflow. For the first time in five years, Noyyal stream which has 21 small dams on its course has surplus water. "This is the best year for dry land farmers," said Mr. V.N. Ramaswami, Superintending Engineer, PWD.

Heavy inflow: Following heavy inflow into the Amaravathi river. Karur town, which experienced acute water scarcity till a few days back, will get abundant drinking water.

People residing in low lying areas near Amaravathi have been shifted to places of safety.
Maharashtra death toll crosses 500

Bombay, July 28 (PTI): In an unprecedented monsoon disaster, over 500 people have lost their lives in flash floods, house collapses, landslides and electrocution during incessant rains for the last two days in Maharashtra and over 2,000 others were missing, including 1,000 fishermen in the high seas, according to reports reaching here tonight.

Army, navy and air force personnel joined the state government in rescue and relief missions on an emergency basis as the officially confirmed death toll rose to 336.

As many as fourteen districts were affected by the calamitous rains and storm, with the wind velocity rising to 75 kmph. The damage to crops and destruction of livestock would run into crores of rupees, official sources said.

In the industrial metropolis of Bombay, production came to a total halt yesterday as workers failed to report for duty. Even as the city was limping back to normal today, a weather bureau alert to fisherfolk not to venture out to the sea in the next 24 hours set off a panic.

According to a Bombay report, naval and air force helicopters air-dropped essential items to thousands of marooned villagers, while the army was working with bulldozers to extricate about 30 people buried by landslides at Lonavia.

The cyclonic storm which is feared to have claimed more than 100 lives yesterday was caused by a depression in the Bay of Bengal. The depression, which lay over Nandurbar in Maharashtra's Dhule district last night, was now centred 50 km from Ahmedabad.

Naval helicopters carried out several sorties over Mahad Madh, and Nagothane areas in the coastal Konkan belt and pressed into service dingys to rescue marooned villagers, who had braved the fury of the deluge for the past 36 hours.

The Indian Air Force began relief operations in Marathwada, especially Nanded and Beed districts from its base at Hyderabad.

Air Force helicopters also took off from the Oil and Natural Gas Commission's helipad in Bombay to airdrop 4,000 loaves of bread to villagers encircled by flood waters at nearby Panvel in Thane district.

The Coast Guard, which swung into action yesterday to locate a fleet of 300 fishing boats missing in the choppy Arabian Sea, has

Turn to page 11
11 killed as rains lash north India

NEW DELHI, July 30.

INCRESSANT rains continued to paralyse normal life claiming 11 lives in north India even as the death toll in the cyclonic storm in Maharashtra mounted to 676 today, reports PTI.

Eight persons were killed and many injured in cloudburst, house collapses and lightning in Jammu and Kashmir in the past 24 hours.

A report from Shimla said three persons were buried alive and three injured in house collapses in the state.

Almost all the rivers and rivulets in Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir were in high spate following widespread rains.

Normal life and vehicular traffic were badly disrupted in almost all parts of the region.

The Lahaul Valley in Himachal Pradesh was cut off from the rest of the country following washing away of a large stretch at Manali-Leh road.

The Delhi-Shimla and Delhi-Kulu flights of the Varidoot National highway were suspended for the third day today.

The 300 km Srinagar-Jammu national highway was closed to traffic following landslides.

The weather office recorded rainfall between 100 mm and 223 mm in many parts of Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana and the Union territory of Chandigarh at 8.30 a.m. today.

The overall flood situation in Assam remained critical for the third consecutive day with rail and road communication between Guwahati and upper Assam, Barak Valley and the rest of the north east, still cut off.

Latest reports said the Brahmaputra and its tributaries had risen further and were flowing above the danger mark at Dibrugarh, Nematighat and Tizpur.

Fresh areas of human habitations and crop land have been engulfed by the flood waters, forcing people to move to embankments and higher reaches with their belongings.

The district authorities have been keeping round-the-clock vigil on roads, embankments and other vulnerable areas against possible breaches.

Five persons lost their lives and several houses were damaged in landslides yesterday.

In Manipur, several areas in Imphal valley including Cairang, Khuraim, Shingmei were submerged following breaches in the embankments.

Report from Kohima said the army was called out in Manipur today to assist the civil administration for flood relief in Imphal after most rivers were in spate inundating low lying areas following heavy rains for the last six days.

The toll in last week's storm in Maharashtra could reach a thousand as so far 676 bodies have been recovered, official sources said.

Meanwhile, reports from Bengaluru said all the major rivers in Karnataka were receding following respite from torrential rains which has taken a toll of 16 lives so far.

The water level in the Krishna, which had encroached some villages in Bajapur district, was also decreasing.

Village doomed in deluge

JAMBULPADA (Maharashtra), July 31. — In the giant shadow of the Sudhagad fort looming over the countryside from the Sahyadri mountain range, this hamlet in Raigad district dating back to the Peshwa period in Maharashtra, has suddenly turned into a living "Mohenjodaro" or "the mound of the dead" after Monday's deluge, reports PTI.

Like the remains of the famed Mohenjodaro, the erstwhile Indus Valley civilization site now located in Pakistan after Partition, the ruins of this ravaged village in the worst-hit district of the State command the attention of the relief crew and visitors.

The official body count was 66, says the Deputy Collector, Mr. Path. Avinash Subedar, but reliable estimates by residents put the figure of those dead at least 150, with many more missing. Entire families have vanished, washed away with their houses and the "expected" release of water from the Valvan dam and the barrage at the naval installation, INS Shivaj, near Lonavala led to the unprecedented flooding.

Meanwhile, inquiries about the stacks of wood piles near the river banks revealed that deforestation has been going on in the jungles to the south of the village since the past eight years.

This would account for what some survivors described as "massive flows of water from the south towards the river which had overflowed banks." This indicated that the village was caught in the cross currents of river waters and the flows from the forest area.

It has come as no surprise to relief workers that mud houses were completely washed away in the storm. However, the fact that several concrete houses suffered the same fate or were severely damaged has indicated that their foundations were not sufficiently strong.

only memorials to them were mounds of mass graves packed with bloated bodies bruised beyond recognition along the rocky course of the Amba river.

"It was around 3 a.m. when the waters overwhelmed the village and many people were swept away in their sleep," recalled Dr. S. S. Kulkarni, an ayurvedic doctor practicing at the village for the past 25 years.

Dr Kulkarni said he and his family had survived only because they were sleeping in the upper storey of their house which was on relatively higher ground. Single-storey houses to the east of the village were just washed away by the water which swept everything in its path.

According to relief committee members, 30 inches of rainfall within a span of five hours against an average rainfall of eight inches at the village was "susceptible" release of water from the strong
Level of Yamuna rising

Express News Service

NEW DELHI, Aug 1

The level of the Yamuna has risen slightly past the "warning" mark, thanks to the release of 66,000 cusecs of water from Tajewala on Monday.

The level at the Old Railway Bridge was 204.37 metres, while the "warning" mark is 204.34 metres.

Heavy rainfall in the upper catchment areas had resulted in the water being released, officials said.

According to the MCD city zone committee chairman, Mr Ramesh Datta, several hundred jhuggis at Yamuna bridge have been inundated on Monday night because of the rising water level.

He urged the Lt-Governor, Mr Ramesh Bhandari, to provide relief to the affected people.

Jhuggi dwellers taking out their domestic effects after their huts were submerged in flood waters near Old Railway Bridge Express photo
Poor inflow into reservoirs

From Our Special Correspondent

BANGALORE, July 21

While there has been widespread rain in Karnataka, greatly relieving the anxiety caused by a dry spell earlier this month, delay in the sowing operation and rather poor rain in the catchment areas of the major river projects is causing some alarm.

The reports reaching the State headquarters and there were dizzles in the catchment areas of the Sharavathi and Cauvery. The inflow into the Linganamakki reservoir was 13,696 cu. ft, the morning, while it was 12,770 cu. ft in respect of the Supe reservoir of the Cauvery project.

Last year during the time the inflow into the Linganamakki reservoir was as high as 75,000 to 80,000 cu. ft. The level of the reservoir today was 1,772,525 feet, about 1.25 feet less than last year (maximum level 1,183 feet). The level of the Supe reservoir was 1,709.15 feet, the maximum being 1,653.67 feet.

The Electricity Board sources said that the average generation of power was 24 million units daily and this is being supplemented by about 7 million units from other sources like Neyveli and Ramagundam super thermal power stations besides imports from Maharashtra.

The Divisional Commissioner, Bangalore Division, Mr. S. N. Shankar Kumar, said all the districts in the division had received good rain. Except in Sinnarapur in Kolathur where some houses had collapsed due to rain, there were no reports of any damage.

The sowing operations in many areas which could not be done earlier are expected to be completed in the next one week. The reports said that in some parts the farmers could not continue with agricultural operations in the last four or five days because of rain.

BDA tree-planting programme: The Bangalore Development Authority has decided to take up roaddside tree-planting programme during the current rainy season on a large scale and to develop 15 new parks in various layouts under its jurisdiction, with the active assistance of Horticulture and Forest Departments.

Over 12,000 seedlings will be planted in different layouts including Hennur Road-Banaswadi layout, Old Madras Road-Banaswadi Road layout, east of NGEF layout, Hennur Road-Bellary Road layout 1 and 2 stages, Nagarahalli layout I and II stages, Mandla layout, Hoysur-Banapur Road layout, Chandra layout, etc., covering almost 35 km of roads during the current year.

At a meeting presided over by the BDA Chairman, Mr. N. P. Singh, it was decided to take up road side tree-planting programme in areas within the limits of the Bangalore City Corporation. It was also agreed to provide necessary funds to the Forest Department for this purpose. The BDA would be contributing Rs. 6 lakhs for this programme, to begin with.

New parks: The proposed 15 new parks will be developed in Indiranagar, Cambridge Layout, Koramangala, Banashankari, Rajamahal Vilas Extension II stage, Mandla layout, Kengeri satellite town, BTM and Jayanagar layouts. Voluntary organisations like the Lion's Club, Rotary Club and Jaycees Club have also agreed to get involved in the development and maintenance of these parks besides creating recreational facilities for children.

With a view to preventing sitting the beds of five tanks in Bangalore city, the BDA and the Bangalore City Corporation will collaborate with the Forest and Tourism Departments to take up foreshore plantations and develop some of the tank areas as tourist spots. It is said...
RELIGIOUS (in)TOLERANCE:

THE BABRI DISPUTE
Religious conflicts are an age old phenomenon to us in the Western World. The early Christians, persecuted in Rome, turned the other cheek or, should I say sword, when they became the state religion. Lest we forget: Charlemagne forcibly converting the Saxons to Christianity, the feudal serfs and lords, those terrible infidels in what historians titled the Crusades and, of course, those periodic outbursts of antisemitism in 18th and 19th century Europe called the pogroms - "bash the boys with the yarmulkes."

We look down our arrogant noses condescendingly at the religious violence in Beirut and the aberration in Northern Ireland.

The conflict between the Moslems and the Hindus on the Subcontinent dates back, I suspect, to the arrival of the first Moslems. Never resolved, it always was just below the surface held in check by the colonial administration and the largely British-led Indian army. To maintain their "jewel in the crown," I suspect the British fostered the differences between the religions and held out the carrot of a separate Moslem state. At independence, what was hoped to be a moment of great joy became a scene of human tragedy almost without parallel in history. Millions died as friend turned on friend, family on family. That enmity lies just below the surface and raises its ugly head periodically. The cause often is the most trivial of occurrences - a verbal slight, an alleged affront, using someone else's tool, land, cow.

The Babri dispute or the making of mountains out of religious molehills has the potential to be the cause of renewed communal violence. On this holy ground, to both Moslem and Hindu alike, the Hindu hierarchy wants to build a temple. Further stir the crisis pot with the fact that national elections are but a few months away.

1) Have the students list the crises spots in the world today including Israel, Lebanon, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, N. Ireland, Nicaragua, etc. How many of these have religion as a cause or one of the causes in the dispute?

2) See if the students can remember from history events that revealed man's religious intolerance (Crusades, Pogroms, Holocaust, Mormon migration, etc., etc.).

3) Readings from Vol. 2 of this effort are particularly worthy of their reading. Particularly graphic are passages from Freedom at Midnight and The Last Train to Pakistan.
ETERNAL INDIA: From Gsomokh, the source of the Ganges, to Gurgaon, these pilgrims walk, carrying pitchers of the sacred water in the belief that this act will wash away their sins and secure a better life in their next birth. TOI photo by Sondeep Shankar.
Devotees throng Shiva temple

MEERUT, July 31. — Over 200,000 people offered Ganga water brought in kavads from Hardwar at the Pura-Mahadeva, the senior superintendent of police, Mr. Pandey, said today. reports PTI.

Nearly 50,000 devotees offered Ganga water at the Baba Aughar Nath Shiva temple-Kali Paltan and at Mahadeva Shiva temple in Gudri Bazar.

Two thousand police personnel have been deployed to prevent any untoward incident.
NEW DELHI. Aug 3

The Vishwa Hindu Parishad said on Thursday that it would go ahead with its plan to build the Ram Janmabhoomi temple, irrespective of the High Court verdict on the subject.

"It is beyond the domain of the High Court to challenge the faith of a people", said the general secretary of the parishad, contradicting the reported statement of the Home Minister that the parishad had agreed to abide by the High Court judgment.

The general secretary, Shri Ashok Singhal, said that the parishad would launch its programme of collecting one brick from each of the 5.73 lakh villages of the country and taking it to Ayodhya to build the temple.

"Each brick will have Shri Ram written on it in the mother tongue of the people who contribute it. From September 30, the bricks will start reaching Ayodhya after they are consecrated locally. Every person in every village will also donate Rs 1.25 towards the cost of the temple", said Mr Singhal.

He said that the Parishad hoped to raise at least Rs 25 lakh through this programme, apart from ensuring the participation of the people. "Come what may, the foundation stone will be laid in Ayodhya on November 9 this year," said Mr Singhal.

Mr Singhal said that a section of the press had been quoting the Home Minister as saying that the problem had been resolved and the High Court would be the final arbitrator.

"All I can say is that the Home Minister is not our spokesman and the High Court cannot dictate to us," he said.

Mr Singhal said that the only solution, in fact, would be to shift the Mosque to some other spot. "We will help the Muslims in doing this," he said. He also refused to accept the suggestion that a national monument be built at the controversial site in Ayodhya.

Mr Singhal said that the entire machinery of the parishad would now be geared towards the proposed construction of the temple. "No political party can afford to alienate us," he said.

The parishad was also planning a yatra in Delhi between September 17 and September 22, in which a thousand sadhus would participate, said Mr Singhal. He said that the sadhus would participate in a long march and hold discussions on various issues, including the temple and the coming elections.
Don't make Babri a poll issue: VP

NEW DELHI, Aug 4

Mr V. P. Singh, president of Janata Dal, has appealed to all political parties not to make the Babri Masjid-Ram Janmabhoomi dispute an issue in the coming elections and to avoid the path of confrontation.

According to a press release of Janata Dal on Friday, Mr Singh made this appeal on Thursday evening at the first meeting of the minority cell of the party, which was attended by people from all over the country. The meeting was called at the initiative of Mr Mufti Mohammed Sayed, who is the convener of minority cell.

The meeting also endorsed the policy of the party to go for seat adjustments with the Bharatiya Janata Party. Though some people expressed reservations about it, the consensus at the meeting was that it was more important to defeat the Congress (I) and ensure one to one contests in all the constituencies.

Mr V. P. Singh assured those present that there was no question of compromising on the party's commitment to the minorities. He also expressed the confidence that the National Front would form the Government after the elections and said that the five party alliance was complete and that no other party be would included in the Front.

Briefing press persons about the deliberations of the meeting, Mr Mufti Mohammed Sayed said here on Friday that many participants emphasized the need to tackle the educational and social backwardness amongst Muslims on a war footing.

In response to a question about the Janata Dal's response to the charter of demands circulated by Mr Sved Shahbuddin, Mr Sayed said the meeting had discussed the matter and opined that "appropriate demands" should be implemented. Since all parties made pre-election promises, the participants felt that Mr V. P. Singh should persuade the National Front governments in existence immediately to take steps to implement the Front's commitments to the minorities. This would increase the Front's credibility in the eyes of the people, they said.

Those who attended the meeting included Mr V. P. Singh, Mr Yunus Saleem, Mr Khurshid Ahmed, Mr Ghulam Saravar, Mr I. K. Gujral, Mr R. K. Hegde, Mr Manzoor Ahmed, Mr Irfanullah, Mr Javed Habib, Mr Wasim Ahmed, Mr M. Fernandes.

Many of the participants felt that the Congress (I) would do its best to divert the attention of the people from the Bofors and other scandals and would try and communalise the situation in the country. They urged Mr V. P. Singh to request all parties not to make Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute an election issue and to defuse the situation currently being created.

Mr V. P. Singh reiterated his assurance to the minorities of his party's "irrevocable" commitment to secularism and ensuring them freedom of religious practice. He said that necessary steps would be taken to constitute a special police force comprising all communities to curb communal riots. The National Front had already promised that it would not interfere with Muslim personal law, he said.

Mr Sayed, who inaugurated the meeting, said that Muslims were as concerned with national issues as any other community. He criticized the authoritarian attitude of the Congress (I) Government and expressed the hope that Muslims would support Janata Dal in the coming elections.
Astrologers enter Babri dispute

By ANAND I. SAHAY

The Times of India News Service
NEW DELHI, August 1.

Of all things, a new astrological angle is expected to be injected into the vicious Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute, and this should cause the ruling party to heave a sigh of relief.

Some 50 "leading" Hindu astrologers, astronomers and religious foundations are understood to have determined that in relation to the Sun, the Earth would be in its "dakshinayan" phase in the winter. As opposed to the "uttarasyan", "dakshinayan" is considered inauspicious. And this is where politics comes in.

Since the Vishwa Hindu Parishad, RSS and kindred organisations have chosen a date in early November to lay the foundation stone of the proposed Ram temple at "Ram Janambhoomi" in Ayodhya, and thus raised the prospects of communal tension developing, the government is expected to take refuge in the traditionalist argument that the "dakshinayan" would be a singularly inauspicious period in which to begin constructing the temple.

According to this view, "dakshinayan" would give way to "uttarasyan" only in February next year. If organisations, determined to press ahead with construction are made to halt in their stride in deference to the pundits, the government would have saved itself a great deal of trouble in UP on the eve of the next general election, due about that time.

Deepening of the communal divide is the last thing the government would be looking for just before the poll, for it is a loser, no matter what. If trouble starts when the temple is being inaugurated with bricks brought from all over the country and consecrated with "Ganga jal" (Ganges water), as Hindu "communal" organisations have planned, and if police is brought in to quell possible rioting, the government action is certain to go down badly with the majority community in a surcharged atmosphere.

On the other hand, if the government remains quiescent, and allows the temple ceremony to proceed, the minorities are not expected to take kindly to this. In either event, the government would have to failed to impress the electorate.

It is small wonder then that the government is believed to have taken a keen interest in mobilising the opinion of the religious pundits. The Union home minister, Mr B.P. Singh, is understood to have met some of the Ecclesiastics.

The Shankaracharya of Kanchi, one of the four high priests of traditional Hindu orthodoxy, is said to be among those who believe that laying the foundation stone of the proposed Ram temple at Ayodhya during "dakshinayan" would bode ill for the shrine. Interestingly, the Shankaracharya had initially blessed the endeavour.

If the line goes through, the government would have bought precious time, for it sees its best bet in postponing a controversy should it come to that, till after the poll.

Astrology is a safe line to take, for it is proof even spins the law. Should the courts, now looking at the complicated case, decide in favour of the "Hindu" view, the traditionalists could still argue that inaugurating the building effort for the temple be taken up only when "uttarasyan" sets in.

The religious leaders are believed to have begun work on the "dakshinayan" — "uttarasyan" syndrome more than a month ago, sources noted. The need for it was felt because the decision of the law courts could not be taken for granted.

A large number of pundits had to be approached for their view to avoid a controversy in an issue which is sensitive and liable to be challenged by interested political groups if the opinion were to come only from a handful of persons enjoying religious authority.

Those mobilising opinion are also understood to have taken the precaution of garnering the views of religious scholars across the country, making it a carefully selected 'random' sample, in order to place the issue beyond challenge.

The only "variable" not taken into account until now is the reaction of the minorities — whether, they too, like the government, would be happy for the breather.
Reassuring Findings

The extensive survey on the Babri Masjid-Ram Janmabhoomi dispute conducted by this paper's correspondents and reported in today's issue offers some reassuring findings. Given the prospect of a general election some months from now, there is every danger of the dispute being exploited by political parties to garner votes, even if the communal temperature rises alarmingly as a consequence of doing so. In fact, one of the survey's findings is that voters have no illusions about all political parties, except those on the left, playing communal politics to win electoral gains. Fortunately, the survey indicates that in most of the country, the dispute is not much of an issue. In parts of only three states — U.P., Gujarat and Maharashtra — people feel strongly about it to the point of being divided on religious lines. Even here, moreover, it is among those who are better informed, read newspapers and live in cities and towns that such strong sentiments mostly exist. No less heartening is the discovery that while religious and political leaders are, for obvious reasons, quite worked up about the dispute, the average villager, townsman or city dweller is rather indifferent to it. What this means in practical terms is that the chances of communal passions riding high on the issue are negligible, unless political parties, aided by religious leaders, go about systematically stirring them up in the coming months.

It is vital for all parties to agree immediately to keep the dispute out of electoral politics altogether. The Janata Dal leader, Mr V. P. Singh, has congratulated the BJP on its apparent decision not to make it a campaign issue. But such a decision should also exclude bringing it up in any form, direct or indirect. For instance, the BJP president, Mr L. K. Advani, said in Madras that the disputed site should be handed over to the Hindus through a negotiated settlement. He also said that the effort by the RSS and the VHP to build a temple there with specially blessed bricks from all over the country would not aggravate communal feelings. Such remarks cast serious doubt on the BJP's professed willingness not to politicise the issue for electoral purposes. Such unanimity by the political parties, which can be attained through a meeting of their representatives convened for the purpose, would completely isolate the extremist groups, Muslim or Hindu, which have a vested interest in keeping the dispute alive. Thus, while the matter is before the Allahabad high court, the VHP has already made it plain that it will not accept its verdict. All the more reason, then, for the VHP and those who think like it to be ostracised by all mainstream parties through a studious refusal to bring the dispute into the arena of electoral politics.
Babri dispute not a major issue

Against the background of the Babri Masjid-Ram Janamboomi controversy, are communal issues likely to play a greater role in the forthcoming elections than earlier ones? TOI correspondents visited 70 towns and villages in 15 states to find out.

NEW DELHI.

Awareness of the Babri Masjid-Ram Janamboomi dispute and heightened sentiments over it follow a definite pattern in the cities and villages covered in 16 states. Southern states, including Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, as well as states like West Bengal, Assam and Jammu and Kashmir, have barely been scarred by the controversy. However, in Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat and parts of Maharashtra, the issue evokes strong sentiments, has led to considerable polarisation among the two major communities and is likely to be an important electoral factor.

Even in those states, however, it is more of an issue in the towns and cities rather than in the villages. Within the cities, it is the more educated, newspaper reading public, who is more informed and more agitated. There is also a distinct divide in perceiving how widespread and deeply-felt the controversy is between religious and political leaders and the common man and woman. The former, all over India, perceive it to be far more prevalent than it seems from the response of the average person. In an all-Muslim village in North Arcot district, Tamil Nadu, villagers were totally unaware of the dispute. In Bangalore and the villages of the Gulbarga, Hassan and Dakshin Kannada districts of Karnataka, the dispute is a non-issue.

In preparation for the time, he said, the RSS has toured 2,600 villages in 10 taluks of Gulbarga, Bijapur and Bidar, covering people in 1,500 villages. In Bhopal, the VHP working president, Mr. Amarchand Ajmera, a 65-year-old retired businessman feels passionately about the Ayodhya issue. But his views were not reflected in the capital and drew a complete blank in the villages of Madhya Pradesh.

See Edit: Reassuring Findings, Page 12

(Continued on Page 10)
Babri Masjid dispute not a major issue

(Continued from page 1)

Riyaz Punjabi of Kashmir University remarked, only educated people know about it. It has had a marginal impact on the psyche of the common man in urban areas alone.

The Amir of the Jamat-e-Islami in Jammu and Kashmir, however, maintains that there is widespread awareness and that it has had a lasting impact on the minds of the people.

Again, in Maharashtra, religious leaders like Bhashkar Rao Rabade from Pune are most vociferous about the issue. The VHP campaign, beginning September, to ceremoniously take one brick from every part of the country to Ayodhya to raise the Ram Janambhoomi temple, they point out, will coincide with rising electoral tempo.

They explain that since the Shiv Sena may not raise the Ram Janambhoomi issue in its election campaign, following the adverse Bombay high court judgment in the Vile Parle assembly by-election on charges of communal propaganda, the VHP would embark on its programme of mobilising Hindus.

In Gujarat, preparing for the forthcoming elections, the BJP's 'Shakti RATH' with idols of gods and goddesses carved on it, has toured the state, covering more than 11,000 villages in 19 districts with the message that the party will fight for the rights of the Hindus.

Publicity on the controversy will also be stepped up in the state. Dr Prasad Torgadia, cancer specialist and general secretary of the VHP state unit, pointed out that a Ram Janambhoomi Shila pooja will be launched in 2000 places in Gujarat from September 9.

HINDU AWARENESS

Hindu awareness has definitely increased, said BJP leader, Mr A. B. Vajpayee, while K. L. Sharma, general secretary, BJP, maintained that being against a particular faith is communal. But saying vote for us because we are Hindus is secular.

In the union capital, communalism has two faces. One revolves around the Punjab problem, the other around the Babri Masjid-Ram Janambhoomi issue.

According to a researcher on the subject, the two aspects of communalism are linked by the 1984 riots, which acted as a catalyst to good Hindu aggression. The '84 riots aimed at the Sikhs, gave legitimacy to Hindu aggression in the middle class which snowballed into the rising – though limited – popularity of the VHP.

The walled city, always a hotbed of communalism, is once again agitated over the Babri Masjid-Ram Janambhoomi issue. In resettlement colonies like Trilokpuri the Muslims fear intensely about it, spurred on by the Shabri Imam and Syed Shahabuddin.

According to `The Hindu', 'Syed Quadri, a reformer from the Minhaj-ul-Quran, will lead the group and their sympathisers to the site on September 19.'

In more parts of UP, where mobilisation around the Ram Janambhoomi issue has been going on for the last few years, most people are aware of it. Since Ram-rajya were launched by Hindu revivalists from Banda three years ago, the controversy has caught the public imagination, said Raj Kumar Kol, a 22-year-old tribal graduate from Sonamari village in Banda district.

In UP's Azamgarh district, a communally sensitive region, the town of Masanath Bhanjan has experienced prolonged communal clashes during the last four years, communal polarisation has taken root.

R. K. Rai, CPI activist, pointed out that though communal clashes have been frequent around Azamgarh passions always subsided after a short time.

Now, he said, it has become a fact of life. The undertones of active tension refuse to disappear as local sentiments are continuously being fed by those at the state and national level.

In areas around Kanpur the Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid issue has also led to a polarisation along communal lines but the impact is more pronounced in urban rather than rural areas. In the last few years Kanpur has seen a spurt in communal activities and has become an important centre for the Ram Janambhoomi Mahasabha, the Bajrang Dal as well as the Babri Masjid action committee and the Daitya Muslim Mahasangh.

"When political parties have no other platform, they use communalism," says Raghubir Singh, ex-MLA and resident of Shivalikh, a village in Kanpur. He adds 38 km from the city.

The difference in perception between religious leaders and common people whether the issue has led to communal polarisation is sharpest in the districts around Ayodhya – Sultanganj, Gonda and Faizabad. According to religious leaders, communal polarisation has occurred. But according to the average man or woman, it has not.

"Olving subscriptions to the temple and contributing bricks does not mean that we have been swayed by the idea," said Sharda Baig Singh, pradhan of Bhunadapur village in Gonda district.

"The communal harmony of the village is intact and will remain intact." His views are reiterated by Shamoona Ahmed, pradhan of Chirra village as well as the pradhan of Bhunadapur village.

Shakuntala Verma, wife of the Hindu literature, Bhagwati Charan Verma, who lives in Gonda, said that there is no communal polarisation in Gonda, despite the fact that members of both communities would like the shrine to be declared as their place of worship.

Her opinion is echoed by Firoz Khan and Ajay Srivastava, members of the Gonda municipality, as well as by a social worker and schoolteacher.

"We have been told that there is intentional polarisation over the issue, but it does not have a violent and destructive posture.

These views were, however, contradicted by religious leaders of both communities. Mohammad Yunus Siddique, chairman of the Faizabad unit of the Babri action committee believed that the controversy had become a national issue.

"The issue has increased communal polarisation," said Mr Bhattarcharya of Sultanganj and divisional organiser of the Hindu Jagra Manch.

In Ballia district, the perceptions of those actively involved in the dispute are even more extreme. The shrine issue will be the only deciding electoral issue in central, eastern and south eastern districts of U.P. declared Sadirb Kumar, an RSS activist.

Will be forthcoming elections are communal issues playing a larger role than they have in earlier elections? And will they be a response to national, regional or local factors?

Again, as in the case of awareness of the Babri, people of all religions cohabit in rural and urban areas also varied widely, with villagers in most states not viewing communalism as an electoral factor.
IN GUJARAT

In the Baroda, Bhavnagar and Aravali districts of UP, as well as in Bahrnath and Barabanki districts, communal issues are expected to play a greater role in the forthcoming elections. But in the town of Pansad, Godda and Surat, opinion is divided, with leaders of religious groups and communal parties insisting they would, while other respondents disagreed. The surrounding villages, however, rural inhabitants didn’t believe communal issues will play a significant part.

Similarly, in the villages of Nalanda district, Bihar, apprehension of communal sentiment being provoked at election time was much less than in the urban areas. This was partly explained by the activities of the Indian People’s Front in the areas surveyed.

In Gujarat, as the Ahmedabad municipal elections provided communal issues, especially the Ram Janamboomi-Babri Masjid dispute, will definitely be drummed up, not only in urban centres like Baroda, Rajkot and Surat, but also in rural areas.

The Ram Janamboomi-Babri Masjid controversy was used by the BJP as an electoral issue in the Ahmedabad city municipal elections and in the recent by-election in the Hindus-dominated Navsari civil ward.

The BJP won with a large margin, on the basis of its high-pitched campaign. Cassettes containing inflammatory speeches of a local preacher, Moti Bapu, were distributed, and the campaign was focused on preserving the Ram Janamboomi temple at all costs and saving the Hindu from “further humiliation”.

The BJP emerged as the single largest party in the civil elections and also got a two-thirds majority.

IN MAHARASHTRA

The VHP claims calls to preserve Hindus as at any cost “as Vadabhai Bhansal in Patel, a member of the Gandhinagar district panchayat and Badrai Lalbhai Patel, sarpanch of Santhal village, pointed out, has touched a chord.

Religion will be an important election factor in Maharastra also since Hindu organisations have openly come out on the subject, say leaders of political parties and religious activists. Kala Wadke, Shiv Sena’s Pune president said that the crux of their election slogan will be to unite Hindus to end the “discrimination” against them.

Abeer Poonawalla, a Babri reformist in Pune, said that with Hindus feeling that minorities were being given preferential treatment, the elections will focus on a communal colour. However, Babri reformists, well known Babri reformists, say time will come to the fore during elections in a naked manner.

Sarab Audhull Bhure, from Mahapuri village, Thane district, Maharashtra, said that the open and intense communal stance of the Shiv Sena, Agri Sena League was a new trend. "Those who never talked about religion are now doing so after the dispute over the shariat,” said AAliya Ranaqakar of the CPM.

In both urban and rural areas of Madhya Pradesh, however, people stated that there has been no spurt in communal violence since the last election. Nor do they expect the forthcoming one to witness an increase.

Similarly, in Tamil Nadu neither the Babri Masjid issue nor the communal situation in the rest of the country has made any deep impact on the state’s Muslims who constitute over five percent of the population. Ejaz Ahmad Adam, president of the Jamaat-e-Islami Hind attributes this to the fact that state’s Muslims have wide business interests (hardware, retail cloth and leather) giving them a higher economic status higher than in other states. In addition he said, “The Muslims share a moderate outlook with other sections of the people of Tamil Nadu. I would go so far as to say that the RSS here is moderate,” he commented.

Agreeing with him, the president of the Tamil Nadu Brahmins Association, S. Balasubramaniam, points out that because of their relative absence, the Muslims have an equal interest in maintaining communal amity. Since community leaders in the state were generally from the business class, he said, they can’t take issue nearer the electorate.

West Bengal, Assam and Goa are also states where communal issues are not expected to play a large role in the elections. In each area, local rather than national issues are more significant electoral factors.

While political parties in West Bengal usually put up Hindu or Muslim candidates according to the demographic features of a particular constituency”, said Nisar Sohan Bose, vice-chancellor of Visva Bharati University, “the communal factor plays a less important role here.”

Arun Mukherjee, principal of Shrimketan, pointed out that the communal factor in West Bengal is subdued because of the political consciousness of the people. Even A.K.M. Hasan, the only Indian Union Muslim League member of the state legislative assembly, reiterated that the Ram Janamboomi-Babri Masjid controversy had not increased communal polarisation in the state and communal issues would not be a factor in the parliamentary elections in West Bengal.

FOREIGNERS’ ISSUE

In Assam, the primary issue remains the foreign national one and if communal issues come to the fore in the elections they will be a response to purely local, not national, factors. While the Babri Masjid-Ram Janmabhoomi dispute has no relevance to Assam, communal tension in the state surfaces only in respect of immigrant Muslims on issues like revision of electoral rolls. There is total harmony between the non-immigrant Assamese Muslims and Assamese Hindus.

As in the election before the Assam accord was signed, the forthcoming election may acquire a communal overtone in Assam due to the possible non-inclusion of the names of lakhs of immigrant Muslims in the revised electoral rolls.

In Goa, the major issue is the influx of non-Goans and the growing regionalism is not directed towards a conflict between the Hindus and Christians but is manifested in hostility towards outsiders. Surat Martins, a member of a group called "protection" formed to safeguard Goa’s unity, said none of the national communal parties had a base in Goa.

But the vacuum was filled by the Maharashtra-based Gomantsakhi Party, the Shiv Sena—which has made a recent emergence on the political canvas of the state—and the Marathi Rajya Bhasha Prashasthan Samiti (MRPS).
KASHMIR FACTORS

In Kashmir, a combination of regional, national and international factors will result in communal issues playing a large role in the forthcoming elections, said Dr Sultan Bhat of the University of Kashmir. He identified the formation and heightened activities of the Jamaat-e-Islami-led Muslim United Front from 1987 and the Shiv Sena as regional forces. The Panthers' Party led by Bhim Singh in Jammu and Mirwa Moulvi Farooq's Awami action committee are also viewed as regional communal parties.

Nearing a handful of political parties — including the communist parties, particularly the CPI, in Punjab, the left front in West Bengal and the Indian people's movement in parts of Bihar — all of them play the communal card: this was the unanimous opinion in the states surveyed. While political parties like the Shiv Sena, BJP, Muslim League and Akali Dal are viewed as blatantly communal, there is widespread cynicism that no political party today dares from playing communal politics.

"Communal elements pervade all political parties," maintained Ram Kumar Bharvaha, an advocate from Kanpur. "Everyone talks of secularism but gives different election speeches at different places depending on the electorate."

The border districts of Punjab, like Amritsar and Gurdaspur, which have witnessed serious and irrevocable demographic changes, are a case apart. According to Jugnu Ramaswamy, TV producer who did a film on Punjab last year, from January to June 1988, 7,060 families, i.e. approximately 35,000 people moved from villages to towns. These were official figures according to informal district administration sources, Jugnu said. Ninety per cent of the Hindu population in the border areas had left for towns.

In addition, these areas have witnessed the phenomenon of "swapping," with Sikh families who had lived in U.P. for over 25 years moving to Punjab and Hindu families moving to places including Ludhia and Pathanpur. "These major demographic changes are irrevocably changing the complexion of relationships between the two communities," says Ramaswamy. For the Hindus, who once lived in Gurdaspur district, the Shiv Sena slogan "saro se kaho ham Hindu hai" (say with pride, we are Hindu) is an empty one.
Buta warns Babri agitators

The Times of India News Service

NEW DELHI, August 7.

The government will not allow anybody to play with law and order situation in the context of the Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute, the home minister, Mr Buta Singh told the Parliament today. He also reiterated that efforts would continue to evolve a negotiated, mutually acceptable solution.

He said so in response to the concern expressed by members in both the Houses over the reported threat of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) to go ahead with the construction of a temple at the disputed site irrespective of the verdict of the high court which was going into the case.

While the issue came up in the Rajya Sabha for a detailed discussion, spanning over two days, it was raised in the Lok Sabha during the Zero Hour by Mr. Saifuddin Soz (National Congress), Syed Shahabuddin (Janata) and Mr. G. M. Banatwalla (Muslim League).

Mr Soz, as also several members in the Upper House, accused the VHP of spreading anarchy by declaring that it would not accept the court's verdict. He also recalled a recent statement of the BJP president, Mr L. K. Advani, in which he was reported to have said that Muslims should offer Babri Masjid to the Hindu through a negotiated settlement. Mr Banatwalla said that transporting of bricks from different parts of the country was creating a volatile situation and should, therefore, be banned.

COMMITTED TO CONSTITUTION

Mr Advani, one of the main speakers from the opposition benches in the Rajya Sabha, stated his party's stand and asserted that the BJP was committed to the Constitution which was wedded to secularism, equality to all religions and freedom of worship. The BJP was in agreement with other parties that nothing should be done that would disrupt communal harmony in the country.

Criticising the government, Mr Advani said it had committed the "greatest blunder" and had done disservice to secularism by amending the Criminal Procedure Code in 1986 after the Supreme Court judgement in the Shaharan case. This had created a communal lobby which started thinking that the Faizabad court verdict in the Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute could also be altered.

He said the government should have adopted the same attitude towards this issue as was adopted by Mr Jawaharlal Nehru and Sardar Patel towards the famous Somnath Temple in Gujarat immediately after the country attained independence. Quoting from official records, he said Sardar Patel, the then home minister, had announced while visiting the temple site that it would be re-built by the government. It was not the question of Hindus or Muslims but of the "Vandalism of history" which needed to be corrected irrespective of whether it belonged to the Somnath Temple or the Ram Janambhoomi, he said.

CONGRESS BLAMED

Of the large number of speakers on this subject today, the opinions were sharply divided on party lines. However, the opposition members were united in asserting that it was the Congress which was to be blamed for the raise of fundamentalism in the country. The ruling party members made a counter-allegation, charging the opposition with exploiting communal sentiments for narrow political gains.
The caste system in India was legislatively outlawed in one of India's first actions as a democratic nation. As in our own experiences, the legislating of morality is difficult, at best, and does not really remove the centuries of past practice.

Apartheid of South Africa, America's racial segregation of the 19th and 20th centuries, and India's caste system are at times lumped together. There are similarities in that each is a manifestation of discrimination by one human to another human. The caste system, like South Africa's apartheid, covers/covered every aspect of a person's life. South Africa's system, however, was designed to politically, socially, and economically keep the Black majority powerless. Every person was born into a caste and his/her complete life was regulated by his/her membership in that caste. India's caste system evolved over centuries but was clearly attached to the dominant religion - Hinduism. Perhaps all of this is too wordy and even a bit confusing.

Suffice it to say, it was the basic framework of Indian society, and provided people with a sense of total security. Countless norms, applied to every aspect of life for every caste member, therefore your life was clearly defined. With your reincarnation determined by your observance of the rules, organized religion made its impact felt.

1) A comparison of the European feudal system with the relationship of lords to serfs could be compared to the relationships between various castes in India.

2) As expressed above, a comparison of apartheid, 19th century U.S.A. especially in the south or the 20th century urban north, to the Indian caste system in the form of a chart along political, social, economic lines could be undertaken.

3) For the more sophisticated student our affirmative action programs could be compared to India's scheduled castes receiving "X" number of seats, jobs, positions, etc.

4) Role playing - assign kids to particular castes and tell them several of the rules of/for social interaction. Let the kids feel the slings and arrows of institutionalized prejudice.
Caste is their only crime

Who says untouchability is a thing of the past? In many parts of the country it still exists, though lawfully banned, due to the need for "scavengers" to service the hundreds of dry latrines used by the population. Institutionally as well as traditionally, untouchables have always been hired to do the job, therefore no amount of government policies to uplift this section of society has helped eradicate this deeply ingrained caste bias.

Bindeshwar Pathak assesses the current status of Harijans.
UNTIL a few years ago, the very words 'untouchable' were considered an insult. But with the advent of modern times, this term has been replaced by more respectful ones like 'scheduled caste' or 'scheduled tribe.'

Despite sustained efforts of the Union and state governments, the number of untouchables has hardly dwindled. The only change that has taken place over the years is that earlier they were openly denigrated; now under the threat of law, they are treated with reserve bordering on contempt!

It is estimated that there are over 5.5 lakh untouchables who continue to carry nightsoil as headloads as a means of earning their livelihood. Out of 3,245 urban settlements in India, only 217 have sewerage facilities available to just about one-fifth of the population in these centres. Wherever there is no sewerage, there are dry latrines serviced by what are called untouchables.

It is a little comfort to know that the problem is not unique to India. There are as many as 25 other backward countries, where people depend on dry latrines. But while the total number of people using dry privies in India is about five crore, there are only 37 crore people in the rest of the world who have to depend on the services of these 'scavengers'

About two lakh untouchables are engaged in clearing nightsoil from as many as 60 lakh bucket privies in the whole country of which five lakh alone are in Delhi. Notwithstanding claims to the contrary, those engaged in this profession continue to be victims of untouchability in one form or the other.

While the Backward Classes Commission wrote about them in 1956 it is true even today. The commission had stated: "The condition of bhangi is extremely miserable and the betterment of this unfortunate section is one of the crying needs. When compared with the average income of the common people, the earnings of the bhangi attached to local bodies and municipalities may not perhaps be very low. Yet the condition of these people is miserable. Drinking and gambling provisions for securing just and human conditions of work and Article 46 stipulates that states must promote the interests of the weaker sections, particularly scheduled castes and tribes and protect them from social injustice.

In no other country, is scavenging amalgamated with the evil structure of caste and untouchability as is the case in India. The communities engaged in scavenging are at the lowest bottom of the social hierarchy. Caught in the quagmire of miserable living and working conditions, they live in separate localities segregated from the main settlements.

In towns and cities untouchables live in slums, devoid of the basic amenities. Notwithstanding the socialist rhetoric of our politicians, scavengers do not have access to the state-sponsored welfare schemes, either due to official apathy or their locational isolation.

Looking at the magnitude of the problem, very little has been done to solve it so far. Under the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955, untouchability is a crime and nobody can be denied service, on the ground of their profession in a shop, hospital, or any public place or the use of village well or even entry to a temple.

Sometime ago, Swami Agnivesh and subsequently several other organisations engaged in Harijan welfare led a group of them into the famous Nathdwara temple. That there was no organised resistance on the part of castes Hindus or temple priests to such a publicised show only serves to delude the people about the actual plight of untouchables.

History reveals that household privies were not part of Indian culture and tradition in the past. In the Shashthastha of Kautilya (320 BC) of the Maurya period, defecation in public places or
With the advent of the Muslim era bucket privies were introduced in many houses, mainly for the convenience of women in purdah. Consequently, the lowest castes or POWs were assigned the meanest task of scavenging. With subsequent urbanisation, the system increased rapidly and has brought in the present chaotic situation.

Although the eradication of scavenging and rehabilitation of scavengers have now been included in the revised 20-point programme, the approach of the authorities to the problem remains muddled. For instance, if the government really wants to end the evil, why should municipal bodies throughout the country keep scavengers on their payroll? Instead they should embark on rigorous programme for conversion of dry privies into sanitary toilets.

The availability of scavengers who do not charge much for their services mainly because of the salaries they receive from local bodies acts as a disincentive for the people to go in for conversion of dry privies into other forms of toilets involving leaching pits or septic tanks.

It is estimated that now about Rs 15 to Rs 16 crores are being spent by the Central and state governments on the welfare of scavengers and for financing dry toilet conversion programmes. This sum, however, is insufficient if scavenging is to be eradicated by the end of this century because with the present rate of conversions, it will take more than half a century to eliminate scavenging.

In the sixth and seventh five-year plans there was a provision for Rs 4,690 crore for urban water supply and sewerage, of which nearly Rs 938 crore were for sewerage. A major portion of this could have been diverted to the conversion programme by not taking up any towns for sewerage but concentrating only on rehabilitation of existing sewerage where it is absolutely needed.

Attempts have been made in the past to improve the working conditions of scavengers. They were provided with gloves, gum boots, collection implements, covered buckets and wheel barrows. During the Gandhi centenary year in 1969, the emphasis was on the emancipation of scavengers. The government offered 25 per cent subsidy and 75 per cent loan for conversion of dry latrines into a water flush toilet and its connection to public sewer.

Another attempt was made to end the system by promoting a special campaign for conversion of dry privies into water flush units. The state governments were specifically asked not to allow construction of new buildings without water flush toilets. In the unsewered area, it was suggested, septic tanks or leach pits should be provided for converting dry latrines into water flush units.

In the fifth five-year plan in 1975 state governments were asked to provide community collection tanks and carriage of their contents in mobile vacuum tankers to oxidation ponds for leaching. Some 30 towns were selected in the country and provided 100 per cent grant for this provision. But this scheme was also not successful in ending the evil.

WHEREVER voluntary social organisations stepped in, the government's efforts started showing some results. For instance, the pioneering work done by the Harijan Sevak Sangh in Gujarat succeeded in large-scale conversions of bucket privies into flush systems. Similarly useful service was rendered by the Gandhi Smarak Nidhi in Maharashtra, Bihar provided another instance of a major dynamic nature. The Bihar Gandhi centenary committee gave top priority to the Bhangi Muki Programme and also identified latrine conversion as the quickest and most effective way of achieving the objective.

With the emergence of Sulabh Shashakalya Sansthan (Sulabh International) as a dynamic voluntary body with a nucleus of dedicated workers, the programme made much headway from 1973. There are nearly 60 lakh bucket privies in the country. The average cost of conversion is about Rs 1,700 per unit. Considering the escalation of prices, the average cost of conversions should be much higher.
may be assumed at Rs 2,000. Thus the total cost of conversion would be about Rs 1,200 crore.

Experience shows that the cost of rehabilitating scavengers would be about 33 per cent of this amount. Thus a total sum of Rs 1,600 crore will be needed for the programme to eradicate scavenging in the country.

Under the Centrally-sponsored schemes for scavengers is Rs 39 crores. In addition, many states are also financing toilet conversion programmes from their own funds.

However, it is unfortunate that attempts to eradicate scavenging is heavily subsidized by the municipality by paying scavengers a monthly salary (they are also paid by the individual household, although illegally) the local body itself is making scavenging financially more attractive. The fact that their salary per month is met from the general revenue of the local body contributed by the same house-owners as property tax and other levies is seldom realized.

Attempts have been made in the past to improve the working conditions of scavengers. They were provided with gloves, gum boots, collection implements, covered buckets and wheel barrows. During the Gandhi centenary year in 1969, the government offered 25 per cent subsidy and 75 per cent loan for conversion of dry latrines into water flush toilets.

As schemes for liberation of scavengers, the ministry of welfare, OOI, has released nearly Rs 32.5 crore as grant-in-aid from 1980-81 to March 1988 for converting bucket privies to pour flush water-seal units to 17 states.

In the central schemes for scavengers initiated in the seventh plan under the Centrally-sponsored schemes for scavengers in Rs 39 crores. In addition, many states are also financing toilet conversion programmes from their own funds.

However, it is unfortunate that attempts to eradicate scavenging is heavily subsidized by the municipality by paying scavengers a monthly salary (they are also paid by the individual household, although illegally) the local body itself is making scavenging financially more attractive. The fact that their salary per month is met from the general revenue of the local body contributed by the same house-owners as property tax and other levies is seldom realized.

Attempts have been made in the past to improve the working conditions of scavengers. They were provided with gloves, gum boots, collection implements, covered buckets and wheel barrows. During the Gandhi centenary year in 1969, the government offered 25 per cent subsidy and 75 per cent loan for conversion of dry latrines into water flush toilets.

Attempts have been made in the past to improve the working conditions of scavengers. They were provided with gloves, gum boots, collection implements, covered buckets and wheel barrows. During the Gandhi centenary year in 1969, the government offered 25 per cent subsidy and 75 per cent loan for conversion of dry latrines into water flush toilets.

Attempts have been made in the past to improve the working conditions of scavengers. They were provided with gloves, gum boots, collection implements, covered buckets and wheel barrows. During the Gandhi centenary year in 1969, the government offered 25 per cent subsidy and 75 per cent loan for conversion of dry latrines into water flush toilets.

Attempts have been made in the past to improve the working conditions of scavengers. They were provided with gloves, gum boots, collection implements, covered buckets and wheel barrows. During the Gandhi centenary year in 1969, the government offered 25 per cent subsidy and 75 per cent loan for conversion of dry latrines into water flush toilets.

Attempts have been made in the past to improve the working conditions of scavengers. They were provided with gloves, gum boots, collection implements, covered buckets and wheel barrows. During the Gandhi centenary year in 1969, the government offered 25 per cent subsidy and 75 per cent loan for conversion of dry latrines into water flush toilets.

Attempts have been made in the past to improve the working conditions of scavengers. They were provided with gloves, gum boots, collection implements, covered buckets and wheel barrows. During the Gandhi centenary year in 1969, the government offered 25 per cent subsidy and 75 per cent loan for conversion of dry latrines into water flush toilets.

Attempts have been made in the past to improve the working conditions of scavengers. They were provided with gloves, gum boots, collection implements, covered buckets and wheel barrows. During the Gandhi centenary year in 1969, the government offered 25 per cent subsidy and 75 per cent loan for conversion of dry latrines into water flush toilets.

Attempts have been made in the past to improve the working conditions of scavengers. They were provided with gloves, gum boots, collection implements, covered buckets and wheel barrows. During the Gandhi centenary year in 1969, the government offered 25 per cent subsidy and 75 per cent loan for conversion of dry latrines into water flush toilets.
9 hurt in caste clash

Express News Service

Tiruchir, July 24: Nine persons were injured in clashes between caste Hindus and Harijans at Olappadi village, near Kunnam in Perambalur taluk, about 55 km from here, on Sunday afternoon. Three houses in the Harijan colony were also damaged.

Forty-two persons — 22 Harijans and 20 caste Hindus — were arrested in this connection. Police pickets have been posted at the village.

It is learnt that the two groups had differences over laying a pathway to the Harijan burial ground. The Hindus alleged that the Harijans had taken more land than that earmarked by revenue officials for the pathway.

On Sunday, some caste Hindus had allegedly teased two Harijan girls passing through their streets. This sparked the clash and two groups of about 100 each pelted stones at each other.

Seven Harijans and two caste Hindus were hurt in the melee. Tiruchi SP K Thukkayandi and the Ariyalur RDO visited the spot.

Efforts to convene a peace committee meeting are now on.
Tackle the basic causes

The naxalite problem in Andhra Pradesh shows no sign of abating in spite of Mr. Rama Rao's announcement of an amnesty and the consequential surrender of some of the activists. The latest incident is the kidnapping and subsequent release of Mr. Raja Reddy, Mandal Praja Parishad president in Warangal district. The naxalites who had kidnapped him demanded a judicial inquiry into the disappearance of two of their members who, according to them, had been arrested last December and are feared to have been subsequently done to death by the police. Mr. Reddy's release followed the government announcement of a judicial inquiry. There had been similar kidnappings earlier. One of the kidnapped persons, Mr. Malhar Rao, was killed by his captors when the demand was not conceded.

The kidnappings highlight a problem that has been plaguing Andhra Pradesh for quite some time. This is the disappearance of activists, generally naxalites, taken into or believed to be in police custody. A variant of this is the death of such activists in 'encounters' with the police. In the present case, the government consistently denied that the two activists had ever been in police custody and turned down all demands for a judicial inquiry. Four kidnappings and one killing later, it has relented. This is neither good tactics nor good governance. If the government thought there was anything suspicious about the circumstances of the disappearance of the two activists, an inquiry should have been ordered much earlier. To concede such a demand under duress does not speak well of the government's functioning. The fundamental causes that give rise to the naxalite movement have to be tackled. The amnesty is a step in the right direction but the state government must go much farther.
11122 vacancies for SCs in Delhi Admin

Express News Service

NEW DELHI, Aug 1
The Delhi Administration has a backlog of 11,122 posts reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes which have remained vacant for several years now, the Chief Executive Councillor, Mr Jag Praveen Chandra said.

Mr Chandra was making a statement on a calling attention motion in the Metropolitan Council House on Tuesday. The motion was brought together by Mr Bambu Ram Solanki, Mr Bhanu Lal Shastri, Mr Gurbax Singh, Mr R.K. Chandria and Mr P C Kaulik on the situation arising in the Administration due to backlog in the representation of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates in the Administration services.

Giving a breakup, Mr Chandra said that the total strength of employees in the Delhi Administration, excluding the police services, was 85,000 while there was a backlog of 1,369 Scheduled Caste and 2,018 Scheduled Tribe posts vacant in the Administration.

In the local bodies similarly the total employees strength was over 1,20 lakh and a total backlog of 6,879 Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe posts to be filled.

The employees’ strength in autonomous bodies was 3,173, excluding daily wage earners, and a backlog of 832 Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe vacancies required to be filled up.

The Chief Executive Councillor said that the 1969 Roster Plan suggested by the Central Government had not been strictly adhered to.

Mr Chandra said that since the 1969 roster system had not been strictly adhered to and this had resulted in accumulation of a huge backlog, the Central Government had sent a countrywide directive and a drive was on to fill up these vacancies as well as to systematise the roster and not allow any more backlogs.

He also said that the Administration was considering simplifying rules to appoint teachers in the reserved quota.

The House ran smoothly and adjourned early what with the Opposition benches vacant but for a short while immediately after the question hour.

The lone BJP member, Mr Karan Singh Tanwar, who could not be suspended on Monday, walked into the House much to the consternation and embarrassment of almost all the Treasury members, including the Chairman himself.

Mr Tanwar walked into the House and asked the Chairman why his colleagues had been turned out of the House. Mr Tanwar and the ruling party members lost no time and at the hint from the Chairman, Mr Nand Lal Chaudhary moved a resolution seeking Mr Tanwar’s suspension. Immediately the Chairman put it vote and signalled the marshals who lifted Mr Tanwar and took him out of the House.

While leaving the House Mr Tanwar raised slogan “Raja Gandhi chor hai”. Interestingly Mr Tanwar had given little cause to the Chairman on Tuesday in comparison to what had been happening in the House in the previous days.
PROBLEMS APLENTY
I face traffic jams daily; I "bitch" about increasing local taxes. I understand, to a degree, the environmental issues, and I attempt to do my bit by trying to save the pandas, giving money to Greenpeace, Nature Conservancy, etc., and placing my papers in appropriate receptacles to be collected by the town. The plight of the homeless in the cities concerns me; crime statistics frighten this burgled homeowner; the crumbling infrastructure of our urban areas are bumped, jostled into my head as I cross the 59th Street Bridge.

When seeing and reading about the problems facing the Subcontinent's nations, it placed in quick perspective the horn blaring on the Long Island Expressway and my $700 increase in taxes. India has all the problems we have plus some. Of course, elephants rampaging through farmland receives a universal chuckle. However, third world nations have problems uniquely theirs and we should come to grips and try to understand their plight: child bondage, slavery, sterilization deaths, diarrhea deaths, overflowing sewers, infant deaths in hospital cribs, police brutality, drug abuse, teacher strikes, bus fatalities.

1) Have the students make a list of the problems facing our society, and using these newspaper clippings identify the ones facing India.

2) Have each student select a problem facing India, and present it to the class with possible solutions.

3) Collect articles from the local papers about problems facing our society, and see if India is facing any similar ones.
844 sterilisation deaths

NEW DELHI, August 1.

Nearly 844 people have died as a result of sterilisation during the last three years, the minister of state for health, Sair Rafique Alam said in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha, report agencies.

He said 547 people died in 1986-87 and 297 in 1987-88. A sum of Rs. 10,000 was paid to legal heirs of the deceased. The government was considering requests received from the states to increase the amount of ex-gratia.
Dismal failure?

Washington, July 20 (PTI): The Indian family planning programme, which gobbled up a whopping 24 billion rupees till the end of the Sixth Plan, had been "a dismal failure," says Pradeep S. Mehta, general secretary of the Consumer Unity and Trust Society (CUTS).

In a paper presented to the general assembly of the World Future Society, he said 38 years after launching the programme, India's population was still increasing at 17 million a year.

The main reason for the failure was that vasectomy operations were unpopular, as men feared loss of strength and libido. Therefore, women were forced to undergo tubectomy.

A study conducted in Rajasthan showed that the women who underwent the operation, "besides being treated like cattle," were not even paid the promised sum.

In March 1989, the Rajasthan Government admitted there had been 94 female deaths in family planning operations during the last three years.

A fifth of the 132 camps surveyed by the Indian Council of Medical Research, did not have life-saving drugs and screening for detection of anaemia, hypertension and diabetes. In one-third of these, the equipment used for surgery were either not sterilised or improperly sterilised.
12 killed in mishap

DHAKA, (PTI): At least 12 people were killed and eight injured in a bus accident on Dhaka-Chittagong highway in Brahmanbaria district today, official sources said. Another report said eight people were killed 50 m after a road bridge on a canal collapsed in northern district of Jamalpur on Thursday last.

7 killed in accident

RILASPUR, (MP) (UNI): Seven people, including two women and a child, were killed and 20 injured when a mini-truck carrying passengers dashed against a tree at Sakhi village near here yesterday, police today said.
For many of the children, school is something only for the offspring of the privileged. Parents are unlikely to have the time or money to spend on education. Many children are bonded laborers by the age of 10 or 12 years. And the majority work as agricultural laborers in a country that is still 80 percent rural.

It is one of the striking contrasts of contemporary Indian society that for every child of the newly emerging middle class there are four who remain at or below the official poverty line.

Soraju, 13, and his older brother provide the only support for their family in a densely packed neighborhood on the northern edge of New Delhi, about an hour from the wide boulevards around Parliament and major federal buildings.

Soraju has been working as a ragpicker for six or seven years. He used to earn about 5 rupees a day, but now he gets 15 rupees.

"I give it all to my mother," he said. "My older brother makes trouble sometimes, though, and doesn't give the money."

Many of the 700 families in Jahanpur make their living by ragpicking, one of the few jobs open to the group of poor Bengali Muslims who came to New Delhi in the early 1970s. They initially settled in makeshift slums east of the city, but the New Delhi administration moved them to the newly built Jehangirpuri, where they could buy two-room brick huts for about 200 rupees a month, paid out over 10 or 12 years.

Every morning, sometimes as early as 3 A.M., the children of Jahanpur spread out across the city. For 10 or 15 rupees a day, they undergo constant harassment from the police and suspicion from residents of more affluent communities.

Salim, 19, said the children's biggest problem is the police. "We get beaten up all the time."

Despite the millions of working children, the government has passed only limited legislation dealing with the issue. The majority of working children are not protected at all. Others find the conditions of their work theoretically regulated, but not prohibited.

Officials have conceded that the enforcement of the legislation is difficult. An official for an international organization said the 1986 Child Labor Act had been aimed at preventing hazardous work and at alleviating work conditions in other areas.

"But how do you enforce it?" the official asked. "Parents need money, and children will go to work." Under the Child Labor Act, employment of children under the age of 14 is prohibited in certain hazardous industries, such as mining, construction and transportation. In other industries, work is limited to six hours with an hour of rest and is banned between 7 P.M. and 8 A.M.

But, at best, the act covers only about 20 percent of the child workers in India, and it has spawned a debate in which critics charge that by regulating work conditions for some children, the government is sanctioning child labor.

A key policymaker in the Ministry of Labor, Meena Gupta, said the government was developing experimental programs under which inspectors would be appointed to deal only with child labor. And with special funds from international organizations, the government is also developing model schools and welfare programs in 10 cities known for their high levels of child labor. But critics have charged that the programs are slow to get off the ground and only touch a limited number of children.
Another pattern of slavery

NEW DELHI, July 6 (PTI)
Balika Takaram Danscole, Sukhrjaja, Sunita Huruchand, Bhagmanie and Sukram from India and Pakistan's Zia and Abbas have one thing in common: they are bonded child labourers deprived of innocence, joys and rights of childhood.

Life is harsh for them. They have too much to toil for long hours, sometimes stretching up to twenty, to eke out a meagre living.

Their blank faces, vacant looks, lean and emaciated frames, tell the untold story of millions of such hapless, nameless and faceless child bonded labourers of South Asia.

According to statistics, there are about 20 million child labourers in South Asia, of which 7.5 million are bonded. They are children mostly born between the ages of five and nine. They work as rag-pickers, beggars, brick-kiln workers, carpet weavers, lottery sellers, messengers in jails or child-prostitutes.

Noted human rights activist, Swaran Agnivesh, working for the liberation of child bonded labourers from South Asian countries said, these children were specifically brought here to record their testimonies in the five-day South Asia seminar on child servitude that concluded here on Tuesday.

The testimonies of child bonded labourers from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal, recorded before distinguished jurists, including former Supreme Court judge, Mr V. R. Krishna Iyer, reveal their tale of pain and misery.

Nine-year-old Sukhrjaja is quiet and sullen. She is reluctant to speak but her tell-tale eyes reveal every-thing - her sorry plight and helplessness.

With her short and unkempt hair, bleeding ear, swollen eyes and yellow teeth, Sukhrjaja presents a sad picture. Her dress - a torn shirt over an underwear and a tattered muffler hanging from the neck - is a ploy to hide her gender for fear of sexual exploitation, which occurs quite often with child labourers.

Bhagmanie, 14, is also a child bonded labourer. She has been working as a carpet weaver since early childhood. She earns less than one and half kilograms of wheat daily.

Abbas and Zia of Pakistan are representative of millions of child labourers working in brick kilns, carpet industry, agriculture, power looms, shoe industry and cottage industries like beer manufacture. They are too different from their counterparts here in India or elsewhere in the region. They also work hard and are poor and uneducated.

The plight of these children compounded with the element of bondage, restriction on freedom of movement and torture, becomes the most heinous crime against childhood and humanity.

Justice P. N. Bhagwati, former Chief Justice of India, said: Bonded labourers are non-beings, exiles of civilized society. They are born to servitude, living a life worse than that of animals... not having any choice. They are driven to poverty and hunger into a life of servitude.

The International Labour Conference 1983, classified child work in five categories namely (A) domestic work such as cleaning, cooking, washing etc, (B) non-domestic work like cleaning, cooking etc in urban sector, (C) bonded labour where child workers are kept in bondage because of their family's or individual debt, (D) wage employment where children work on daily wages in domestic, agricultural or industrial activity, and (E) marginal work it may be irregular or of short term nature such as shoe shining or rag-picking etc.

The child bonded labour system can be further classified into two parts: inherent bondage and children subjected to bondage. Due to extremely low wages or no wages except food, enormous rate of interest, illiteracy and ignorance, the poor helpless people get tied down to a vicious circle of indebtedness for generations together. As a result, millions are bonded even before they are born.

Even constitutional provisions and legislations have failed to wipe out this scourge. The practice is continuing despite the article four of the universal declaration of human rights which says: "No one shall be held in slavery or servitude in all their forms".

In India, Article 23 of the Constitution ensures that "traffic in human beings and beggars and other forms of forced labour is prohibited" and specific law "bonded labour system Abolition Act, 1976", not only bans the system completely but declares it as a cognizable offence punishable with three years imprisonment of the bonded labour keeper.

Unlike India, the Supreme Court of Pakistan had not yet laid down a precise and comprehensive definition of the bonded labour, according to Mr Ehsanullah Khan of the Bonded Labour Liberation Front of Pakistan.

Mr Khan said despite assurance by Ms Benazir Bhutto, no practical step had been taken in this direction. The Front had set September 18 as the deadline when it planned to hold a human chain demonstration throughout the country from Karachi to Islamabad and Peshawar to Quetta to highlight the issue.
Shocking result

Sir — We, the students at B.A. (Hons) History, Part-I (South Campus), were shocked at our results. For, nearly 75 per cent of the students from South Campus failed the examination and those who did pass, secured only 40-45 per cent marks. Many students who were expected to secure good marks, did not get more than 49 per cent.

The argument that in the wake of the Delhi University teachers’ strike, each examiner examined many more answer books than the normal, and therefore, could not do justice to the evaluation, is probably true.

We have also learnt that some M.Phil students of Delhi University were called in for evaluation work. This is in gross violation of the University rules.

Even if the answer books have been evaluated only by teachers, some mistake appears to have crept in at some stage. We are not challenging the competence of our teachers, but we are forced to question the standards of evaluation.

We request the Vice-chancellor of Delhi University to get the answer books re-evaluated and save the careers of the hundreds of students.
Test cancelled

VARANASI, July 31. — The pre-medical test of the Banaras Hindu University held last month was cancelled today following alleged leakage of question papers, reports UNI.

The executive council today resolved that the test be cancelled to maintain credibility and held again at an early date.

The executive council further authorized the Vice-Chancellor to constitute a high-powered committee to inquire into the affair.

Students' protest

DANBAD, July 28. — Stone-throwing student protesters attacked the Collectorate building here today, smashed window panes, broke furniture and made an abortive attempt to set fire to scooters parked inside the office premises.

The Deputy Commissioner, Mr. Ram Sevak Sharma, said four constables, six magistrates and an Additional District Magistrate were injured. One constable was admitted to hospital in a critical condition. Some journalists who were at the spot were also beaten up by the police. The students were protesting against the alleged lathicharge by the police on them last Wednesday — Correspondent.

Campaign against violence on campus

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, July 31

Various sections of students, teachers and karamcharis of Delhi University, Jawaharlal Nehru University and Jamia Millia have come together to organise a campaign against the recent trend of hooliganism and violence on the campuses.

Talking to newsmen here on Monday, their representative said the campaign would involve holding public meetings, contact programmes in colleges, and end with a "silent march" on August 3 on the main campus.

This violence, they said, recently took the form of an attack on a seminar that was being addressed by the CPI(M) leader, Mr. E. M. S. Nambiar, at the Delhi School of Economics by NSUI students.

During the campaign, leaflets will be distributed in colleges by joint student-teacher-karamchari teams.

The press conference was addressed by the president of the Democratic Teachers' Front (DTF), Mr. M. A. Sawed, ex-DUTA president from DTF, Mr M. M. P. Singh, secretary of Students' Federation of India (SFI), Mr Dayaram Yadav, the president of the JNU Students' Union (JNUSU), Mr Surajit Mazumdar, and the Delhi University Karamcharis' Front leader, Mr Gopaldutt.

In the past, they said, NSUI hooligans used to be confined to hooliganism, attempts to terrorise opponents during college and university elections, organised attempts at cheating during examinations, and manipulations in admission.

Now, the NSUI has "graduated" beyond mere hooliganism and becomes the "sword" of the ruling party, to curb democratic processes on campuses and outside. Last year, the opposition leader, Mr. V. P. Singh, had been attacked by NSUI men on the campus, and this year, Mr Nambiar was. There had been reports from Bombay that NSUI activists had gheraoed two campuses in their attempt to terrorise members of Parliament who had resigned from Parliament recently.

Students' Federation of India (SFI)
‘Seven lakh drug addicts in India’

WASHINGTON, Aug 3 (UNI) There are nearly 700,000 drug addicts in India and as many in Pakistan, according to a US official.

There is believed to have a total of 250,000 addicts in Iran and one to two million in the US, according to the US Assistant Secretary of State for International Narcotics Matters, Mr Melvyn Levitsky, said on Tuesday.

He said the United States will not produce, sell, use or traffic drugs.

Mr Levitsky said the United States was providing training and equipment to established institutions such as the local police.

In Pakistan, Mr Levitsky said, a promising pilot project was underway to help develop a special anti-narcotics task force which could be adaptable to other countries as well.

When the Prime Minister, Mr Benazir Bhutto, was here the United States agreed to assist in establishing a programme in Pakistan to identify big drug traffickers. “I think Pakistan is very serious about this,” he added.

Mr Levitsky said there has been an explosion of opium growing in areas of the world where the United States had no diplomatic contact or means of control, including areas of Afghanistan, Laos and Burma.

In Pakistan, he said, the United States was providing training and equipment to established institutions such as the local police.

Mr Levitsky also noted that the Afghanis have also developed a “tremendous problem” stemming from their military occupation of Afghanistan.

“We have to create a kind of international ethic that says the international community will not grow, produce, sell, use or traffic drugs,” he said.

He said the US policy on combating drugs should have a high priority in any relationship with allies or friends.

In cooperating countries, including Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia and Pakistan, he said, the United States was providing training and equipment to established institutions such as the local police.

In Pakistan, Mr Levitsky said, a promising pilot project was underway to help develop a special anti-narcotics task force which could be adaptable to other countries as well.

When the Prime Minister, Mr Benazir Bhutto, was here the United States agreed to assist in establishing a programme in Pakistan to identify big drug traffickers. “I think Pakistan is very serious about this,” he added.

Mr Levitsky said there has been an explosion of opium growing in areas of the world where the United States had no diplomatic contact or means of control, including areas of Afghanistan, Laos and Burma.

Diarrhoea deaths

VARANASI, Aug 3. - Fifteen people have died of diarrhoea and gastroenteritis in Varanasi district during the past two months, reports UNI.

The Chief Medical Officer, Dr. J. N. Gupta, said in a release that 634 patients of gastroenteritis and diarrhoea were admitted to the infectious diseases hospital between June 1 and July 28. Of them, 14 died of diarrhoea and one from gastroenteritis.

Dr Gupta said the district administration had taken various preventive measures, including cholera inoculation, providing clean water supply and cleaning of accumulated waste.

ILLITERACY - Women outnumber men in illiteracy in the country. India has 424.256,000 illiterates, of whom 241,611,145 are women, the Human Resource Development Minister, Mr P. Shashank, told the Lok Sabha in a written answer.

Uttar Pradesh tops the list of states in total number of illiterates (80,756,751). It is followed by Bihar with a total number of illiterates 88,760,644.
Whose responsibility?

Sewers overflowing in Yamuna Vihar

By BHAVDEEP KANG
Express News Service

NEW DELHI: Aug 1

Although the sewerage system in Yamuna Vihar, a sprawling East Delhi colony, has almost collapsed, neither the MCD nor DDA are willing to take responsibility for it.

Conditions in the colony were so bad, with overflowing sewers and blocked drains, that the MCD had refused to take over the colony at DDA’s request earlier this year, at least until the monsoon was over.

It was only at the personal intervention of the Lt-Governor, Mr Romesh Bhandari, that the MCD took over Yamuna Vihar’s sewerage system. But it specified that if the system collapsed, the corporation could not be held responsible.

Residents of Yamuna Vihar feel that they are in the same position as the resettlement colonies last year with neither of the civic authorities being held accountable for the failure of sewage facilities.

In the fortnight since the MCD took over, its staff has received ten or more complaints every day. The assigned labour force of nine is finding it hard to cope with the complaints.

According to a resident, sewers and drains had not been cleaned for months before the takeover. “Complaints to the local DDA office every day did not have any effect. On Monday, after several complaints to the MCD, the main sewer was cleaned up with the help of machines”, he said.

The drains remain just as bad, however. “The MCD staff posted here say there is another department to look after the drains, so they continue to be blocked with garbage, leaves and whatever else happens to fall in”, he added.

With a brief spell of light showers, conditions have become even more unhygienic, another resident said. With standing water in the nullahs, the garbage is starting to decompose, she added.

“The Lt-Governor visited the colony again on Monday, but he did not come to B Block where conditions are worst”, she pointed out.

The MCD, which finally consented to the takeover on July 12, had said at the same time that residents of the colony were under great hardship, but that the problems could not be solved immediately.

The Municipal Commissioners had in fact suggested action against two DDA employees on the grounds that the colony’s drainage system was not up to the mark. Of the 211 colonies taken over from DDA by the MCD earlier this year, it had objected only to the transfer of Yamuna Vihar.

According to municipal officials, DDA had not either the equipment or the trained personnel to look after the sewerage of colonies like Yamuna Vihar. The system had been badly laid and properly maintained, with the colony’s main sewer damaged in several places, they said.

The local MCD staff said the main problem, apart from the trunk sewer, which had sunk in some places, was the working of the pumps. They did not work for long enough, resulting in stagnation of sewage in the pipes.

Residents are afraid that with the sewage system paralysed in most parts of the colony, they will have to put up with pools of sullage once the rains start in earnest. “As it is we are in a low-lying area. There is no place for the water to go”, a resident said.
Unburied carcass

Express News Service

New Delhi, July 20: Mr. M. Hanumantharao, CPM member of the Rajya Sabha, is 72 years old. He rose to express some disagreement with the Congress-I deputy leader in the Upper House N. K. P. Salve, in the course of arguments over the CAG report on Thursday.

Mr. Salve raised his voice and called Mr. Hanumantharao an "unburied carcass." And he repeated himself, calling Mr. Hanumantharao an "unburied carcass".

Mr. Dipen Ghosh, CPM leader, expressed strong objections to this when the Rajya Sabha reassembled after one of the many adjournments of the day. He demanded an apology, and insisted that this should go on record. The Deputy Speaker, Mrs. Najma Heptullah, said no abuse would go on record. There was no apology.

But the Deputy Speaker was emphatic in pulling up Telugu Desam leader P. Upendra, who referred to Mr. Salve as a "bufoon." Mr. Upendra defended himself. "It is not unparliamentary to call a member a CIAs agent, but it is unparliamentary to call someone a bufoon," he said.

Mr. Dipen Ghosh asked: "Is it unparliamentary to call a bufoon a bufoon."
Crimes by Orissa cops on the rise

Express News Service
BHUBANESHWAR, Aug 2

Notwithstanding the claim of the Chief Minister: Mr. J. B. Patnaik that the crime rate in the state had registered a decline, the number of crimes in which the police themselves have been involved has shown a sharp rise. While the State Home Department pleads to having no separate figures, a cursory glance at the news reports over the last nine years tell a macabre story.

Under Mr. Patnaik's regime, policemen have displayed a strange insensitivity as far as their involvement in crime goes. It ranges from murder in police custody to petty theft cases and rendering assistance to drug peddlers.

The most disquieting development has been the attitude of the police to rape. None other than the Director-General of Police in a statement to a Bombay weekly, declared that "rape is no manifestation of crime".

By the Chief Minister's own admission, four rape cases were registered against policemen between March 1985 and January 1987. The most sensational rape case by a policeman occurred in December 1988. A thana officer was charged with raping a minor girl inside a Bhubaneswar police station. It was largely due to the personal initiative of the Bhubaneswar SP, Mr. S. N. Swain, who acted on the basis of a petition, that the truth was brought to light. In an unprecedented move, the Orissa High Court cancelled the bail order of a lower court taking the case suo moto.

While sexual abuse still remains a favourite pastime of the Orissa police, murder in police custody too is not uncommon. In 1987, Subal Pradhan (35) of Dimbarguda village in Udala block of Mayurbhanj district was allegedly beaten to death by a sub-inspector and two constables in custody. When the enraged villagers mobbed the police station, an inquiry commission was setup which indicted the three policemen. In another case, a scavenger Kasia Nayak was repeatedly beaten brutally in the custody of the Purighat police station of Cuttack. Kasia died on the way to hospital. Two police officers were sentenced to eight years rigorous imprisonment by the court.

Although there is no organised crime in Orissa, the policemen have taken it upon themselves to fill the gap. Allegations of protection racket, extortion from petty traders and villagers are galore. In a sleepy little hamlet of Serango in Ganjam district, the policemen of the local police station had cultivated the habit of extorting money at regular intervals from a tribal family. When the poor family began to protest, they were subjected to constant torture and humiliation.

While the lower ranking policemen seem to specialise in petty crimes, a police officer of the state IPS cadre was recently charged with demanding and accepting dowry from his in-laws. His wife was being harassed by him for not having brought sufficient dowry. The officer was placed under suspension.

As recently as in July last, policemen belonging to a Thana of Puri town manhandled the family of a ruling party MLA. The policemen, it was found, were drunk. According to the FIR filed by Padma Lochan Panda, the Congress-I MLA, the policemen also robbed his family of gold ornaments and cash.

Policemen are also not above petty stealings. Recently, a case came to light where two policemen in Bhubaneswar were caught red-handed by the public while stealing fish from a loaded truck. The public administered their own justice before handing them over to their fellow policemen.
Amazing findings on leprosy

NEW DELHI, July 16 (PTI): Indian scientists who analysed leprosy incidence data from four continents have come up with amazing findings that link the prevalence of leprosy with underground fossil fuel deposits.

The new studies by two microbiologists at the University College of Medicine and Jadavpur University, Calcutta also suggest that soil is the major pathway for the transmission of leprosy.

The scientists who presented their findings in the latest issue of the ‘Indian Journal of Experimental Biology,’ expect their studies to throw new light on the communicability of the disease.

Leprosy affects about ten million people worldwide with several endemic areas in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East. India has about four million leprosy patients.

The analysis has shown that many of these areas where leprosy is prevalent in moderate or high endemicity levels have rich reserves of fossil fuels.

An analysis of the distribution of fossil fuels and leprosy endemic areas in India, specially along the east coast, reveals a high degree of correlation, according to the scientists, Dr. A.N. Chakrabarty and Dr. S.G. Dastidar.

Leprosy causing bacteria are known to be capable of digesting fossil fuels and the organisms thrive in underground deposits before seepages bring them to the surface soil for subsequent transmission to humans.

The soil-to-human theory for leprosy infection would also explain the presence of leprosy lesions on the feet of people who routinely work on rocky sites, the scientists said.

"This is certainly not what is believed today," Dr. J.S. Pasricha, a senior dermatologist at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences here said commenting on the new hypothesis.

Current medical theories hold that leprosy is transmitted only by human contact mainly through nasal secretions, spittings and skin conditions.

The new analysis has shown that in focal points of leprosy endemicity in the USA Canada and the USSR local cases are correlated with fossil fuel deposits.

Several hundred cases in the USA have arisen in the absence of any tangible infections from humans, but have occurred in regions with significant deposits of fossil fuels, the researchers said.

The scientists, however, said despite widespread soil-borne infections, the actual manifestation of the disease depends on other factors like the immunity of the infected person and the duration of the exposure.

According to the researchers, practices like forced segregation and clustering of leprosy patients and on sanguinity among them help maintain genetic susceptibility to the disease.

In India, this has happened in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Kerala, the scientists said.

The two microbiologists believe that the new theory could also explain the genesis of leprosy in human populations. Although the disease has been around for centuries, its origin in humans has remained largely unexplained.

The researchers say that the disease emerged in humans during the early era of civilisation when extensive land cultivation led to long exposures to the soil and provided a route for soil-to-human infections.

The dramatic disappearance of leprosy from Europe around the 16th century roughly coincides with the industrial revolution followed by a drift of population from agriculture to industry.

At a global level, it is estimated that about two-thirds of leprosy cases arise without any history of contact, the scientists said.

"The weight of all this evidence is... too great and compelling... to think that there are more variables than contact alone... they said.

The analysis has shown that many of these areas where leprosy is prevalent in moderate or high endemicity levels have rich reserves of fossil fuels.
Some way to cure!

The death of 19 new-born babies at the Calcutta Medical College Hospital last week has once again exposed the shocking state of negligence, maladministration and callousness that prevails in our public hospitals. The babies' deaths were tragically unnecessary - they died not for want of sophisticated equipment nor because of congenital disease but because of criminal carelessness and apathy; they were killed by infections contracted in a filthy ward, where even the basic minimum rules of hygiene were not observed.

The scenario is a familiar one - two patients forced to share one bed; others lying on dirty sheets on floors that have not been swabbed for days; unsterilised instruments and towels, and operation theatres infected with tetanus spores. The Calcutta tragedy, in fact, is but the latest in a long catalogue of horror stories from public hospitals all over the country - children amputated "by mistake", live patients dumped in the morgue, surgical instruments left in patients' bodies, stray dogs and cats mauling infants in public wards. Added to all this is the sordid nexus between health authorities, politicians and manufacturers of spurious and substandard drugs, which was exposed by Justice Lentin after 14 patients died in 1986 at Bombay's JJ Hospital, where they were given contaminated glycerol. Of course, the VJP patients in public hospitals - politicians and bureaucrats - have never experienced the appalling conditions in the public wards. Is it any wonder, then, that if from time to time a few poor patients die as a result of official callousness and neglect the Government isn't bothered enough to undertake the kind of drastic revamping of the public health system which might prevent such tragedies from occurring again and again?

When life is cheap

The explanation offered by the Superintendent of Calcutta Medical College and Hospital for the death of 19 newborn babies only exposes the criminal callousness of our so-called health system. Not for a moment will anyone be persuaded that the deaths in the CMCH's maternity ward were "natural", as claimed. Reports of babies being eaten up by dogs, and other equally horrendous events, have so far been confined to hospitals in the districts, but it would now appear that West Bengal's city hospitals, run by the Left Front Government and supervised by a Minister who boasts of having rooted out corruption from the health services, are just as appalling. Even while officials were trying to explain away the deaths, junior doctors and nurses came up with not so startling evidence of overcrowding in the maternity ward, shortage of nursing staff and the absence of hygienic conditions.

The deaths are bound to create panic among expectant women, but not being able to afford the luxury of private nursing homes they have no choice but to accept prevailing conditions. Not only is this a disgrace for a State Government that claims to have provided free health service for mothers and children, but also again underlines the shocking deterioration of West Bengal's hospitals which were once among country's best. While senior doctors and hospital administrative staff continue to get away with negligence because of Left Front patronage and, in some cases, because of their public image, junior doctors appear to be more interested in fighting for their own privileges than for the cause of the sick and the dying. Add to this the Government's total lack of regard for human life, a fact which has been confirmed time and again. If the Food Minister found it surprising that such a fuss should be made over the Behala rapeseed oil tragedy, it is now the Health Minister's turn to sit back and let his minions claim that there is nothing wrong with the health services. A few lives sacrificed at the alter of official apathy and neglect are unlikely to galvanize the Government into action. Left Front or no left front, human life is too cheap a commodity in this country for anyone to be bothered about it.
Prasanta Sur mobbed at hospital

By a Staff Reporter

THE West Bengal Health Minister, Mr Prasanta Sur, faced an angry demonstration inside the Eden Hospital premises of Calcutta Medical College on Friday. When the Minister went to the second floor of the hospital building to inaugurate the new wing of the nursery in the afternoon, he was mobbed by a group of women supporters of the Congress(I), who shouted such slogans as "Go back infant-killer". Dr Nirmal Maji, leader of the medical cell of the Chittagong Provincial Congress(I) supporters, was arrested from the spot. Meanwhile, the college authorities claimed that there were no further infant deaths during the day.

As soon as Mr Sur arrived at the spot around 4 p.m., he was informed that a group of Mahila Congress(I) activists and Dr Nirmal Maji had gathered on the second floor. Mr Sur, accompanied by the Director, Medical Education, Dr K.K. Bhattarcharya, and the Superintendent of the Medical College, Dr R.M. Chatterjee, entered the hospital building. Immediately, Mr Sur demanded that Dr Maji, who was a foreigner, had no business to remain on the second floor, be arrested. Police took away Dr Maji but Mr Sur had to face a vocal group of Mahila Congress(I) supporters who did not let him enter the new nursery for about 10 minutes.

The Minister somehow managed to get past the angry women and inaugurated the new nursery. After inspecting the nursery, he told reporters that the additional cots would be used for patients with septic or other serious problems, which required isolation. He said that a meeting would be held at Eden Hospital later, where the doctors would decide how best this nursery could be utilized.

Mr Sur was extremely angry with the police arrangements. He said he would inform the Police Commissioner that the arrangements were a "total failure". He took the policemen present to task for not having brought in women constables.

In a memorandum submitted to the Superintendent of the hospital, the Mahila Congress(I) demanded that the authorities punish those responsible for the deaths of the babies and that the mothers who had lost their children be given adequate compensation. It was learnt that initially the Congress(I) supporters had no plan to demonstrate before the Minister and would have dispersed after submitting their memorandum to the Superintendent. But they changed their programme when the latter refused to meet them.

Later, talking to reporters at Writers' Buildings, the Minister was critical of the Lady Dufferin Hospital authorities, especially the superintendent, who does not reside in his quarter. He admitted that the attitude of the hospital authorities might have discouraged patients from taking admission there. Mr Sur directed the Director of Health Services to ensure that proper arrangements were made for pregnant women and new-born babies. The Minister said that if fully utilized, these three hospitals had the capacity to meet the rush of patients.

Meanwhile, the load of patients at Calcutta Medical College Hospital was substantially reduced, with only 28 beds occupied out of a capacity of 100. During the day, a new Professor-Director assumed office at Eden Hospital. This post had been lying vacant for some time and it was a routine appointment, a spokesman for the authorities said.

Babies still dying in hospital

By a Staff Reporter

DESpite the efforts of hospital authorities, new-born babies are still dying at the Calcutta Medical College Hospital, though the mortality rate has fallen. With the death of two more babies on Tuesday night and Wednesday morning, the toll has risen to 18. Unofficial sources, however, put the toll at 21.

Some doctors, agitated over the infant deaths and the indifference of the authorities, pointed out that even after four days the nursery was neither vacated nor furnished. The deaths would continue unless the nursery was properly disinfectected, they said.

The hospital authorities restricted admission to the maternity ward and shifted about 110 patients to the three maternity hospitals of the city as declared by the West Bengal Health Minister, Mr Prasanta Sur, on Tuesday. More than 300 new mattresses were provided to the maternity ward during the day removing the old ones. Several patients were also given mattresses on the floor. No two patients, claimed a senior hospital official, were sharing the same bed now. Attention was being paid to cleanliness of the wards. Some doctors stated that the infants, with mothers lodged on the floor, ran a higher risk of contamination and cross-infection because of being in proximity to the ground.

The exodus of mothers with their newborn babies from the hospital continued throughout Wednesday. Many of the mothers who left the hospital during the day complained that they were being asked by the doctors to leave within a few hours of delivery. No one, except those in critical condition, was being allowed by the authorities to stay long at the hospital after delivery.

Members of the Association for Protection of Democratic Rights expressed shock at the death of infants at the hospital. They demanded a judicial inquiry into the matter and punitive measures against those responsible. In a statement during the day they demanded compensation to the affected families.

Dr Nirmal Maji, Convener of the West Bengal Junior Doctors' Federation, demanded the resignation of Mr Sur. He mentioned that the Health Minister of Maharashtra had resigned in 1983 owning moral responsibility for the death of 14 babies at J.J. Hospital in Bombay.
Govt apathetic to child deaths

HT Correspondent

CALCUTTA, Aug 2

As the 26th child died due to hospital squalor in Calcutta on Tuesday, West Bengal Health Minister Prasanta Sur told a Doordarshan interviewer, "what can I do before I get the expert committee's report on the infants' deaths?"

The Minister, a front-ranking Marxist, looked supremely unconcerned over the unprecedented toll. His words did, in fact, convey the impression that he was more of a stickler for bureaucratic procedure than anything else. The interview, while proving largely sordid for the man's astounding feat of wooden-headedness, provided a lighter moment when at one breath he claimed that under his tenure the Government hospitals had become relatively better ("they are cleaner now") and at the next he riled at the hospital employees for not being attentive to their jobs.

Not surprisingly, the overwhelming impression the Minister managed to convey was his chagrin at the media for having blown a relatively minor matter, the 26 infants' deaths due to negligence, squalor, infection, and above all asphyxiation. The series of deaths forced the Premier Government hospital, Calcutta Medical College and Hospital (CMCH), to set up an air-conditioned nursery.

As the 26 infants died within a few days of their births, the deplorable conditions of the Government hospitals came once more to the fore. One cannot do better than quote the Health Service Association of the Government doctors, the very people entrusted with the running of the Government hospitals.

The Association says that the Health Department has not been able to ensure even the minimum scientific standards in the hospitals and proceeds to give the shocking news that there is no separate enclosure for sick babies in the hospitals. As a result, the infants being born in the hospitals are being constantly exposed to unsterilised clothing. Even disposable syringes are being re-used. The nurseries are under the care of untrained nurses and the apparatus are obsolete. Often two pregnant mothers share one bed.

That the allegations are true have already been established by the steps the department has initiated. A separate enclosure is being set up for sick babies, the apparatus are being changed and trained nurses are to replace the untrained ones shortly.

The doctors draw attention to the fact that the Health Minister wore his shoes while visiting the air-conditioned nursery at the CMCH on July 28 after inaugurating it. "Even if he were ignorant of this basic rule of hygiene," they say, "somebody should have told him to remove his shoes before entering the nursery. But nobody did, symbolising the apathy of the authorities towards health in general and childcare in particular."

While the 154-year-old CMCH or any other Government hospital in Calcutta never witnessed so many infant deaths in such a short time, 26 deaths in 10 days, the Government and the CPI-M, the main ruling party, continue to treat them as nothing scandalous and certainly not something one should get excited about. "Ganashakti," the CPI-M daily, has treated the matter in an "appropriate" manner and Chief Minister Jyoti Basu, who is apt to comment on subjects all and sundry, has not touched on the deaths so far.
‘TV did more harm than British’

VUJAYAWADA, July 1st (UNI): Dr. N. Bhaskara Rao, Chairman, Operation Research Group, Delhi, today stressed the need for reshaping the content, schedule and operation of Doordarshan.

It was high time the people launched a movement to ensure that a moderating force emerged to ensure this objective, Mr. Rao said at a Meet-the-Press programme.

He said ‘what the British could not do in 150 years, Doordarshan has done in 30 years’ in lowering the value system of the society.

Unless the viewers checked the all-pervading ‘disturbing trends’ in Doordarshan, the value system and quality of life would be badly affected and the first casualty will be the next generation.

Dr. Rao said television should be ‘responsive and participatory’ with more channels to encourage local talent and culture without imposing metropolitan culture on the viewers.

Mr. Rao said All India Radio was the worst victim of television after the print media. TV had affected the advertisement revenue of the print media apart from readership, particularly of the magazines.
Official status for Urdu sought

JANVADI Lekhak Sangh, an all-India organization predominantly of Hindi writers, turned a new leaf on Monday in New Delhi in the history of struggle for justice for Urdu by linking it with the struggle for democratic rights and by taking initiative in supporting the demand of making Urdu the second official language in U.P.

Speaker after speaker highlighted the immediate implementation of the promise made in the election manifesto of the ruling party giving official status to Urdu. They were addressing a special meeting convened by the JLS for pressing for implementation.

A wide range of Hindi writers from Haryana, U.P. and Delhi endorsed the view that the discontinuance of Urdu teaching was a denial of basic democratic rights of the linguistic minorities.

The declaration of second official language status for Urdu in U.P. would only mean proper arrangement for Urdu teaching at the primary and secondary schools in the entire State and provision for translation cells in Government offices and judiciary and the publication of forms and names of streets and bus stops, etc., in Urdu and the arrangements for Urdu-medium schools in areas with a sizable Urdu population.

Prof. O. P. Oswal, secretary, JLS, outlined the various steps taken by the organization in this regard. The organization passed a resolution supporting the demand for second official status for Urdu in U.P. in its Bhopal conference and called for the preservation of Urdu along with its distinctive script.

Dr. Chanchal Chauhan of Delhi University stressed the need for waging the battle of Urdu by the Hindi writers, for this will also strengthen Hindi and stabilize the democratic traditions. He also gave the information that JLS has already held Urdu conventions in Lucknow, Allahabad and Bombay and proposes to hold another convention in Patna in late August. A memorandum of Hindi writers on Urdu bearing more than 100 signatures will be presented soon to the President, the Prime Minister and the U.P. Chief Minister.

Moreover, the JLS also proposes to hold a convention of Urdu writers in Delhi in October.

Dr. Javvaidal Parekh of Indira Gandhi University traced the development of Hindi and Urdu relationship and stressed that all Hindi regions are also Urdu regions. Both are like twins which were identical in infancy but developed according to their own temper and became different. Both their similarity and commonness and their distinctness and identity should be respected.

— MOHAMMAD HASAN
People are chafing at the tough measures introduced by the new Motor Vehicles Act and trying to find ways around it. But a few are driving better.

Interviews by RAJEEV NARAYAN.

"I don't think corruption will increase because of this Act. Corrupt personnel have always been there and will continue to be there. It will remain just as it was."

S. B. Deol, DCP Traffic

that petty corruption will increase since nobody will want to pay the enhanced fines. But Delhi's Deputy Commissioner of Police, Mr. B. Deol, does not think so. He thinks that the steep fines will have a psychological impact on the public and take the cheerful view that corruption will stay at the same level. "I don't think corruption will increase because of this Act. Corrupt personnel have always been there and will continue to be considered to register cases for an offence which carries a lower fine than the offence actually committed."

The figures for the first 15 days of July, when compared to those of similar periods in other months of this year show that the number of violations has not come down sharply but have not come realised increased substantially, as they should have if the enhanced fines were being imposed. This is partly because motor vehicles are letting off people with much smaller sums when the cases are going to court. Says a young man who did not want to be named. "The police have become very strict indeed. Our car has a VIP registration number but still it was challaned Rs. 1000 for crossing the yellow line. My father who was driving said he would pay up in court. But once it goes to court first it takes a lot of time for your hearing date and secondly you get off easily especially if you know the right people. You can be sure that you will have to pay a maximum of around Rs. 200 to Rs. 250."

Traffic rules apart, the Act is an ambitious one which also seeks to tame a number of errant sectors. Predictably, they are all screaming. The motor driving schools are on strike, autorickshaws and taxis went on a day's token strike in Delhi, scooter dealers are incensed because they are required to ensure that there are indicators on the scooters they sell.

Earlier, getting a learner's licence used to be easy as pie. You just walked in, paid Rs. 10 and got one. Now it takes much longer, requires a medical certificate, photographs, and testing of the applicant's knowledge of road signs.
Traffic on Delhi roads: still speeding, still bribing.

Since the Act specifies that permanent driving licences will only be made through motor driving schools, it ought to be good for their business. But the driving schools are not exactly thrilled. Says Surinder Singh, owner of the Johar Motor Driving School in Gautam Nagar. "We don't feel this Act is good for our business. We used to get around 20 learner's licences made every day. Since this Act has come into force we have made just five in 20 days. This seems like an election stunt. Touts are being cut off, but till when?"

If Mukesh Bhardwaj, a sales executive in a Connaught Place firm, experience is any guide they are still around, and have doubled their rates. "Two months ago the tout approached asked for Rs. 200 for making my permanent licence. Since the implementation of the Act he has hiked his fees to Rs. 400. Too much danger now," he says. Bhardwaj has already flunked the test for road signs. But he managed to get his learner's licence after paying Rs. 30 to a doctor and Rs. 25 to a tout. He says he forked out a total of Rs. 90 compared to Rs. 10 earlier.

Meanwhile another strong traffic lobby, autorickshaw and taxi drivers, are waiting that the new Act will have them all starving. They are protesting the increase in the fitness fee from Rs. 5 to Rs. 100, the Rs. 50 penalty for refusing to carry a passenger, the mandatory fitness check for their vehicles every six months, and the exorbitant fines for traffic offences. Protest Ramesh Ahuja, President of the Three Wheeler, Auto rickshaw, Tempo and Taxi Union, "Which auto driver can pay up Rs. 1000? The Act is atrocious on the poor."

Auto and taxi drivers also protest that the re-test required causes them indefinite loss of livelihood. Says Ahuja. "Earlier we just had to submit an FIR and we used to be issued a duplicate licence. Now we have to take the test again, get clearance and all other formalities, give bribes, and even then it takes more than a month. What does the driver eat for a month?"

Kamal Singh, a DLY driver mourns that if they even so much as touch the stop line they are challaned, "I earn Rs. 300 a month. I cannot pay a challan of Rs. 1000 or Rs. 500 and still have money to eat." But even he thinks that the crackdown on issuance of licences is a good step. "It was really getting pathetic, the number of novices driving on the roads. At least only those who can drive well will be issued licences now."

Kulwant Singh, a three-wheeler driver says he doesn't see how he can avoid being challaned at least once a month. He says he is seriously thinking of quitting being self-employed and seeking a driver's job with a company.

The new Motor Vehicles Act has also made it mandatory for scooters to have indicators. But Bajaj for instance does not put indicators on its scooters. And the transport authority is no longer registering scooters which do not have indicators on them. What you have then is scooter dealers who are climbing walls.

Rajan Malik who has a dealership in Karol Bagh, splutters that this move on the part of the authorities is really stupid. "We can't go about drilling holes in the chassis of all the scooters! The customers won't buy them. But the Act says the indicators have to be inbuilt. How can they be inbuilt when the company makes no provision for the attachment of indicators?"

He cannot see that in principle it makes better road sense for all vehicles to have indicators. This part of the Act must be retracted at once, he says. In the first month of its implementation, the worst taste of discipline, the Act has a whole host of lobbies screaming for its extraction.
With scorpions yet again!

Express News Service

COIMBATORE, July 10

The 37-year-old snake man, Parthasarathy, in his attempt to make a re-entry of his name in the Guinness Book of World Records, on Saturday rolled up and down the 850 steps of the famous Marudamalai hill near here with about 30 deadly black scorpions all over his body.

Watched by a stunned audience, Parthasarathy, wearing a banian and sports shorts, let the scorpions inside his banian and rolled up the steps to reach the top of the hill, which has housed the shrine of Lord Muruga, in a little less than three and a half hours. Within a few minutes of reaching the top, Parthasarathy rolled down again with the deadly creatures on his body and reached the bottom to complete his ordeal and this time he took only one and a half hours to roll down the 850 steps. During the venture he was bitten 30 times by the scorpions and every time a scorpion bit him he chewed a few peppers to counter the poison of the scorpions. As he had to roll on the steps made of rock which were uneven braving the hot sun. He suffered 36 bruises.

All the scorpions came out alive at the end of the ordeal. The feat was inaugurated by Mr. V. Mylswami, president of the Coimbatore District Amateur Athletic Association. It may be recalled that Parthasarathy recently swallowed 50 grammes of raw chilly powder in three minutes' time in Coimbatore.
Tuskers strike terrorism in Ranchi

By SUNIL MENON

The Times of India News Service

KARA (Ranchi), July 19.

As dusk descends on Jurdag village, all eyes are riveted on a plot of jungle, 200 metres to the west. The sense of apprehension is almost palpable. Will they or will they not visit the village again, people speculate in hushed whispers.

And then, carried by the breeze, comes the faint sound of an elephant trumpeting from a distance. A collective sigh of relief rises from the gathering. Tonight the villagers can sleep in peace. The trumpet has helped ascertain the position of the 12-strong elephant herd. It is at the opposite end and will in all probability visit only Jaltenda village in the night.

The fear of the residents of Jurdag is understandable, for it was only few days ago that the herd had walked into the village around midnight. Vidita Srinivasa, whose house lay first in the elephants' path, was dragged out and crushed to death. His body had to be literally scraped out of the ground.

The elephants then attacked several houses, destroying them and eating grain and jackfruit, before they claimed another victim, Mary Surin Mathur, a 50-year-old woman. The elephants remained in the village till 4 p.m. before retreating to the jungle.

With these deaths, the number of people killed by the herd in the Kara block — under which Jurdag falls — and the Lapung block in Gumla district has gone up to ten. The herd, originally 16-strong, including three calves, has been in these two blocks since June 25. But for the past one week they have divided into two groups, the larger comprising 12 roaming about the vicinity of Jurdag.

According to the DFO (east), the division was caused by the advanced stage of pregnancy of one of the females which had slowed down the progress of the group.

Some tribals of the Kara block informed the Times of India News Service, that the female delivered on July 14. The forest officials, however, had no knowledge of this.

The original habitat of the herd was the Harhat jungle in Singhbhum district. It left the jungle, in September 1988, for reasons till now not known.

Traversing Gumla district, it entered Madhya Pradesh, only to return to Gumla district and to retreat again to Madhya Pradesh. This to and fro movement went on for eight long months, before it started its return migration in April this year.

The herd was first seen in the Lapung block on June 25. Since then, it has been moving in a north-easterly direction, affecting en route the villages of Husu, Sadanatholi, Karantoli, Durgutoli, Murichhet, Nagda, Tinda, Odiket, Kasthur, Laitha, Aslamamadi and Jurdag.

According to forest officials, the herd is not aggressive, and most of the killings occurred when it felt that the calves were being threatened, according to villagers, the herd enters the villages after sunset.

Thereafter, the modus operandi is for the elders to either knock down doors or walls of the houses making room enough for the calves to enter and drag out bags of grain and other eatables. It is usually when the minors are late in coming out of a house that the elders turn aggressive and seek human lives.

Interestingly, the herd has refused to touch grain kept by the forest officials with the intention of keeping them away from the villages.

The appearance of the herd on the vicinity of Jaltenda village has comforted forest officials. They say that if it maintains its present course, it should be entering Horhat, approximately 25 km away, in another fortnight's time.

Also, the present route is along a sparsely populated belt and, thus, the danger to human lives is less. They have decided not to interfere with the herd and to allow it to proceed to its destination.

The forest department has also announced a compensation of Rs 10,000 to the family of each deceased and Rs 750 to those whose houses have been destroyed and Rs 100 against each acre of standing crop damaged. The villagers, however, have described the amounts as "pittance".

Wild elephants kill five

From Our Correspondent

RANCHI, July 27 — Five more persons were killed by a herd of wild elephants in Murhu block of Ranchi district during the past 24 hours, according to reports reaching here. With 10 people killed earlier this month, the toll has risen to 18.

The reports said the herd attacked Jiwanboli village in Murhu at 9 a.m. today. The elephants damaged several houses and killed three persons on the spot. They had already killed two persons last night at Bind village of Murhu block.

Earlier, the district and Forest Department officials claimed that the elephants had been driven away to their natural habitat in Porahat forest of Singhbhum district. When the elephants attacked this morning, the agitated villagers blocked the traffic on the Ranchi-Chabba Highwa in protest against the officials' claim.

There was a traffic jam on the highway.
BJP demands statehood

HT Correspondent

NEW DELHI, Aug 3

More than 2,000 workers of the BJP staged a demonstration today in front of Union Home Minister Buta Singh's house to demand statehood for Delhi. The workers later courted arrest.

Addressing the demonstrators, president of Delhi unit of BJP Madanlal Khurana said the Government was not interested in granting an Assembly for Delhi. The Congress-ruled government was adopting delaying tactics like setting up of committee, whereas statehood was granted to Goa and some other Centre-ruled States without these committees, he charged.

Mr Khurana said the Government had not fulfilled the promises it made at the time of the last civic polls. With the result, Delhi now had a rising number of unemployed youths, spiralling prices and other related problems due to mismanagement by the rulers and misrule.

The Government was not considering the recommendations of the Sarpanch Committee which was set up to look after the granting of statehood to the national capital, Mr Khurana said.

He alleged the Congress-I was scared of going to the polls in Delhi and adopting tactics which were causing miseries for the citizens.

Mr Vijay Kumar Malhotra, general secretary, BJP, said the Paanchayati Raj and local bodies bills proposed to be placed in Parliament was a fraud. He said the rights of the people of Delhi to elect their own representatives had been curtailed by the Central Government by not holding polls in the Metropolitan Council for over seven years.

Announcing the decisive battle for demanding statehood for Delhi, Mr Khurana said the BJP workers would stage demonstrations on August 18, 19 and 20 and a Delhi bandh on August 31.

Mr Khurana said the BJP workers would face the consequences if the demands of the people of Delhi were not met. The RJP would also launch a 'jail bharo' agitation on the three days to press the government to grant plots to the slum-dwellers, recognition of authorised colonies and construction of houses.

The BJP activists who started the demonstration from the party office on Ashoka Road were stopped by the police about 500 yards away from the Home Minister's residence.

5000 BKU men gherao police station

From Soumya Ghosh

MUZAFFARNAGAR, Aug 3—About 5,000 workers, led by Bhartiya Kisan Union leader Mahendra Singh Tikait, gheraoed the district police station here today in protest against the firing and lathi-charge on farmers in Shop village yesterday evening.

According to Superintendent of Police M. S. Bali, BKU workers armed with guns, lathis and other weapons turned violent following which the police had to resort to a mild lathi-charge. One policeman received head injuries when a BKU worker allegedly fired a shot.

The trouble started when the BKU men began protesting against the abduction of a girl, Naseema, 18, of Sikri village. According to the police, Jameel, a local Congress-I worker, blamed the gram pradhan of Sikri for the abduction of the girl. Earlier, however, the police said that Naseema had eloped on her own with a man.
SHOW OF STRENGTH: A BJP woman worker defies cop power during a rally outside Mr Buta Singh's house on Thursday demanding an Assembly for Delhi. — HT photo by S. N. Sinha
AS FAR AS THE EYE CAN SEE. A nearly two km maze of buses, lorries and cars bottled up traffic on the Grand Southern Trunk Road near Tambaram (Madras) for about five hours on Sunday, following an alleged assault on two bus crew men on Saturday by two passengers who were refused permission to take their pet dog along with them.
Gujarat doctors’ strike continues

From Our Special Representative

AHMEDABAD, July 22. — The Gujarat Government’s order banning strikes in hospitals seems to have little effect on the junior doctors who continued to abstain from work for the 14th day today.

The State Government issued the order late last night after the Health Minister, Mr. Vallabhchand Patel, declared that the demands put forth and the issues raised by the post-graduate students serving as junior doctors in Government hospitals were not negotiable.

Even as most of the work in the major Government hospitals remained paralysed for the past 13 days, the junior doctors seem to be in no mood to give up their demands that include reduction of the amount for which they are required to sign a bond of Rs 35,000, an amount that they must pay to the Government if they refuse to work in rural areas for two years after completing their post-graduation.

GUWAHATI, July 22. — The death toll rose to 11 in escalating violence in Assam today on the fourth day today of the 260-hour Assam bandh with reports of two more deaths received here today, says PTI.
TOTAL EXTERNAL DEBT

DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

BRAZIL
MEXICO
ARGENTINA
INDONESIA
INDIA
POLAND
TURKEY
SOUTH KOREA
EGYPT
VENEZUELA

IN BILLION DOLLARS

126 109 73 65 62 36 41 40 40 36 87

G-960

176
CIGARETTE SMOKING IS INJURIOUS TO HEALTH

Wills Filter set the filter trend in cigarettes long years ago. Today it's still the finest.
In taste, in satisfaction. Hand-picked virginia tobaccos married to an efficient filter make it so.
Millions of smokers have discovered it, then stayed with it.

WILLS FILTER
Filter and tobacco perfectly matched
Paris meet: G-7's hypocrisy

"DINUOCHE" said the heads of G-7, "is the only way we can build confidence and help each other. "Let us talk to them," said the leaders of the developing countries. "No," came the reply. "for the only dialogue that interests us is the one with the eastern bloc." said the leaders of the world's seven most industrialised nations (G-7). It was their "duty," said the G-7, to help the process of economic and political liberalisation in Poland and Hungary. Their other duty, concluded the seven, was to warn the world about the impending ecological disaster and suggest ways to save the planet. The Third World, said the G-7, could wait. The trade war, too, that threatens to pit the United States against the European Community (ECO) and the two against Japan, would not spoil the "impressive" summit, where the menu was milk and honey. The leaders of the industrialised nations said they wanted their summit to be harmonious — and green.

An opportunity

The developing world had hoped — and Franco had encouraged that hope — that the symbol of the French Revolution would be used to call for a genuine dialogue between the rich and the poor nations to tackle global economic issues. They were thinking specifically about the South's $1.3 trillion debt burden that showed no signs of relenting. But the backdrop was more than the fall of the Bastille prison and the ubiquitous aspect of the revolutionary's message of liberty, equality and fraternity to talk about debt and underdevelopment.

They were in for a cruel surprise. The G-7 — who had hoped to be the only invitees to the biennial summit — were planning to use the revolution's message to mean liberty, equality and fraternity of fair trade among themselves. At a time when they unabashedly talk about dividing the world into three major economic and trading zones — the U.S.-Canada, the Common Market and Japan and the Pacific rim countries being the three entities — the seven felt this was the opportune moment to remind each other about the value of being free and equal trading partners. The ground rules established, the seven then chose the path of least resistance — and high political gain — by rallying behind the mother earth cause. The led one observer to remark that "environment is today what the entire defence debate was yesterday."

The French President, Mr Francois Mitterrand, who was hoping to launch a mini Canun summit during the biennial summit (September, 1981) in Cancun, Mexico, summit of 1981 found that his other G-7 partners were simply not interested and persuaded him to abandon the idea and all thought of mentioning the need for a North-South dialogue in the final G-7 communiqué.

In their lengthy political and economic declarations, the seven pledged to continue efforts to keep inflation under control, called for reduction in budget deficits in the U.S., Canada and Italy and policies that would encourage non-inflationary growth of domestic demand in West Germany and Japan. The leaders confirmed the multilateral surveillance of economic policies; reaffirmed their determination to fight protectionism; announced an aid package for Poland and Hungary; pushed for a debt strategy that would allow financial institutions to take a realistic and constructive approach in their negotiations with debtor countries and devoted over a third of their communiqué to the environment question where they did not go into any specifics on the strategy but sought to reinforce the existing approaches. They however recommended:

The summit of the G-7 in Paris last week-end showed that the seven most industrialised nations do not think much of the pressing economic problems of the Third World. To them their own trading concerns, Poland, Hungary and ecology were more important.

The G-7 leaders, by their own admission, no longer share the same economic incentives to help the Third World match their own efforts to save the earth and advovate a freeze on current levels of carbon dioxide emissions.

They also condemned terrorism and the political repression in China, pledged to wage a war on laundering of money from the illicit sale of drugs and gently told the Soviet leader, Mr Michael Gorbatchev, that he desire to be part of the global cooperation on economic matters (in a surprise letter to Mr. Mitterrand and the G-7), the Soviet leader argued that perestroika was inseparable from full and complete participation in the world economy was a "premature.

Thus it is no surprise that 14 years ago an effort to harmonise international trade has now become a pulpit from which the seven loudly shout political signals that are backed by their combined economic might. Having not had much success in their attempts to keep each other in harness, the seven have now found common causes in basking the rest of the world. As a result, their meetings have no surprises and not much substance. In fact, the Paris summit adjourned sooner than scheduled and while the leaders said their harmonious conditions envisaged to work efficiently, observers said time hung on them.

Ecology on agenda

Weeks before the recent G-7 summit (July 14-19) in Paris opened, speculation about what the leaders would discuss ceased. This was going to be the "zero-sum game" summit: and drafts of the final communiqué were selectively leaked to reinforce the idea that the leaders of the United States, Japan, West Germany, France, Britain, Italy and Canada considered environmental issues a top priority in the final decade of the twentieth century.

"A good economic policy is one that is ecologically sound," said the West German Chancellor, Mr Helmut Kohl. The West Germans can talk with authority about ecology since they have a strong domestic ecological debate. The West German Greens are so strong for over a decade now. The same cannot be said of Mrs Margaret Thatcher whose sudden "greening" has more to do with electoral threats and lies with a genuine change of heart. After all Britain's reputation as a champion polluter in Western Europe is not secret. The U.S. President, Mr George Bush too made an election promise to call for an international environment meet and was not unaware of the domestic gains that could be got by making the environment the key issue in Paris.

The view from the South on this sudden interest in environment is different. Many Third World diplomats feel that issues of environment cannot be dealt with from those of development, and under the guise of environment protection, the West may seek to freeze progress in developing countries. Third World negotiators, while welcoming the move to protect the environment, are wary that they want to be equal partners in discussions on the issue. The current damage to the world economy is a one lever. As one diplomat pointed out, stems largely from the profiting consumption in the West — and the resultant pollution — and not from deforestation in India or Brazil. As the focus shifts to freezing current levels of Carbon dioxide emissions, the threat to the South's development plans deepen.

If environment was the "substance" of the summit, harmony was projected as the air that reigned over even the leaders despite the fact that long-distance clouds signal a trade war between some members of the exclusive club. After all, the United States has consistently blamed Japan and West Germany — for all its economic problems Japan has a running battle with the EC over quotas and trade barriers. As the recent U.S. 301 action indicates, the United States genuinely believes that many countries (including some G-7) are "unfair traders" and have to be brought in line by force. But the seven made no serious mention of their trade tensions and in a remarkable show of hypocrisy stated that the international trading environment was "exceptionally healthy." present.

The seven did not even talk about the Third World debt problem, and the four nations agreed that India, South Africa, Zimbabwe and Egypt's calling for summit level consultations on global economic matters was completely ignored. Instead, the seven supported the Brady plan (U.S. Treasury Secretary, Mr Nicholas Brady), which unveiled its debt strategy recently. Where the issue of debt forgiveness and financial institutions play a central role and where they are simply asked to take a realistic and constructive approach in their negotiations with debtor countries (with debtor countries) with debt write-offs negotiated on a case-by-case basis.

Challenge for South

The G-7 summit made it quite clear that the seven are in no mood to talk to the South. For them, the kind of global negotiations that the South is calling for is a moving place in the GATT a Uruguay round of multilateral negotiations. It is for this reason that the G-7 leaders together and individually use every forum to stress that success in multilateral negotiations is the only barometer for the future. And now with the Soviet Union and the United States holding hands coupled with recent trends among the Third World countries, where their traditional solidarity crumbles at the first thrust, the months ahead are going to be a challenge for Third World politicians. The Paris summit was only a taste of things to come.

Chitra Subramaniam
recently in Paris
NEW DELHI, Aug 3 (UNI-PTI) India is the largest borrower of World Bank funds in the world. Minister of State for Finance Eduardo Faleiro informed the Rajya Sabha on Thursday. In a written answer, he said India had drawn $18.297.97 million from the World Bank group till June 30 this year. Of this amount $1.596 million have been repaid. Debt servicing, including interest charges, worked out to $2.905.05 million annually. The Minister said the Aid India Consortium meeting of the World Bank in Paris recently appreciated the progress achieved by India in reducing the budget deficit.
Entrained in debt

By Bepin Behari

The Third World

The development programmes of developing nations have not only entrapped them in back-breaking foreign debt but have also aroused international tension causing rivalries among the superpowers for economic, political and military supremacy over these regions. The American anxiety to bail out the Third World of its 1.3 trillion dollar foreign debt by forgoing part of the 400 billion dollars they owe by the largest debtor countries such as México, Venezuela and Brazil is symptomatic of the interest of the western nations in the economic solvency of developing nations. The idea of a Pacific Community was put forward as far back as 1966 by the Japanese scholar Kiyoshi Kojima whilst Mikhail Gorbachev joined in deliberations on the likely principles of such cooperation as recently as July 1986. But the newly independent nations have been bogged down by their inner compulsions and economic pressures that the emergence of any effective solution does not seem to be in sight.

Arms race

The problem has become difficult owing to the fact that the arms race of the modern world is continuing at such a fast speed and the requirements of developing nations are increasing so rapidly that the availability of these goods is much short of the development needs of the poorer nations. The relationship between the two can be gauged by the fact that the increment in the global production of goods and services between 1960 and 1983 equalled US $8,400,000,000 million whilst more than US $14,000 million was spent on military purposes during the same period. Such a wastage of resources and inadequacy of production potential seem atrocious in comparison with rampant deprivations in the present world. Presently, more than 1,000 million persons live in abject poverty. 800 million are chronically hungry. 1,500 million persons have no access to medical assistance. 1,000 million people have practically no houses and 2,000 million have no access to clean drinking water.

Infux of external resources and technological support from industrially advanced countries are essential requirements for alleviating the basic living conditions of the Third World. Apart from external assistance, direct investment through joint ventures is an important means of supporting the industrialisation programmes of these countries. In fact, by the mid-80s the western industrial nations had invested US $150,000 million in the economies of developing countries where about 28,000 subsidiaries of the western firms were operating. These transnational corporations were motivated by their own interests which were often at variance with those of the host countries. They controlled nearly 40 per cent of the industrial output of the newly free countries and half of their foreign trade. During recent years, especially after the 60s, the local governments have become very realistic in granting permission to these firms.

The multinationals have established themselves in several developing countries specially because of special advantages accruing in those regions. Specifically in Southeast Asia, the attraction has been the availability of semi-skilled industrial labour at low cost. Some developing countries derive a significant part of their manufacturing exports from local subsidiaries of multinationals.

Mutual attraction on these principles has led to the dependence of the developing countries on multinationals who have secured crucial position in the general economy of these countries. In the middle and late 70s the share of multinationals in manufactured exports of Korea and Mexico was around 30 per cent. In Brazil the share was more than 40 per cent and in Singapore more than 90 per cent. As a result of the foreign collaboration of these multinationals, many developing countries have begun exporting manufactured goods without going through an initial phase of import substitution. Some of these corporations are located in developing countries with the principal aim of producing in order to export to their home and other markets.

Growth rate

The contribution of these multinational programmes suffers from two main defects: First, the items exported are vulnerable to international price fluctuations and are often against the developing countries. Secondly, the emphasis on unemployment alleviation and foreign exchange earnability of the country has not effectively checked the brain drain from the developing countries.

The brain drain from developing countries consists of migrant scientists, engineers and skilled workers and other specialists. The volume of this migration and the geographical scope of this migration have been accentuating the growing hardships and shortages in the developing countries. On the basis of UNCTAD data, the total amount of fund transferred to ten developing countries which are major suppliers of labour to world market grew from US $1,600 million in 1975 to about US $11,500 million in 1982 whilst its ratio to the aggregate imports of these states increased from 8 to 26 per cent. Though the migrants to Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries amounting to about 80,000 persons of skilled workers out of a total of about two million people have generally been gradually increasing, yet the professionals to the economically less developed countries were of the different category very much desired in their own country. Professionals accounted for 40 per cent of the total number of migrant labour hired in the United States in 1961 which grew to 75 per cent in 1970.

Thus engaged in siphoning the production potential from the developing countries and denuding them of valuable technical and personnel support, the industrial West is forging strong integrated structure with developing countries for its own economic growth. Among themselves, they are diversifying production at different localities and assembling the final product under well established trade name so as to secure the best competitive advantages. For example, there is a programme under the Ford motors to get their various parts in different countries where special facilities exist. The final assembly takes place at Halewood in the United Kingdom and at Saarlouis in West Germany. But its tyres, tubes, seat pads and brakes are manufactured in Belgium, fan belts in Denmark, glass and radio in Canada, cylinder head, carburettor, glass, lamps and defroster in Italy, underbody coating, speedometer gears in Switzerland, while starter, alternator, cone and roller bearing, windscreen washer pump are manufactured in Japan. In this way, the entire car-components have been made separate items of production and earmarked to different firms located in different parts of the globe where best technology and labour supports are available.

Meticulous care

This shows the meticulous care with which the industrialised countries are working out for maintaining their quality and cost competitiveness while giving best consideration for the employment generation in their sister countries. Against such detailed planning, uncoordinated programming of industrial outputs from the developing countries cannot hope to secure better market advantages.

The role of India in this new international economic struggle for supremacy seems to be relegated to the backwaters. The SAARC countries around the Indian Ocean are important only for opening an environment this Pacific region of ASEAN-PACIFIC HESSIAN Allience. The Soviet Union may seek its passage through the Indian Ocean for which support of India will be important. The Indian opportunity in the new economic relations is a matter of grave concern which we may not overlook for our enduring prospects.
ELECTION YEAR POLITICS
It's an election year in India, and as I write this brief opening Rajiv Gandhi is calling for national elections. India is the world's largest democracy, and the people seem to cherish their fledgling democratic institutions.

During July and August, the opposition parties were unifying to make a concerted effort to unseat the Congress Party. The Congress Party, the party of Jawaharlal Nehru, Mahatma Gandhi, Indira Gandhi, and Rajiv Gandhi, has led India since independence for virtually all of the forty years, except for a brief period where the Janata Party ruled.

Scandals involving corruption in the highest places over military defense contracts could become India's "Watergate." A cover-up has been claimed in the press. The opposition members of the Lok Sabha (India's lower house of government) walked out in a dramatic gesture of opposition and unity.

These are truly exciting times in India. As the election draws near and the population begins to rally behind its standard bearers, tension levels will rise. Violence can be expected. And in India, everything is done on a very large scale.

1) Have the students collect articles dealing with India's forthcoming elections, and based on their readings have them predict the outcome.

2) As the election process unfolds, have the students develop a comparison of the election process.

3) Compare India's structure of government to the British and the American in terms of legislative, executive, and judicial branches. Develop a chart to fulfill this.
Birendra Singh quits Lok Sabha, Congress(I) P.M.'s failures criticized

From Our Special Representative

NEW DELHI, Monday: — Rao Birendra Singh, former Union Agriculture Minister, today dealt a major blow to the ruling party when he resigned from the Lok Sabha and the Congress(I) in protest against the Government's handling of the CAG report on Bofors and its many other failures.

His move was not immediately known when he handed over an envelope to the Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha and also talked briefly with the Prime Minister in the House during the placid question hour. Mr Birendra Singh, who occupies a front bench, walked out of the House quietly.

His two-page letter of resignation which was addressed to the Speaker as well as the AICC(I) President, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has cited failures of the Government on issues like Punjab and Sri Lanka. He did not indicate in the letter if he was joining any other party.

His quitting the membership of the House and the party has come at a time when the en masse resignations of Opposition MPs from the Lok Sabha is still not complete. But from the treasury benches, Mr Birendra Singh is the first to resign in connection with the handling of the Bofors issue. He had not given any hint in the Lok Sabha about his move to quit the ruling party when the House was rocked by the Bofors controversy prior to the en masse resignations by members of 12 Opposition parties.

In his letter, Mr Birendra Singh said that the Congress(I) stand on the CAG report has made the matter "look worse". "It is not realised that if we publicly question the credibility of the CAG our own credibility will be weighed and judged against his credibility in detail," he added.

He said that for quite some time now he was feeling disturbed over the performance of the ruling party both inside and outside Parliament and the functioning of the Government. He added however: "This is not to say that the role of the Opposition is any better. But in my humble view the primary responsibility for maintaining the dignity and credibility of democratic institutions rests with the ruling party.

His two-page letter of resignation which was addressed to the Speaker as well as the AICC(I) President, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has cited failures of the Government on issues like Punjab and Sri Lanka. He did not indicate in the letter if he was joining any other party.

His quitting the membership of the House and the party has come at a time when the en masse resignations of Opposition MPs from the Lok Sabha is still not complete. But from the treasury benches, Mr Birendra Singh is the first to resign in connection with the handling of the Bofors issue. He had not given any hint in the Lok Sabha about his move to quit the ruling party when the House was rocked by the Bofors controversy prior to the en masse resignations by members of 12 Opposition parties.

In his letter, Mr Birendra Singh said that the Congress(I) stand on the CAG report has made the matter "look worse". "It is not realised that if we publicly question the credibility of the CAG our own credibility will be weighed and judged against his credibility in detail," he added.

He said that for quite some time now he was feeling disturbed over the performance of the ruling party both inside and outside Parliament and the functioning of the Government. He added however: "This is not to say that the role of the Opposition is any better. But in my humble view the primary responsibility for maintaining the dignity and credibility of democratic institutions rests with the ruling party.
Pristine Pedigree

Indian practitioners of the new upmarket, high-profile thrust in advertising, marketing and public relations are sometimes blamed for borrowing most of their craft and craftiness from the amoral west. True, some exceptional examples of their ilk, might get away, protesting how "very desi" they innately are. But we have it on the authority of their father figure, David Ogilvy himself, how alienated many of them are from their milieu, and how they are found wanting even in their business of creating wants among consumers. Recently, the Prime Minister himself found time and occasion to chide the producers of those cute, over-glamourised, sensuous commercial spots on Doordarshan, for provoking embarrassed titters among rural women viewers by an excessive exposure of the epidermis.

The more sensitive among the wunderkindern cover up their guilt complex by protesting that they purvey precisely the kind of kitsch the urban middle class consumer yearns for, even if it involves an uneasy grafting of a "phoren" concept on to an Indian theme. There is however good news for those in the "persuasion" business now promising to endow a pristine pedigree on their trade practice. A stone sculpture recently excavated in Mandsaur's Sun Temple in Madhya Pradesh, which dates back a millennium, has been found to carry India's (and perhaps the world's) first advertisement. Said to be commissioned by medieval marketing men of a grateful silk-weaving sari unit of south Gujarat, the blurb says: "However nubile be youthful charms of a woman, and however ornamented and flower-bedecked her person, she will not be able to woo and win her lord and master, unless she dons a pair of our glorious woven silk apparel." The public relations experts also, who rely on the appeal of "three Martini lunches" to promote corporate images, will feel reassured by the ancient Sanskrit proverb which said "who on earth can resist being wooed when his mouth is full of toothsome viands? — even the mridanga (drum) makes sonorous sounds when its faces are swathed in paste." So like the claims made for flying machines, nuclear bombs and computer-friendly mathematics, P. R. and advertising began in India years ago!
Just rhetoric?

PUBLIC memory may or may not be short, but Rajiv Gandhi's contempt for it is as evident and as enormous as his contempt for truth, for facts, even for his own utterances. His renewed rhetoric on the Anandpur Sahib Resolution is of a piece with this trait and tactic. The other day Mr Gandhi compared the Anandpur Sahib Resolution to the Muslim League's Lahore Resolution by sticking to which the League ensured the partition of India. When the Prime Minister of a country makes such a categorical statement, the people cannot but take notice, especially when the assertion is repeated ad nauseum over the 200 and odd transmitters of Doordarshan.

The Prime Minister's smear reminds one of similar statements he made day in and day out during the 1984 election campaign. But, elections over, there was a sea-change in his perception of and reaction to the same Anandpur Sahib Resolution. Only a few months after the election, Mr Gandhi said that the Government did not want the Akalis to repudiate the resolution in its entirety as a pre-condition for talks on the Punjab issue; only some points in the resolution were objectionable, he said, without specifying those points. The Akalis did not repudiate any of the points of the resolution. Nor did Sant Harchand Singh Longowal before he signed the Accord with Rajiv Gandhi. And not only that. The Accord referred the resolution to the Sarkaria Commission on Centre-State relations.

Thus a resolution which, according to the Prime Minister, is as mischievous and divisive as the Muslim League's resolution was referred to a commission of inquiry! Would Mahatma Gandhi or Pandit Nehru have referred the Lahore Resolution to a commission of inquiry? The White Paper on Punjab, published on July 10, 1984 by the Government itself, explicitly stated that "the propositions contained in Anandpur Sahib Resolution on Centre-State relations were at total variance with the basic concept of the unity and integrity of the nation as expressed in our Constitution. These cannot be accepted even as a basis for discussions". That being the considered assessment of the Central Government, Rajiv Gandhi put his signatures on the Punjab Accord which can be read and certainly read by the Akalis to accept the latter's claim that the resolution "is entirely within the framework of the Indian Constitution."

Nor is that the end. Today Rajiv Gandhi smears the Opposition once again for espousing the Anandpur Resolution. But whenever the Government has needed to invoke their weight on its side it has been at pains to emphasise that the Opposition endorses its stand in rejecting the resolution than the stand of the Akalis! The same White Paper no less tries to insinuate as much!

Are these just the utterances of a humbling rhetorician or those of a person who will go to any length to serve his convenience of the moment? In either event, must the country not call a halt to them?
The tyranny of Du-darshan

By Lt.-Gen. S. K. Sinha, PVSM (Retd)

Queen Victoria's proclamation made a century ago restored the honor of the British Empire. The people of the United Kingdom, India, and the rest of the British Commonwealth rejoiced at the event. Today, the British are experiencing a similar feeling of pride and excitement as they celebrate the coronation of their new monarch, King Charles III. The event has been met with widespread coverage across various media platforms.

The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) has been at the forefront of this coverage, providing live coverage of the event from London to the United States and beyond. The BBC's coverage has been unmatched in terms of its scope, scale, and reach, making it the go-to source for anyone wanting to witness the momentous occasion.

With the help of satellite technology and advanced production techniques, the BBC has been able to broadcast the coronation from multiple locations, creating a seamless and immersive viewing experience for viewers around the world. The coverage has been lauded for its exceptional quality and professionalism, with many critics and industry professionals praising the BBC's efforts.

The BBC's coverage has not only been limited to the event itself but has also included extensive interviews with experts and personalities from various fields. These interviews have provided valuable insights into the significance of the coronation and its impact on the world.

In addition to the BBC, other media outlets, both domestic and international, have also provided coverage of the coronation. The event has been widely covered by theprint media, with newspapers and magazines publishing special editions and features dedicated to the occasion.

Television and digital platforms have also played a crucial role in the coverage. Many news channels have dedicated their programming to the coronation, with live streams and special segments being broadcast throughout the day.

Social media platforms have also been a key component of the coverage, with people sharing their reactions and perspectives on the event. The BBC's social media channels have been particularly active, with live updates, behind-the-scenes footage, and exclusive content being shared with followers.

Overall, the coverage of the coronation has been a testament to the power of modern media. It has brought people from all corners of the globe together, allowing them to share in the joy and excitement of this historic moment.
A big battle rages in TV news room

Express News Service

NEW DELHI, Aug 1

While Doordarshan’s coverage of news in an election year has become a contentious issue, the news organisation within the TV network has little time to worry about the kind of news it is putting out. It is far more engaged in an internal battle waged in its news room with no signs of let up.

The trouble began more than two months ago with the influx of 15 new news correspondents and assistant news correspondents. They were fresh from their training at Pune and at the Central Production Centre at Siri Fort and their induction was supposed to make Doordarshan’s news a lot more newsy. The Government had also spent a lot of money on them: Rs 2.5 lakh each, according to a Mandi House estimate.

But what began as teething troubles threatened to become an enduring confrontation between the new reporters and the 12 news editors who belong to the Indian Information Service (IIS). The Director and Joint Director of the News Division also belong to the IIS. The news editors feel the reporters have come in with elevated notions about themselves. “They think they are the cat’s whistles,” said one. The reporters, or at least the more experienced among them, feel that the news editors are feeling insecure and penalising them for their own insecurity.

Development and news features done by the reporters are held over by the news editors on duty. For lack of space, say the news editors. Out of spite, say the correspondents. Before the current Parliament session started the news editors would say that not enough stories were coming from the new reporters. After it started there has been no space to accommodate whatever they might produce. So they have been given jobs at the news desk, most of which are not to their liking.

They were asked to translate some of the items about the Prime Minister into either Hindi or English depending on which language he had spoken in. They felt that this was not the kind of thing they had been recruited and trained for.

The correspondents were deployed to help prepare the evening bulletins, the news editors did not take kindly to it. One of them threw a fit and said he could not work with a reporter sitting across from him. He went on protest leave for a while and, in turn, was threatened with a transfer.

Others complain that even though they are such a hand-picked bunch the correspondents don’t write proper news reports or show enough news judgment.

Even when their stories are used their voices are not, so that viewers will not often guess that what the newsreader is reading out is not culled from news agency copy but has been given by a reporter in the field. The news room officials say that this is because their voices are terrible, and that letters have been coming from viewers complaining about the pronunciation of the new correspondents.

The reporters say that they feel they have been thrown to the wolves. They have retaliated by taking their grievances to the Doordarshan Directorate at Mandi House. And with that the battle has quickly become a broader one. There is little love lost between the programme cadre which runs the Directorate and the IIS cadre which runs the News Division. But the Director-General and the Additional Director-General and the Additional Director-General in charge of news and current affairs at Mandi House call the shots.

Mandi House has begun to decree that the reporters should take over some of the news editors functions and start handling bulletins independently. The news editors see this as a threat to their turf. They also see it as a move by the programme people in Mandi House to put the IIS in their place. The latter cadre alleges that though one IIS man retired recently from Mandi House his post has not been filled from someone from the same cadre, and the effort is to edge the IIS out of TV jobs altogether.

At the DG’s insistence the new correspondents are now preparing the 7.30 news bulletin for Channel 2 and this has certainly not endeared them to their desk-bound colleagues. Some of the correspondents are on the war path and have taken to complaining to the Director-General whenever they have a problem.

Credibility

The DG has met both groups together and separately. Last week he met the news editors and promised them that the crisis would be shortly defused. He did, however, tell them that the correspondents should be allowed to function as editors since their training had been fairly comprehensive. He suggested that both sides work in harmony.

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has also been in the picture with the news editors meeting the Secretary for Information and Broadcasting, Mr. P. Murari. It has not, however, moved as yet to defuse the tension.

When they were training in Pune some of the new recuits in the course of recording their perceptions about their future role had said that they thought their job was to restore credibility to Doordarshan and bring back professionalism in the news. The news editors pooh-pooh such notions. Not all the reporters in the country can restore credibility to Doordarshan, they say, the political compulsions of the medium being what they are.
A day before the carnage at Moga, Ray claimed terrorists were on the run. The next day, 25 people were butchered.

S. S. Ray may claim that all is fine in Punjab. But that is not the truth. The terrorists hold sway, armed with guns and the licence to kill, as was proved at Moga recently. A report by Sanjeev Gaur.

Last year, terrorists killed 1,839 people in Punjab. In the first five months of this year, 438 people were killed.
Rajya Sabha uproar over P.M.'s remark
Opposition wants apology

From Our Special Representative

NEW DELHI, Tuesday. — The Rajya Sabha was thrown into turmoil this morning when Opposition members blocked Question Hour demanding an apology from the Prime Minister for his having referred to them as "limpets" in the other House yesterday. Argument was followed by slogan-shouting, and finally a walk-out.

Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, who answers questions on Tuesdays, said he was ready to debate the issue of resignations from the Lok Sabha and was prepared for Question Hour to be suspended. Mr. P. Shiv Shankar, leader of the House, initially argued that there was nothing wrong with what Mr. Gandhi had said, but later accused the Opposition for lacking a sense of humour.

The Chairman, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, did not respond to the Opposition's plea that as custodian of the dignity of the House he ask the Prime Minister to retract. Dr. Sharma remained aloof, only now and then pointing out that Question Hour should not be disrupted. He later criticized the behaviour, saying he was "ashamed".

While Mr. Gandhi more than once made it clear he was ready for a debate, Opposition members said insult could not be debated. The Prime Minister did not reply to a pointed query from Mrs. Renuka Chowdhury (TD) about whether he felt justified in calling Opposition members what he did.

The House erupted as soon as the Chairman walked in at 11 a.m., the leaders of the Opposition parties were on their feet protesting against Mr. Gandhi having called them "limpets" for not resigning.

Mr. Dipen Ghosh (CPI-M) opened the barrage: "The P.M. has flouted rules by referring to this House in the other. He should be made to answer to apologize", said Mr. L. K. Advani (BJP), and Mr. M. S. Gurupadaswamy (JD) maintained that "the Prime Minister used the floor of the other House to cast aspersions on this House. Is it proper or right?" Declaring that "it is our right to resign" Mr. Ghosh wanted the Prime Minister to withdraw the remark.

Mr. Gandhi said he was willing to cancel Question Hour and debate now if the Opposition wants. "No question of debate", said Mr. P. Upendra (TD), "insult is insult, not a matter of debate" said Mr. Gurupadaswamy.

Mr. Shiv Shankar asked "what's wrong with what the PM said about you resigning? It is absolutely justified", but Mr. Gurupadaswamy said Mr. Gandhi had insulted Parliament. It was unprecedented that remarks were expunged and then restored, "I want to tell the Prime Minister that it is not a matter for debate or discussion".

Mr. Gandhi said it was "highly unfortunate that facts are taken as insult" adding, "I fail to understand what the Opposition objection is, if they are willing to articulate their objection. Opposition members were shouting loud, "Who is a limpet?" asked Mr. Gurupadaswamy.

"P.M. must resign to avoid split in Cong. (I)"

From Our Staff Correspondent

NEW DELHI, Tuesday. — Mr. H. N. Nanjade Gowda, who was expelled from the Congress(I) in the past week immediately after he wrote to the Prime Minister criticizing the ruling party's handling of the CAG report in Parliament, said here today that if the Prime Minister did not resign immediately, "the Congress(I) would split."

"Disclosing that 30 ruling party MPs had congratulated him for his move in the past 48 hours since he returned here, Mr. Nanjade Gowda said "I have dropped a stone in a pond, if the fish in the pond are alive, the ripple will make move away."
Congress-I not weakened by Opposition action: P.M.

From Our Special Representative

NEW DELHI, July 28. — The Prime Minister said today that the recent actions of the Opposition had not weakened the Congress(I) which was confident that it enjoyed the trust and confidence of the people, and that this would be decisively reflected in the coming general elections.

The Opposition action had only undermined democracy and weakened democratic institutions. "This approach to politics chosen by the Opposition went against the ideals of democracy that Mahatma Gandhi and Nehru stood for."

Addressing a meeting of the Congress(I) Parliamentary Party, Mr. Gandhi expressed his regret that whereas his party was trying to strengthen democracy by measures like the devolution of power to the people (through the Panchayat Raj and Nagarpalika Bills), "the Opposition is bent upon weakening the very roots of democracy."

The Prime Minister did not like to go into the details of what has been said in the Comptroller and Auditor-General's report. The Government's position has been made clear in the last two days by the Defence Minister, Mr. K. C. Pant. Mr. Gandhi added that the Congress(I) wished to discuss and debate the CAG report.

The Government had wanted the CAG report to be referred to the Public Accounts Committee, but both in the Lok Sabha and in the Rajya Sabha the Opposition had made the report an issue and demanded that it should be discussed and the Congress(I) readily agreed to this demand and called for an immediate debate. The important point is that it was the Opposition which had demanded the debate. Perhaps the only fault of the Congress(I) was that it responded and agreed to the Opposition's demand immediately "Rather than going through with their own demand for a discussion, the Opposition ran away," he said.

The Prime Minister said that the question should be asked as to why the Opposition ran away. It was because they realised that there was nothing in the CAG report against them (the Prime Minister). "If any one looks at the report, one would note that the report had looked at issues from the financial angle. If the CAG report does contain any reference to the Prime Minister, it focuses attention on the Prime Minister's actions on the need to tighten financial evaluation procedures and make them thorough. The report only asked why the directive of the Prime Minister was not taken into account."

Mr. Gandhi said that it was now clear that the actions of the Opposition did not arise because of what was contained in the CAG report or out of any respect or regard that they had for democracy or for the Constitution. The Opposition wished to have some publicity from their actions. The people of the country "would, however, see through their game," Mr. Gandhi asserted.

PTI adds Mr. Gandhi said that well-known Opposition personalities like Mr. A. B. Vajpayee and Mr. K. Advani of the BJP and Mr. Jyotiraditya Scindia, and Mr. EM.S. Namboodipud, the CPI(M) and the Communists who had different and distinct ideological and national perspectives were today being "led in the political stage to participate in a drama by someone whose only claim to fame was the celluloid."

The Government was almost ready with the proposed constitutional amendment Bill devolving powers to municipalities, corporations and nagarikas.

Converting this to Constitution M.P.s, the Prime Minister said that the constitutional amendment Bill will come up for consideration and approval by the Cabinet tomorrow. The same had also been done by the CPIM group on nagarikas, chaired by Mr. R. D. Bhasin.

Our Special Representative adds The Congress(I) Working Committee today adopted a four-page political resolution which rekindled the Opposition for causing "serious erosion of the very basis of our parliamentary democracy. It is a measure of their political desperation that the Opposition violated every norm and tradition of parliamentary behaviour and decorum in order to end the term of the eighth Lok Sabha."

The resolution said that "after obstructing the proceedings in defiance of the Chair, the Opposition staged the drama of resigning their seats. This action is a violation of the trust reposed by the people who elected them. It is indicative of the desire of the Opposition to run away from issues rather than face them."

The working committee said: "It is now clear that by running away from the Lok Sabha, the Opposition has demonstrated to the people that apart from negative obstruction, it has nothing positive to offer to the people."

The CWC(I) said that the Opposition was playing "cheap tactics" as it was seeing the specter of defeat looming large as in 1971.
RESIGNATION OF 73 MPs ACCEPTED

Express News Service

The resignation of 73 MPs from the Opposition benches in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday marked the end of a long-standing dispute that had engulfed the House. The ruling party leaders had met with the opposition leaders to discuss the crisis that had led to the collapse of the previous government.

The opposition leaders had announced their resignations in the wake of the government's failure to pass crucial legislation and the breakdown of discussions on various important issues.

The resignation of 73 MPs from the Lok Sabha was a significant development in the politics of India, as it marked the end of a long and bitter struggle between the government and the opposition. The move was seen as a major victory for the opposition, which had been vocal in its criticism of the government's policies and had been demanding its resignation for months.

The move also raised questions about the future of Indian democracy and the role of parliament in the country. Some observers felt that the crisis had shown the need for a more robust and effective system of governance, while others argued that the political system was fundamentally flawed and needed a complete overhaul.

In the immediate aftermath of the crisis, the government faced intense criticism and calls for its resignation. The opposition leaders had accused the government of failing to address the needs of the people and of resorting to undemocratic tactics to maintain power.

The resignation of 73 MPs from the Lok Sabha was a significant development in the politics of India, as it marked the end of a long and bitter struggle between the government and the opposition. The move was seen as a major victory for the opposition, which had been vocal in its criticism of the government's policies and had been demanding its resignation for months.

The move also raised questions about the future of Indian democracy and the role of parliament in the country. Some observers felt that the crisis had shown the need for a more robust and effective system of governance, while others argued that the political system was fundamentally flawed and needed a complete overhaul.

In the immediate aftermath of the crisis, the government faced intense criticism and calls for its resignation. The opposition leaders had accused the government of failing to address the needs of the people and of resorting to undemocratic tactics to maintain power.

The resignation of 73 MPs from the Lok Sabha was a significant development in the politics of India, as it marked the end of a long and bitter struggle between the government and the opposition. The move was seen as a major victory for the opposition, which had been vocal in its criticism of the government's policies and had been demanding its resignation for months.

The move also raised questions about the future of Indian democracy and the role of parliament in the country. Some observers felt that the crisis had shown the need for a more robust and effective system of governance, while others argued that the political system was fundamentally flawed and needed a complete overhaul.

In the immediate aftermath of the crisis, the government faced intense criticism and calls for its resignation. The opposition leaders had accused the government of failing to address the needs of the people and of resorting to undemocratic tactics to maintain power.

The resignation of 73 MPs from the Lok Sabha was a significant development in the politics of India, as it marked the end of a long and bitter struggle between the government and the opposition. The move was seen as a major victory for the opposition, which had been vocal in its criticism of the government's policies and had been demanding its resignation for months.

The move also raised questions about the future of Indian democracy and the role of parliament in the country. Some observers felt that the crisis had shown the need for a more robust and effective system of governance, while others argued that the political system was fundamentally flawed and needed a complete overhaul.

In the immediate aftermath of the crisis, the government faced intense criticism and calls for its resignation. The opposition leaders had accused the government of failing to address the needs of the people and of resorting to undemocratic tactics to maintain power.

The resignation of 73 MPs from the Lok Sabha was a significant development in the politics of India, as it marked the end of a long and bitter struggle between the government and the opposition. The move was seen as a major victory for the opposition, which had been vocal in its criticism of the government's policies and had been demanding its resignation for months.

The move also raised questions about the future of Indian democracy and the role of parliament in the country. Some observers felt that the crisis had shown the need for a more robust and effective system of governance, while others argued that the political system was fundamentally flawed and needed a complete overhaul.

In the immediate aftermath of the crisis, the government faced intense criticism and calls for its resignation. The opposition leaders had accused the government of failing to address the needs of the people and of resorting to undemocratic tactics to maintain power.

The resignation of 73 MPs from the Lok Sabha was a significant development in the politics of India, as it marked the end of a long and bitter struggle between the government and the opposition. The move was seen as a major victory for the opposition, which had been vocal in its criticism of the government's policies and had been demanding its resignation for months.

The move also raised questions about the future of Indian democracy and the role of parliament in the country. Some observers felt that the crisis had shown the need for a more robust and effective system of governance, while others argued that the political system was fundamentally flawed and needed a complete overhaul.

In the immediate aftermath of the crisis, the government faced intense criticism and calls for its resignation. The opposition leaders had accused the government of failing to address the needs of the people and of resorting to undemocratic tactics to maintain power.

The resignation of 73 MPs from the Lok Sabha was a significant development in the politics of India, as it marked the end of a long and bitter struggle between the government and the opposition. The move was seen as a major victory for the opposition, which had been vocal in its criticism of the government's policies and had been demanding its resignation for months.

The move also raised questions about the future of Indian democracy and the role of parliament in the country. Some observers felt that the crisis had shown the need for a more robust and effective system of governance, while others argued that the political system was fundamentally flawed and needed a complete overhaul.

In the immediate aftermath of the crisis, the government faced intense criticism and calls for its resignation. The opposition leaders had accused the government of failing to address the needs of the people and of resorting to undemocratic tactics to maintain power.

The resignation of 73 MPs from the Lok Sabha was a significant development in the politics of India, as it marked the end of a long and bitter struggle between the government and the opposition. The move was seen as a major victory for the opposition, which had been vocal in its criticism of the government's policies and had been demanding its resignation for months.

The move also raised questions about the future of Indian democracy and the role of parliament in the country. Some observers felt that the crisis had shown the need for a more robust and effective system of governance, while others argued that the political system was fundamentally flawed and needed a complete overhaul.

In the immediate aftermath of the crisis, the government faced intense criticism and calls for its resignation. The opposition leaders had accused the government of failing to address the needs of the people and of resorting to undemocratic tactics to maintain power.
Vir Pal: Rasmai’s father-figure

By SHOBHA SINGH

Vir Pal grew up in the toos and tumbr of Rasmai village, but unlike his playmates’ parents, his were progressive enough to send him to Mathura for higher education. The bright youth completed M.A. in history and became a professor in the Degree College at Belanikshah in 1958.

His first love was farming and even while teaching, he made it a point to visit his 14 acres of land in Rasmai at least twice a year. His popularity at the campus was nothing compared to the regard he was held in at the village. Having retired recently, he contested the Pradhan’s elections held on June 6, 1988, and was elected with 747 votes for a five-year term.

The Pradhan is the most high-powered and widely travelled Pradhan the village has ever had.

For Vir Pal, a retired teacher, the task closest to his heart is the improvement of the village schools. Their plight induced in him a zeal to improve, rebuild and refurnish them and even demolish and start afresh, if need be.

“chakbandi” a local term referring to consolidation of land and making uniform fields out of the scattered, small plots. Spare land is allotted to the needy and encroachers on the village roads are removed. It is not a particularly pleasant job, says the Pradhan. “The biggest obstacle to recovering the Oman Sabha land is the illegal encroachment. There is an acute shortage of housing space for the landless laborers. After the “chakbandi” I will redistribute the spare land to deserving persons. Some influential villagers have illegally grabbed land. We will try persuasion, failing which, we will resort to legal action.”

Vir Pal has the support of the villagers.

The other commitment of the Pradhan is the repairing of village roads and lanes.

Vir Pal has started collecting funds and sought a government grant to repair the main road.

Another immediate task for the retired teacher, one which is closest to his heart, is the improvement of the village schools. Their plight, seen during several inspections, induced in a zeal to improve, rebuild, refurnish them and even demolish and doors. Leave alone chairs, there is no mat, black-board or chalk,” Vir Pal lamented.

The Pradhan has tried admonishing the erring teachers, and will ask for their transfers if they fail to mend their ways.

Having dealt with these issues, Vir Pal will tackle the village money lenders who virtually control the lives of the poor. He is also concerned about the total lack of industry — small or big — in this area and the migration of all promising youths to Agra and Delhi.

The erratic electricity supply and non-functional water taps are other priorities before the Pradhan. Filled with hope, the new Pradhan says that Nasipur-Rasmai will have its own electric sub-station within two years.

Yet, his assurance lacks conviction for the villagers accustomed to broken promises. The government barely exists for Rasmai. The Block Development Officer lives in Sadabad Tehsil and is never seen in these parts. The District Collector in Mathura, living in splendid isolation has never paid Rasmai a visit. The Pradhan and his Oman Sabha are on their own.
Those who are afraid of freedom

A

YOUNG woman pricked in her New York Central
Park is assaulted and
raped, and left to
bleed on the street.

The young woman was quite
benefited, and her face
was unmarked. But
no one knew her.

She was the victim of
sexual assault.

I suggest that we should
not be afraid of sexual
assault.

For the moment, let us
leave aside the question of
whether or not the
young woman was
benefited. Let us focus on
the fact that she was
assaulted.

The assault took place on
a New York City street.

The young woman was
attacked and
raped.

We should not be afraid
of this.

We should be afraid of the
young woman's fear of
freedom.

For the young woman to
live a free life is to
overcome her fear of
freedom.

The young woman was
attacked and
raped.

We should not be afraid
of this.

We should be afraid of the
young woman's fear of
freedom.

For the young woman to
live a free life is to
overcome her fear of
freedom.

The young woman was
attacked and
raped.

We should not be afraid
of this.

We should be afraid of the
young woman's fear of
freedom.

For the young woman to
live a free life is to
overcome her fear of
freedom.

The young woman was
attacked and
raped.

We should not be afraid
of this.

We should be afraid of the
young woman's fear of
freedom.

For the young woman to
live a free life is to
overcome her fear of
freedom.

The young woman was
attacked and
raped.

We should not be afraid
of this.

We should be afraid of the
young woman's fear of
freedom.

For the young woman to
live a free life is to
overcome her fear of
freedom.

The young woman was
attacked and
raped.

We should not be afraid
of this.

We should be afraid of the
young woman's fear of
freedom.

For the young woman to
live a free life is to
overcome her fear of
freedom.

The young woman was
attacked and
raped.

We should not be afraid
of this.

We should be afraid of the
young woman's fear of
freedom.

For the young woman to
live a free life is to
overcome her fear of
freedom.

The young woman was
attacked and
raped.

We should not be afraid
of this.

We should be afraid of the
young woman's fear of
freedom.

For the young woman to
live a free life is to
overcome her fear of
freedom.

The young woman was
attacked and
raped.

We should not be afraid
of this.

We should be afraid of the
young woman's fear of
freedom.

For the young woman to
live a free life is to
overcome her fear of
freedom.

The young woman was
attacked and
raped.

We should not be afraid
of this.

We should be afraid of the
young woman's fear of
freedom.

For the young woman to
live a free life is to
overcome her fear of
freedom.

The young woman was
attacked and
raped.

We should not be afraid
of this.

We should be afraid of the
young woman's fear of
freedom.

For the young woman to
live a free life is to
overcome her fear of
freedom.

The young woman was
attacked and
raped.

We should not be afraid
of this.

We should be afraid of the
young woman's fear of
freedom.

For the young woman to
live a free life is to
overcome her fear of
freedom.

The young woman was
attacked and
raped.

We should not be afraid
of this.

We should be afraid of the
young woman's fear of
freedom.

For the young woman to
live a free life is to
overcome her fear of
freedom.

The young woman was
attacked and
raped.

We should not be afraid
of this.

We should be afraid of the
young woman's fear of
freedom.

For the young woman to
live a free life is to
overcome her fear of
freedom.
'Even Congress poll says 190 at best'

By CHANDAN MITRA

The results of the recent Congress poll show that the party is in a precarious position. The poll, conducted by a reputed agency, suggests that the Congress is likely to win less than 190 seats in the upcoming elections. This is a major setback for the ruling party, which had been hoping to retain power with a comfortable lead. The poll also indicates that the opposition parties are gaining ground, with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) likely to make significant gains.

According to the poll, the Congress is set to lose several key constituencies, including those in the north and the west. The BJP, on the other hand, is expected to make substantial gains in these regions, particularly in states like Rajasthan and Gujarat. The poll also suggests that the Congress is facing tough competition in states like Maharashtra and Telangana, where it has traditionally been strong.

The results of the poll have come as a shock to the Congress, which had been confident of retaining power with a comfortable lead. The party had been working hard to ensure victory in the upcoming elections, but the poll results suggest that it may have to settle for a narrow victory or even a loss.

The poll results also suggest that the Congress is facing challenges from within. There are reports of dissent within the party, with some leaders expressing concern about the party's performance in recent elections.

The Congress has been in power for several decades, but the recent poll results suggest that it may be facing its toughest challenge yet. The party will have to work hard to overcome these challenges and regain the trust of the voters.

Questions:
1. What does the recent Congress poll suggest about the party's chances in the upcoming elections?
2. How does the poll indicate the performance of the opposition parties?
3. What are some of the challenges that the Congress is facing within the party?

Best Copy Available
ISMS: TERROR, SEPARAT, NATIONAL....
Isms could be religions as in Catholicism, or political philosophies as in socialism, or economic theories as in capitalism, or national conditions like nationalism or imperialism. This set of isms applicable to India and other nations today deal with internal problems and one of the methods employed to reach that goal (separatism and terrorism).

Nationalism is surging in Eastern Europe as Soviet satellites attempt to establish a new identity - Poland and Hungary. Even within the Soviet Union, nationalistic fervor is growing - Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia seek a greater voice. Riots have occurred in some of the southern republics as minority Armenians seek a separate area.

Within India many factors have lead to the desire on the part of certain groups to seek a new nation. Language, religion, ethnic identity are all major factors. In the Punjab, a minority of the oft-maligned Sikhs are seeking a separate state called Khalistan. In Kashmir, the Moslem majority wants to join Pakistan, the arch-enemy of India. In the northeast states, referred to as the "7 Sisters," "tribals," as the papers refer to them, are seeking redress for many alleged injustices. Generally, the government's attitude is one of contempt/disdain or one of overreaction as in the case of the Golden Temple at Amritsar. The armed guards and soldiers encamped by the homes of the wealthy and government officials in Delhi indicate the real threat of terrorism. Reality is that these people are dangerous and their goals are real although the eventuality of achieving separate states or dropping out of India are virtually impossible.

1) Compare India's separatist movements to those in the U.S.A. around 1860 and those taking place in the Soviet Union and Europe this year.

2) Read several of the articles and describe the government's attitude towards the separatists. What approaches would you suggest?

3) How does the government of India sow the seeds for its own demise in India? Give specific examples from the articles attached here.
Dealing with Punjab

By M. N. Buch

ONE of the most depressing things about our handling of the Punjab is the general air of pessimism, a certain despair that pervades amongst the people at the top.

There is also a comparison of the situation in Punjab with that in Northern Ireland. Whilst there may be points of similarity between the two situations, they are certainly not parallel. Northern Ireland is sharply divided on sectarian lines between Catholics and Protestants. The latter are a minority by a small margin. The Protestant majority wants a continuation of the British union. The Catholic Republican Party (IRA) was in the vanguard of the Irish movement, and its weapon was the gun. There is no such equivalent in Punjab.

Northern Ireland is virtually king, with the paramilitary forces being judge, jury and executioner rolled into one. The District Magistrate and the Superintendent of Police, who, as a team, elsewhere protect the citizens from abuse of power by officials, are irrelevant and helpless spectators. A fact which is emphasised by SPs themselves. With the notorious torture techniques applied in Punjab to extract confessions, the law has been amended to permit admissibility of confessions before a designated police officer as evidence in a trial. People are picked up, illegally detained beyond 24 hours without being produced before a magistrate, subjected to third degree torture and murder. The innocent die just as easily as the guilty if they happen to stand in the way of an armed gun.

Torture chambers

Are the citizens of Punjab not entitled to the equal protection of laws under Article 14 of the Constitution? Part III, Chapter 4, Indian Evidence Act, clearly lays the burden of proof on the party alleging a particular fact, that is, on the prosecution in a criminal case. A basic plank of Anglo-Saxon criminal jurisprudence, on which our laws are based, is that an accused is innocent till proved guilty. The so-called interrogation centres at Sangrur and in the Red Fort are our versions of Gestapo torture chambers at Belsen and at the Roman Catholic University of Italy. was kidnapped by the Red Brigade, the police detained a suspect. The investigating officer sought permission to apply extreme third degree. The answer of General G. de la Chesnais, head of the Carabinieri, was classic. He said, 'Italy can survive the death of Aldo Moro, but it cannot survive the reintroduction of torture.'

Can India survive it? In any case, the most debased butchers who run these interrogation chambers are but untutored kids when compared with the professionals of the Gestapo. Illegal arrest, torture and reprisal killings turned the French from a nation of collaborators into patriotic 'Maquis', and in Yugoslavia tied down 40 divisions of German troops in anti-partisan operations during the Second World War. Will we end with every Punjabi being hostile to Government? Can we then rule Punjab?

Julio Ribeiro says that the Punjabis are totally fed up of terrorism but they are not pro-Government. Terrorism will end within a year of the elections. The answer of General G. de la Chesnais is that an accused is innocent till proved guilty. The so-called interrogation centres at Belsen and in the Red Fort are our versions of the Gestapo torture chambers at Belsen and we should be ashamed of them.

Of what value is torture? The information gained is unreliable and the danger of permanently harming an innocent person is great. When Aldo Moro, formerly Prime Minister of Italy, was kidnapped by the Red Brigade, the police detained a suspect. The investigating officer sought permission to apply extreme third degree. The answer of General G. de la Chesnais, head of the Carabinieri, was classic. He said, 'Italy can survive the death of Aldo Moro, but it cannot survive the reintroduction of torture.'

Can India survive it? In any case, the most debased butchers who run these interrogation chambers are but untutored kids when compared with the professionals of the Gestapo. Illegal arrest, torture and reprisal killings turned the French from a nation of collaborators into patriotic 'Maquis', and in Yugoslavia tied down 40 divisions of German troops in anti-partisan operations during the Second World War. Will we end with every Punjabi being hostile to Government? Can we then rule Punjab? Julio Ribeiro says that the Punjabis are totally fed up of terrorism but they are not pro-Government. Terrorism will end within a year of the elections. The answer of General G. de la Chesnais is that an accused is innocent till proved guilty. The so-called interrogation centres at Belsen and in the Red Fort are our versions of the Gestapo torture chambers at Belsen and we should be ashamed of them.

Of what value is torture? The information gained is unreliable and the danger of permanently harming an innocent person is great. When Aldo Moro, formerly Prime Minister of Italy, was kidnapped by the Red Brigade, the police detained a suspect. The investigating officer sought permission to apply extreme third degree. The answer of General G. de la Chesnais, head of the Carabinieri, was classic. He said, 'Italy can survive the death of Aldo Moro, but it cannot survive the reintroduction of torture.'

Can India survive it? In any case, the most debased butchers who run these interrogation chambers are but untutored kids when compared with the professionals of the Gestapo. Illegal arrest, torture and reprisal killings turned the French from a nation of collaborators into patriotic 'Maquis', and in Yugoslavia tied down 40 divisions of German troops in anti-partisan operations during the Second World War. Will we end with every Punjabi being hostile to Government? Can we then rule Punjab?
Who's Who In Punjab Today

Continued from page 1

order is aptly summed up by Mr. Gurbir Singh, a former general secretary of the Punjab PCC(U), who explains: "On December 27, Ray said in Calcutta that 16 hardcore terrorists and 250 others have to be nabbed. Subsequently, Gill (DOF), said on January 29, that there were nearly 300 hardcore terrorists in Punjab. Since then, according to official figures, 300 terrorists have been killed and 1,800 others captured. And still the terrorists are alive and kicking. This shows that Ray is either incompetent or he has misled the nation. For my part, in my press conferences and interviews, have accused the police of corruption and repression. The police are responsible for spreading and sustaining terrorism."

Que: Who is the lynching of the Khalistan terrorists in Punjab today? He is an old man; around seventy. He is a former director of the Health Services of Punjab. One of his sons, Swaran Singh, Boparai, is a senior civil servant of the Punjab cadre. The old man's civil servant son is the in-law of the former Unions External Affairs Minister, Swaran Singh. And the old man is Dr. Sohan Singh.

He is a member of the new Panthic Committee, the central outfit of different terrorist groups operating in Punjab. Dr. Sohan Singh is reported to have crossed over to Pakistan in the last week of May. This is his first visit in Pakistan. He has been underground for the past two years.

After Operation Bluestar, Dr. Sohan Singh had made a speech in the name of the Chandigarh gurdwaras. A case of sedition was registered against him. He was arrested and later released on bail. He was induced to the new Panthic Committee last year. Since then he has been more active. According to police sources, he is not only the main think tank of the Khalistan terrorists, but is also fully involved in chalking out strategy for the various killings.

The second most important man among the Punjab terrorists today is a former student of the Punjab Agriculture University, Ludhiana. His name is Daljit Singh Bitto. He is in his late twenties. He is the convenor of one of the sections of the militant All-India Sikh Students Federation. He is believed to have played a major role along with Charanjit Singh Channi, nephew of senior Akali leader Jagdev Singh Talwandi, killed in a police encounter last month, in the reconstitution of the Panthic Committee.

According to the police, Bitto, too, is in Pakistan at present. He was a final year student of veterinary sciences at Ludhiana University when he gave up studies after Operation Bluestar and joined the terrorists.

Gurjeet Singh Rajithani, the brain behind the stunning Moga carnage, is at present heading the Khalistan Commando Force, believed to be the most effective and deadly among the terrorist groups. Gurjant Singh belongs to a manager district in Rajasthan. He is close to the new Panthic Committee. There is another Gurjeet Singh of village Bhusingwala in Fardiak district. He is heading the Khalistan Liberation Force, another powerful terrorist group in Punjab today.

Kamaljit Singh is another member of the new Panthic Committee, which according to Punjab Police chief K. P. S. Gill, has been calling the shots during the past one month. Kamaljit Singh, a young man, belongs to Sultanwind area on the outskirts of Amritsar and has been active in both planning and taking part in the killings during the past near six months.

Mehal Singh, an ex-service man (he was in the Air Force) is also in the Panthic Committee. He is in his early forties. He belongs to the Babar Khalsa, another key terrorist group, expert in the use of explosives. Mehal Singh, cousin of Mehal Singh, heads the Babar Khalsa. Both belong to village Deoer in Amritsar district. According to police sources, both the brothers, at present, are in Pakistan.
3 terrorists among 8 shot in Punjab

CHANDIGARH, August 7 (UNI)

Three terrorists and a medical practitioner were among eight persons killed while security forces arrested six ultras in Punjab during the past 24 hours. One Joginder Singh was shot dead near Moga in Faridkot district today.

Two unidentified terrorists were shot dead in an encounter between Barnala and Lahowali villages in Tarn Taran police district (Amritsar) this morning. One AK-47 rifle, eight magazines and three letterheads of the "Khalistan Commando Force" were recovered from the site of the encounter.

In another encounter in the same police district, security forces gunned down one more unidentified terrorist near Bhoor village last night. His three accomplices managed to escape.

The district police chief, Mr Bakdev Singh, said some ammunition was recovered from the site of the encounter.

Terrorists shot dead two brothers at Dhandhian village in Majitha police district (Amritsar) this morning. The victims were identified as Sukhdev Singh and Davinder Singh.

Terrorists shot dead a bank gunman, identified as Bishen Singh Rawat, in the industrial area here this morning. However, the Chandigarh home secretary, Mr P.K. Verma, claimed it was not a terrorist crime but a case of attempted robbery.

ARMS SEIZED: Security forces confiscated as many as 11,410 different types of arms including 38 rocket launchers, from Punjab between 1984 and July this year and these were lying with the State Government. The Minister of State for Home Affairs, Mr P. Chidambaram, told Mr Samar Mukherjee in a written answer. As many as 17 rocket launchers, 575 pistols, 154 revolvers and 166 AK-47 rifles were confiscated this year alone, he added.

FOREIGN HAND: There is some evidence of terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir receiving support from sources outside India, Mr Chidambaram told Mr Anand Sharma in a written answer. According to information available, a number of persons from the Valley had received arms and training for creating disorder in the state. In reply to another question, the Minister said 691 organised spy networks were detected by the Government since 1980.
Deaths in custody cast shadow on police force

"Death in police custody alleged."
"Sub-inspector shoots rowdy to death."
"CO(D) ordered to probe lock-up death."

Headlines like these appearing in the local press these days are indicative of the fact that of late deaths in police custody are quite frequent.

There have been three deaths in police custody this year in Bangalore, shaking further the already eroded confidence of the people in police force. Of the three incidents, the CBI and the COD have been asked to investigate one each while the third is under a departmental probe.

The latest in the series of deaths came on July 14, from Vyayalakal police station, H. Rangappa, an accused in a cheating case, the police claimed, hanged himself to death from the ceiling of the toilet in the police station. The ACP, Kengeri Gate division, is investigating the incident.

The Vyayalakal incident comes close on the heels of two more alleged deaths in police custody. Raghu, an accused in a murder case, died in the custody of Kengeri Gate police. Early this year. A COD inquiry has been ordered into the incident as the then city police commissioner, Mr. S.N.S. Murthy, expressed his inability to investigate.

In yet another incident, Shekar alias "Station 4 Shekar," an alleged rowdy, was shot dead by a sub-inspector at the former's house in Banaswadi, early this month. The fifth metropolitan magistrate has ordered the CBI to conduct an inquiry into the incident.

But surprisingly, these incidents have not drawn the public attention as is the Rashheed murder case. But then, the Rashheed case involves a then minister, Mr. R.L. Jalappa, a DCP, Mr. K. Narayan, and several policemen. Since Mr. Rashheed was an advocate his fraternity had come out against the state government and forced it to concede their demand — ordering a CBI inquiry. Soon the events happened in quick succession, the DCP and other policemen had been arrested and Mr. Jalappa secured an anticipatory bail.

The Rashheed murder case sent shock-waves in the entire police force of the state. Police officers confided that detection of crime in the city came down last year as a direct result of the Rashheed incident.

Interestingly, there was only one alleged lock-up death in the city last year as against three earlier reported.

Many feel that death in police custody is the sign of growing ruthlessness and unchecked power of the police. Torture, they say, is increasingly being used with sadistic malevolence, to extract information, to either settle scores or to teach "a lesson" to the person concerned.

But police officers feel that there are different reasons for deaths in custody. According to them, some of the arrested persons normally have suicidal tendencies while others commit suicide unable to withstand mental agony and damage to their reputation. But they do admit that many a time it is the over-enthusiasm to extract information which results in the death of the detainee.

Several officers object to bringing the police responsible for these deaths. They feel that on several occasions it is not the police who are responsible for the deaths, the detainees commit suicide without the knowledge of the police.

Some officers confide that they are forced to resort to third degree methods on a hardened criminal. They say methods will not help them extract information. Pressures from various quarters, including from their top brass and the general public, act upon them to take the case seriously and deal with the accused. "Without applying third degree methods, we cannot just detect the unlikely, and one officer adding that resorting to such methods has become the 'occupational hazard', "

But getting involved in such incidents — apart from being factually indulging in violence — has acted upon the police tellingly. "The number of officers known to handle crime cases efficiently is slowly decreasing and they are preferring non-executive jobs fearing their involvement in custodial deaths. A police officer faces many obstacles in performing duties properly and they take off one's interest in the job itself. It is no surprise if one loses enthusiasm to work in oneself, but we have reached a stage when no one believes what we say."

However, the city police commissioner, Mr. R. Ramalingam, does not agree that the third degree methods are in existence. "In fact, we are exerting our officers to increasingly use scientific methods of investigation," he says.

But this apart, it is a fact that only a few cases are registered against the police and no convictions are reported, despite torture being a criminal act punishable under Sections 330 and 331 of the Indian Penal Code with a maximum of seven years' imprisonment.

According to figures available with the police, a total of 34 deaths in custody have been reported between 1980 and 1988 in the state. Bangalore rural and Bijapur districts police stations have a large share in this with six deaths each. But Karnataka stands nowhere behind other states with that of Karnataka.

They point out that there were as many as 104 lock-up deaths in Andhra Pradesh in four years ending 1988.

Section 41 of the Criminal Procedure Code and recent laws like the National Security Act and Terrorists and Disruptive Activities Act, have armed police aggressors with further power. However, Karnataka lost an opportunity to get the credit of becoming the first state to amend Section 41 of the C.P. C a few years ago. After protest from the police force, the state government put in cold storage a private members' Bill to amend the C.P. C by providing more safeguards to protect the rights of an arrested person.

The then Janata MLC and professor of law in the Indian Institute of Management, Prof. B.K. Chandrashekar, moved the Bill in 1986 according to which an arrested person be served with the reasons for his detention. It also sought to give an opportunity to a person to hand over the order of his arrest to any person of his choice in his locality.

The then Janata government created some sort of history by treating, on November 11, 1986, the proposal as an official Bill, as normally a private member's Bill is either withdrawn or voted down.

According to Prof. Chandrashekar, even the opposition parties wanted to back the Bill but the government decided to keep it in cold storage following protests from the police. The Bill died a natural death following dissolution of the assembly.

However, custodial deaths continue, despite adverse publicity to it. Perhaps it is time — especially when Karnataka registered an all-time high figures for lock-up deaths last year — that steps were taken to prevent the recurrence of such crimes. As a police officer rightly said: "We are ready to face any kind of pressure or disturbance but not deaths in custody. It not only puts a black mark on the police officer concerned, but casts a shadow on the image of the entire police force."

— B.S. ARUN
Landlords abet dacoity

By V. V. P. SHARMA
The Times of India News Service
BETTIAH (West Champaran).

REPEATED efforts by the Bihar government to check crime in Champaran have failed. All because the landed aristocracy of the area represented by a group of 100 families wished it to be so.

In local parlance, five of these families, owning large estates, are called "vice-chancellors" of the "university of criminals", an epithet given to this district by a Britisher, with the remaining constituting the "faculty".

The conditions prevalent in the district are congenial for rise in crime. The families, like the Ram Nagar, Bilsanj, Dumarla and Sitarampur estates, own thousands of acres of surplus land. This is tilled by poor farmers aided by landless agricultural labourers, the two sections constituting 90 per cent of the population.

The criminals, products of feudal oppression ranging from dispossession from their land to rape of their women, belong to backward classes and tribal communities. On the other hand, over 60 per cent of the government machinery is controlled by three forward castes. Not to be taken lightly is the fact that a sizeable section of Bihar's bureaucracy and politicians are either drawn from these families or are related to them by marriage.

Over 50 notorious gang leaders, including Mema Ahir, Duv Mallah, Nagendra Noniya, and another 3,000 gang members or small-time criminals have emerged in this decade.

Official statistics show that 700 murders, 800 dacoities and 250 kidnappings were committed in the Champaran range this decade, the number of unreported or hushed up cases being another 50 per cent. Two years after launching the much-publicised "operation black panther", the government resigned itself to the fact that "crime could be checked only by the continuous presence of para-military forces", which it hoped would "force the criminals to seek shelter elsewhere".

In spite of their caste loyalties, these dacoities act as mercenaries for anyone willing to pay. They are used by powerful contractors, smugglers, landlords and politicians who are affluent but not aristocratic enough to command respect from the dacoits. The murder of the Congress MLA, Mr. Trilok Harijan, and the kidnapping of Mr. Kisanlal Arora, owner of a restaurant here, are recent instances. It is said Basudeo kidnapped Mr. Arora at the instance of some contractors of Valmikinagar and extracted a ransom of Rs 2 lakhs before releasing him.

The credit for introducing the concept of "kidnapping for ransom" goes to a senior police official who was posted in the district in the early '80s. He asked the criminals to stop "unnecessary" murders and dacoities and instead advised them to kidnap "some rich people and release them after extracting ransom". It was also he who allegedly urged the criminals to "organise themselves into gangs".

The dacoities have to depend on the landed aristocracy for their existence. It is a known fact if a landlord is displeased with a dacoit leader, he raises another protege and gets the former killed by the new leader. Otherwise, the landlord simply tips off the police about the dacoits' hideout, and an "encounter" takes place.

In return for the safety of their lives, the dacoits "aid" the landlords in managing their estates and "oversee" smuggling of precious wood along the Indo-Nepal border. But there has been a new development in recent years. Man.: of the ghats of the Gandak river in Champaran have been purchased by dacoits with financial assistance from the landlords. They also pay for the maintenance of the ghats, repairs of boats and salaries of oarsmen, all of whom are said to be criminals.

The criminal-police nexus is another indication of the landlords' dominance in Champaran. Official sources admitted that more than half of the police force belong to forward castes. A classic example is the alleged threats meted out to the late Mr. Harijan by an office in charge of a particular police station when the former had raised the issue of the murder of a Tharu tribal, Kashi Mahro, by a wood smugglers' gang last year.
Moga killer shot
dead in Faridkot

CHANDIGARH, Jul 15 (PTI) Top
terrorist, Dalal Singh alias Dalal, in-
volved in the June 25 Moga killings
and his two accomplices were shot
dead in a fierce encounter in Faridkot
district in Punjab today, reports said.
Elsewhere in the state two hardline
terrorists and a constable were shot
dead and 10 extremists with arms and
ammunition arrested and 14 persons
injured in past 24 hours, the report
said.

Dalal, a self-styled Lt General of
the 'Khalistan Liberation Force' and
carrying a reward of Rs 50,000 on his
head, and two of his accomplices were
shot and killed during an encounter
with a joint naka party of the Punjab
police and CRPF in village Nabian
Khurd Khota, under Moga Sadar
police station in Faridkot district.
The joint naka party engaged the
three terrorists in an encounter after
they on being challenged opened fire.

Twenty-six injured

BHUBANESWAR, July 28 —
Yuva Janata activists, demanding
immediate inquiry into the “illegal
ly acquired assets” of the Orissa
Chief Minister, Mr J. B. Patnaik,
the PCC chief, Mr K. C. Lenka,
and other Congress(I) Ministers,
turned violent in front of the In-
come-Tax Commissioner's office
here today. They clashed with the
police; 28 people including three
police officers and one MLA, were
injured.
The scuffle occurred when the
demonstrators tried to gatecrash
into the Commissioner's office, ig-
noring appeals from some of the
tenor leaders present, including
the Yuva Janata president, Mr
Nalinikanta Mohanty, and Mr
Rikanta Jena, MLA. Later, a dele-
gation led by Mr Mohanty met the
Commissioner and submitted a
memorandum to him, which
brought specific charges against
the Chief Minister and others. Mr
Mohanty said the Commissioner
had assured them he would look
into the allegations and take
necessary action. — Correspond-
ent.

Two shot dead

PATNA, (UNI) Suspected Naxalites
shot dead two persons and injured
several others at Karkoma village
under Meral block of Nalasopar
dominated Palamu district yester-
day. Official sources here said today
land dispute was stated to be the
cause of the incident.

2 killed in clashes

HYDERABAD, (PTI) Two persons
were killed and at least 14 injured
when two rival political groups
clashed at Nadiakidi village in Guntur
district yesterday. The rival groups
numbering about 400 hurled several
bombs at each other, according to
police sources here.

RAMPAGE BY JAWANS: The
Government has ordered an inquiry
into an incident involving a large
number of Army jawans based in
Bikaner, armed with iron rod and
lathis, who went on a rampage at the
Lalgari Railway Station and brutally
beaten the railway staff and pas-
engers on July 5, the minister said in
reply to a question.

Quilon firing

QUILON, July 28 — One person
was killed and over 100 others, in-
cluding 70 policemen, were injured
when police fired on agitating fish-
ing boat workers who turned vio-
 lent at Sekhdikulangara, on the out-
skirt of the town, this evening, re-
ports PFI. The car in which the
Minister for Forestry, Mr N. M.
Joseph, was traveling was ghered
by the agitators. The workers
had been agitating for the past few
days demanding lifting of the Gov-
ernment's ban on fishing by
mechanized fishing boats along the
cost during the monsoon season
as a measure for conserving
fisheries resources.
By G. S. Vasu
Express News Service

HYDERABAD, July 31
The disappearance of trips and Ra-
jamal - activists of the People's
War Group, which led to the kill-
ing of a Mandal Praja Parishad
president and the abduction of two
other MPP chiefs before the Gov-
ernment instituted a judicial inquiry
is not an isolated instance. There
are, in fact, many such cases which
have not come to light at all.
Though Andhra Pradesh has earned
notoriety for "encounter" killings for
more than decade and half, con-
trasting the "disappearance" of lead-
ing members of this extremist
group has lately been one of the
methods of the police of "root out
Naxalism".

There have been at least 20 cases of
FWD activists being picked up by
the police in the last three years.
All of them either disappeared or
turned up as unidentified dead
bodies. The modus operandi of the
police has been to whisk them
away on some fictitious charge and
then there would be no trace of
them. In order to make the identi-
faces more obvious, the dead
bodies were defaced with the help of
acid.
The "missing" phenomenon has
approached the AP High Court for
a writ of habeus corpus direction
the police to produce the missing
persons before the court. The
Court asked the Government to sub-
mit a report on the missing
persons.

Ten victims referred to in the petition
belonged to the Naxalite domi-
nated district of Karimnagar and
Adilabad while a few other cases
were reported from Warangal and
Hyderabad districts.

One of the latest police tactics related
to Ch. Ramaswamy (32) of Mandal-
mari in Adilabad district. Em-
ploved in the Singareni Collieries,
he was stated to have been whisked
away by the Special Task Force on
May 15, this year. His wife and
small children made futile rounds
to the police station. So far, the
cops have not disclosed his where-
abouts.

Civil rights activists allege that there
are not accidental happenings, but
part of a deliberate policy of the
Government to dispose of inconve-
nient people in connivance with
the police. They call it a "system-
atic" killing of these persons to the
statements put out by the police that "uniden-
tified Naxalites", were killed in the
encounters.

It is pointed out that this is not a
usual phenomenon but a well de-
signed strategy consciously pur-
sued by the police in the face of
rising protests. A major conven-
ience with such killings is that there
is no evidence - no body, no
inquest and no magisterial inquiry.
Thus, there is a little possibility of
the state-perpetrated crime being
proved.

The plight of 50-year-old Sasana-
samma of Warangal was miserable
after the disappearance of her son
N有期徒 Venkateswarlu alias Prat-
ash, "abducted" by the police in
August 1986. The next day, the police
filed a case and announced that
an extremist carrying explosives and
arms had slipped and fell under a
train he was trying to board in a
hurry.

The other cases referred to by the
right-wing activists include that of
A. Srinivas, Beijangi Ravinder,
Challa Rapu Reddy, G. Rajinak,
B. Janardhana Reddy, G. Ramana
of Karimnagar, Benjamin and
Sukhithvar Reddy of Hyderabad.
Dr Prasad of Rajamundri, Kumar
A. Venkateswar Rao of amalap-
urum, Gellanki Chandru Reddy
and Venkateswarlu of Nellore.
Most of them are activists or symp-
thathes of various Naxalite
groups.

Civil rights activists demand that the
Government should institute a
judicial inquiry into all these cases
as it did in the case of Ilaksh and
Rajamalu.
INDIA’s HERBLOCK, DARYC, OLIPHANT
If a picture is worth a thousand words than a cartoon is as pointed/poignant as a well-written editorial. Herblock, Oliphant, Darcy, and Lord are as famous, if not more so, than the syndicated editorial writers.

India's political artists paint with the same pointed brush as their American counterparts. And, in studying their cartoonists, one sees the unveiling of a major domestic/international story be it here or on the subcontinent.

1) Have the students bring in a series of cartoons from the local paper reflecting a local, national, and international issue. Using the overhead projector, have the students explain the meaning of the cartoonist effort.

2) To teach a lesson on the Indian political scene, utilize a series of cartoons that are found here.

3) Have the students create their own cartoons reflecting the problems you would be covering at the moment.
Nothing, sir, just the usual resignation letter from a party member saying you are no good, that you are a cheat, liar, betrayer, etc.

You said it
by Laxman

"There are still some sensible people in the Janata Dal.
- L.K. Advani"

Is it a compliment sir?
No, sir, such. By there has been no damage in your constituency during the rain havoc. It's been just like this ever since we can remember!

You said it
By LAXMAN

Now criticisms, allegations and attacks will start all over again! Why don't our people be like those abroad, understanding and friendly?

You said it
by Laxman
WE ARE THE ONES WHO MADE RAJIVJI PM, AND HAVE KEPT HIM PM FOR FIVE YEARS. HAS ANY OTHER PARTY THAT MUCH COURAGE?

AJAJI

You are Tweedledum and Tweedledee but I will vote for the one who makes the least noise before my house.

VOTE FOR
PANDAYS
AND
ENJOY
MAHABHARAT '89

VOTE FOR
KAURAYS
AND
ENJOY TV'S
MAHABHARAT '89
Okay, I had 200 plus articles and I devised a dozen categories. Out on the dining room table, I placed/spread the dozen 3 by 5 cards with the categories/titles written on them. So now I shuffled the articles out. Where does this article go, how about this one? I was left with about ten articles that defied my divisions - enjoy!!
How does one survive in Delhi?

Influence peddling only way out

Influence peddling is the second biggest industry in Delhi after the government. Many people have been seen to have made fortunes by using their influence in the government while many others drown just by having experts in name-dropping.

There is no law which prevents influence peddlers from approximating a client, an official or a politician for a favour. Wanting them to act does not give an impression that the government is powerless and always under any advice. Any decision can be taken or changed depending on how well-connected the influence peddler is. Influence peddlers have been known to use the influence of the government to act as a cover for their dealings, which is a source of much confusion among the public.

There are many in this world even as it is a position of democracy. Admit that if they were paid a set amount of money, the government and they would deal best that more corruption will come to an end. As a result, if they are paid more, the government is saved from any corruption or wronged officials of government.

These are the most important aspects of the influence peddling as the entire country is yet to make up its mind. These are the most important aspects of the influence peddling as the entire country is yet to make up its mind.

After retirement

Then there are many politicians who lose their position while influencing government programmes for private reasons. Many collect their campaign funds for election or other means. These MPLs approached the Congress and influence them to take a decision in a particular way. Some even go to the extent of making the legislative bodies or opposition parties in Parliament if their work is not done. There are government officials who take decisions based on personal relations rather than on merits. They have the power of establishing an image that is affecting the government influence or will be in their hands if they are paid a large sum of money. Influence peddlers derive only from the fact that the government is at the mercy of those who pay them and not from the power of influence peddlers. They are not taken seriously as they do not have any individual's power.

Can it be stopped?

The bureaucracy, which has worked in tandem with influence peddlers, will not be stopped by any decree as it is a part of the government. An ordinary citizen can only hope to receive the proper services from the government. More pressure on public relations and the size of the overall budget of the government needs to be reduced. Even if an influence peddler is paid to deliver a favour, the public is not the one who should be affected.

The government's industrial policy is to make it easier for businesses to operate. Many small and medium-sized companies are not able to survive due to the lack of proper policies. The government is trying to make it easier for businesses to operate. Many small and medium-sized companies are not able to survive due to the lack of proper policies. The government is trying to make it easier for businesses to operate.

DELHI KALEIDOSCOPE

JAL KHA MBATA

FLEET

The government's industrial policy is only a start. There is still much to be done before the government policy can be fully implemented. Only last year, the government had decided to boost 10 growth initiatives to create new jobs and create new industries. The government has already started taking steps to make it easier for businesses to operate. Many small and medium-sized companies are not able to survive due to the lack of proper policies. The government is trying to make it easier for businesses to operate.

The government's industrial policy is only a start. There is still much to be done before the government policy can be fully implemented. Only last year, the government had decided to boost 10 growth initiatives to create new jobs and create new industries. The government has already started taking steps to make it easier for businesses to operate. Many small and medium-sized companies are not able to survive due to the lack of proper policies. The government is trying to make it easier for businesses to operate.
Interior Design for a MIG House

A comfortable house leads to a happy home. And in order to have a comfortable house you need a large floor area, which is not available today. Within the given area you have to make best use by efficiently using space in terms of layout, design detail and colours so that the basic needs of the family are met.

The most economical and widely lived in houses today, eg in the city of Delhi are constructed by the DDA. They make different categories for various income brackets. Let us take as an example a category II Type A-2 built on an area of 80.59 sq meters.

As you see in the layout plan most of the functions have been met.

As you enter, you come into the living room where a few sofa seats along with a centre and side tables have been provided. The wall adjacent to the entrance door, a long cabinet, about 7' in height, has been shown. This cabinet should be about 18’ deep and can hold a TV, VCR, music system books and of course some cups and display items. This room is primarily to be used as a lobby area or a lounge as also to entertain guests.

Between the living room and dining room as shown in the illustration another cabinet has been provided. It is a multi functional cabinet, one side of which can be used as a storage for crockery, cutlery and a place to keep your toaster and the other side could be used as a display. This cabinet has a split height i.e. it is 6’ high near the wall and the other end would be just 4’ high. This break in height will make the two areas look connected and not boxed up as also will serve as a visual block between the two areas. The dining room also has a table for 6, enough for the family to have a sit down meal. In addition, you still feel the spaceage of space you could put up about a 6’ wide and 2’ to 3’ long shelves on the wall on brackets again at difference heights, so as to form some kind of design.

The Master Bedroom or Bed 1. if you notice, has all the basics. It has a double bed which is really a box bed below the mattress are shutters fixed on hinges which can be lifted and the area below used for storage. The head board again is about 6’. Jumbo, the top of which can be used to place a clock, books, a jug of water. Along the bed a bedside table has been placed on one side which has to be so designed as to hold as much as possible.

On the other side of the bed a two drawer dressing has been placed. This is a table 26” high and about 4’ long with drawers. On the wall above 26” a mirror 4’ wide and 4’ high has been fixed to the wall. This now becomes a multi purpose table which can be used as a writing table as also a dressing table when required.

In the bedroom a niche has been provided for the bed which is to be used as a wardrobe. This wardrobe could have sliding shutters to save on space in the bedroom. This wardrobe is to be so designed as to meet the individual needs. The wardrobe should consist of a few drawers a hanging space and shelves to keep clothes. A long mirror can be fixed to one of the wardrobe shutters cabinets or very narrow hinged doors ideally on a linked rod so that two can be opened together for easier access.

Area under sink can be covered with openable shutters, and one of the shutters can have a portable dustbin.

The bathroom can have a shower curtain to visually divide it into two areas, the shower area and the washbasin. The area above the washbasin can have am localism relating to that. A small wall hung cabinet in this area is handy to keep toiletries, shaving kits, medicine etc. The shower area may have another cabinet to keep shampoo etc. A couple of towel racks are a must.

A kitchen is the hub of the house. Kitchen design has changed a great deal since the introduction of many reliable and well designed mechanical items which takes the slaveries out of working eg. a large refrigerator not only keeps a variety of food at different temperatures, but is a long term store so you don’t need to go marketing constantly.

Kitchen get a great deal of hard use, so choose materials, both for work tops and floors which will mellow well and be impregnable. In India one of the best kitchen top is marble as it is long lasting and easy to maintain. It is also an additional cutting and chopping surface.

Fix a small shelf for spices and herb bottles by the cooking area with a rail below so hang cooking implements. A built in hanger helps keep the cook’s life easier and also keeps the blades butcher sharp.

It is better to have sliding doors to clothes. A small closed storage space in a corner for soiled clothes keeps the bathroom neat. Area above the washbasin below the mirror can have a narrow ledge to keep soap etc.

A small wall hung cabinet in this area is handy to keep toiletries, shaving kits, medicine etc. The shower area may have another cabinet to keep shampoo etc. A couple of towel racks are a must.

In the other bedroom again we have 2 single beds, basic side tables placed on the floor which is raised by 6”. Behind these beds we have storage going up about 3’. It also has a wardrobe for storage and flat on the wall to be used as a writing table when required.

In case you need any details or if you have any questions relating to the above please write your letters to Rajiv Mehta, Co Indian Express Advt. Department.
On the ghats of Pushkar

By Robert Cullen

Pushkar is one of those rare places that one instantly likes. The road sign before entering this desert town reads 'It's Wise To Be Important But It's More Important To Be Wise.' A moral perhaps from those wise-looking camels wandering down the main road.

I speak with Ram Dass and his friends from a nearby village. It seems that every year the whole village gets together to fight one another. It's a game for all three hours a day every day for four days.

At the end of each day, 'bidding' the ones still standing get pelleted with stones by the others to make them stop. Ram Dass tells me 'When it's all over everyone shakes hands and goes home.'

Ram Dass's friends enthusiastically tried to convince me of its advantages. 'It's the perfect tonic for stress.' They insist. 'Some of the villagers will carry a grudge for twelve months of the year. perfectly happy.'

Knowing you see, that at the end of it all they can even the score.

How interesting! I wonder how that would work in a big city Delhi - Connaught Place perhaps could be converted into a giant fighting arena for a few days while Delhi's citizens enjoy a tremendous free-for-all. The stress reducing possibilities could be endless.

Pushkar is a vegetarian town. While taking a leisurely swim across the sacred Pushkar lake I was picked on by a hungry creature which tried to bite me toe off. Little did I realise but he was up against an expert chicken as I made wild splashes towards the shore. The pathos of this chicken friend didn't stop until I was shivering safely on the steps of the ghats.

I must say it seems a little unfair. If we can't eat them, then they shouldn't eat us. In all truth, though I didn't actually see him, I think it was a turtle, but not having taken time to study it in detail, it could have been anything. Which brings to mind the man-eating crocodile which used to reside here not so long ago.

The last flock of ducks made graceful exit as evening closed in around the lake. Lights began to appear on the ghats. their reflections shining clearly in the calm water. The sound of temple bells floated across the lake and was answered by the deep resonating note of a conch. From the opposite shore came the spontaneous sound of a flute breaking away in a tune of its own. Some peacocks joined the chorus.

I looked down at my two-rupee wooden flute which I had bought in the market earlier. I wanted to join in with the symphony, but restrained. It was hard to take up my first lesson.
The language war

By Shyam Ratan Gupta

BEFORE India’s independence, it was generally agreed, under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi, that Hindi or Hindustani would be the national language. It was also assumed that English, the symbol of colonialism, would be dislodged, giving Hindi its rightful place in the country. Hinduism, advocated by Mahatma Gandhi, was a synthesis of Hindu and Urdu, languages largely used for oral communication through works of fiction, written both in Hindi and Urdu, could be included in Hinduism literature. Other Indian languages were to be encouraged, and it was expected that the people of India would be multilingual as, for instance, in Europe, with its diversity of languages.

This vision of a multilingual country with Hindi or Hindustani as the dominant language was shared by Indian leaders from the north, south, east and west almost equally. Although most of them were fluent in English, they made conscious efforts to learn other Indian languages too. Mahatma Gandhi had set an example by trying to learn Hindi, Bengali and other languages.

His mother tongue was Gujarati. Later, he also adopted Hindi, though on a limited scale, tried to acquire a working knowledge of the languages of India, if they toured in the regions where they were spoken. To arouse patriotic sentiments, Indian leaders readily used slogans and catchphrases from other languages as well, if only to acquire popularity.

Against this background of linguistic harmony, the Constitution gave primacy of place to Hindi with other languages being equals.

It was hoped that Hindi would grow and replace English in 1965, the terminal date for English being used as the official language at the Centre and in the States. But this was also the year when language riots took a heavy toll of life in the southern States, specially in Tamil Nadu, with English and Tamil enthusiasts opposing the imposition of Hindi on them. The year 1965 is thus a watershed in the linguistic history of India, when ‘shadow boxing’ among the languages assumed the form of embittered conflicts.

Meanwhile, almost everywhere, even in the Hindi heartland of northern India (Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar), English seems to have gained ground in the linguistic landscape, with politicians aspiring for a national image taking to the erstwhile language of colonial rulers.

During the last two decades, the language issue seems to have been mixed up with extraneous factors, such as religion, caste and politics. In the name of national integration, Hindi is championed but official attempts to popularise it in rural and social sciences has merely tended to alienate advocates of other Indian languages. Urdu has become a symbol for the assertion of Muslim identity. Similarly, local and small-time politicians use the language of the region as a tool for political aggrandisement.

The “battle” for languages, though seemingly bloody, has divided the Indian polity in the name of languages. Politicians from all parties appeal to the people and incite them for or against Hindi or any other language of their choice or region. In this ‘cold war’, English rather than any other Indian language seems to be the gained at least among the middle-class elite of the country. It is also imperceptible, emerging not merely as a link language but also as an Indian language across the country, however feeble, amorphous, ungrammatical and flawed it may be. Hardly a day passes when the media do not debate the language issue, the correspondents of writers favouring the two or three language formula, with English as one of them.

Despite official pronouncements, the newly-established Indira Gandhi Open University has been advertising for applications in ‘pluses in creative writing in English’, the assumption possibly being that this will encourage writing talent across the multilingual landscape of India. Two national parties, including the occasional feature “Hindi or English?” of some such columns. The authors as well as other writers point out minor grammatical mistakes in these addresses, ignoring the business of expression and other niceties, which reflect an uneasy grasp of English. They also do not seem to realise that as a percentage of English grows, the standard would be diluted. Further, the purity of language is no longer a criterion for good English. While English in India is thus being degraded, so is the case with other Indian languages, more because of the drive towards literacy.

The new national education policy, announced some time ago, is a non-starter. Similarly, the language policy has not been clearly defined in view of the numerous political and economic considerations which now invisibly distort it.

In a country of nearly 800 million people with nearly 40 per cent below the poverty line, who are also illiterate, it is a stupendous task to impart literacy to them. Only because the minimal manpower and material resources, such as providing them with writing materials, centres of schools and teachers, could involve a production of billions of replicates.

There is also the unspeakable problem of the script, which has to be linear for fast printing technology and for spatial economy. In the heat of these national pride and patriotic sentiments these questions have been not discussed in depth or in an impartial or objective manner.

Put together, languages are today not merely a divisive force but a negative equation for national revival and integration. Regressive and, at the same time, lacking in creativity, they are the voices of the dumb and dead, crude and close to the material sounds of the Cashsmiths of India.
Karamadi, a village untouched by the changing times

By ASHRAF SAYED
The Times of India News Service
AHMEDABAD, July 20

Tucked away in the lush green hills of Aravali on the Gujarati-Rajasthan border is the little known village of Karamadi. Though situated just 60 km from the district headquarters, Palanpur, and 33 km away from the town of Ambaji, the story of this village remains largely untouched by the changes occurring in the region. In traditional terms, it cannot be described as a village because it has many unique characteristics. Karamadi village is spread over an area of 70 sq km. The entire adult population of Karamadi is just 314. They live in huts and 'kachcha' houses built on raised hillocks and separated from each other by thousands of yards. Even after 42 years of independence, the villagers lack basic amenities. There is no primary school, a village well, a primary health centre or even a nurse to provide emergency medical aid to pregnant women. The village has no electricity and runs off the generator. The water supply is met by rainwater storage tanks. The villagers have to walk long distances to fetch water. The roads are narrow and unpaved, making it difficult for medical and other emergency services to reach the village. The villagers lack basic amenities such as electricity, sanitation, and access to health care. The village is isolated and cut off from the rest of the world.

C Patel, the village head of Karamadi, along with many of the villagers, has been fighting for the past few years to get the village connected to the main road. They have been trying to convince the government to build a road to the village, but their efforts have been in vain. The villagers are frustrated and feel that they are being ignored by the government. The situation is严峻, and the villagers are forced to live in poverty and isolation.

The villagers of Karamadi are mostly farmers, and their main source of income is agricultural produce. However, due to the lack of access to markets and transportation, they are unable to sell their produce and make a living. The village is surrounded by mountains, and the roads leading to it are narrow and unpaved. The villagers have to rely on their own farming produce for their livelihood.

The villagers of Karamadi are also affected by the nearby forest fires, which have been burning for the past few weeks. The fires have destroyed a large part of the forest, and the villagers are worried about the future of their livelihood. The government has been slow in responding to the situation, and the villagers are forced to deal with the aftermath of the fires on their own.

The villagers of Karamadi are a hardy and resilient people, and they have been fighting for their rights for many years. Their struggle is an example of the struggle of many other villages across the country, which are facing similar challenges. The government must take urgent action to address the issues facing these villages and provide them with the necessary resources and support to enable them to live a dignified life.

In the meantime, the villagers of Karamadi continue to struggle for their rights and fight for a better future. They are determined to fight for their rights and make their voices heard. They hope that their struggle will inspire others to stand up for their rights and fight for a better future.
Rasmai brightens up as wedding bells toll

By SHOBHA SINGH

THERE young bride-to-be is clad in a thin red nylon sari, while she sits in a fusing hot inner room room with dozens of aunts and cousins drilling down her neck. Being a bride in a typical U.P. village like Rasmai is not easy.

A day before her marriage, Abhilasha, who looks barely 15, is said to be above 18. Though good-looking and healthy, she looks lank and dowdy, the five-day layering of turmeric paste not helping her look any happier. She is the bride-to-be and the other women in the house are taking the chance to pamper themselves. It is for the first time that nail-polish, powder and lipstick have come home after the last marriage, and everyone is smearing them on. A step-sister is making Abhilasha wear dozens of paddy-green glass bangles — a must in Rasmai marriages. Rasmai has been applied coarsely on hands roughened by work in the fields and there is little room to apply nail-varnish as the bride’s nails are looped properly. Her hair is being soaked in oil (a luxury) before being tightly plaited. The girl will now be decked in a gorgeous sari brocade sari, sent by her in-laws. The parents have given no dowry but just a bit of gold, while the boy’s side has sent more gold and a delightful pair of antique silver anklets.

Abhilasha has not seen her groom-to-be, nor has any of her female relatives. Her father and uncles have approved of him. No one from the boy’s family has seen Abhilasha. Just as she is one of the many children of an impoverished farmer (earwax zamindar), the groom is a farmer from a neighbouring village — Harora. Once there, her mother is confident that all she will have to do is cook well, for which she has been well trained.

More intriguing are the dozens of curious women crowding in the tiny mud room. Some are fanning me vigorously, bringing sherbets, while the neglected bride sits in a corner. They are very inquisitive, and have many questions for me.

Meanwhile, Abhilasha’s house has a solid wooden door (painted electric blue for the occasion) embedded in a mud-plastered wall, an open mud veranda with four small thatched and mud rooms surrounding it. The menfolk are stretched out on a couple of charpoys, while the women huddle in the best rooms with the children. The mother of the bride, a weathered old woman but still attractive, is cutting lassethals of yellow pumpkins, which is the traditional vegetable cooked at weddings. It is a sweet-sour preparation served with “puri” and earthen bowls filled of yoghurt and powdered sugar (areen).

At times, a spicy potato curry is served on the last plates. The entire village (including the unreachable) is invited to the feast and the thrummers themselves pick up everyone’s last plates. The investment is never crippling as most of the material is locally grown and all family members pitch in to help.

The bride has studied up to class five and appears too young to bear a child or raise a family. When asked, her sisters-in-law giggle helplessly. “Advise the young girl”, they say. Says the older one: “I have no children. I had a son but he died of ‘Beeds’ (a local name for dehydration).” At my shock, she adds that the local doctor told her it was not “Beeds” but “Buddha” (bebe) which killed her child. She agrees with him as she has fed the infant only water even though she was lactating. Now she is expecting again. The other sister has a daughter in her lap. This is the only grand-child around, but how neglected! Skinny limbs, boils on the head and a bad case of prickly heat made worse by the tight nylon shirt the child is wearing.

By evening, the groom arrives to the accompaniment of music blaring from minak, drowning the song and dance of the village women. A few simple ceremonies with the assistance of the “pandit” and the next day the bride is seen off to her new home amidst more jarring music.

The wedding is over and the village women have much gossip to exchange — what better place to socialise together than the proverbial village well? Known as “panchpatra” in Harora, the typical common well is situated near the “pothier” or the village pond, beside an ancient Peepal tree.

By dusk, the women start assembling their empty earthen pots and putting them high on the head, balancing the rest on their hips. Nothing is as graceful as a slim, hard-working village woman, draped elegantly in a colourful cotton sarri, swaying towards the well with her pots on her head. They move in bunches and once at the well, it’s time for gossip and small talk. The well is the place where a cloistered woman can air her grievances, seek advice from others and exchange secrets. Some take a quick bath, fully clad. Pulling the water out of the well is a strenuous task but these women are quite strong.

In Rasmai, the purdah system is strictly enforced, with the veil coming down to the neck. But this applies only to the women who marry into Rasmai, the local girls being free from the hempering veil. The Rasmai girls must observe purdah when they go to their husband’s village.
TOES OF THE RICH

The plight of the 16-year-old girl from a Rio suburb who won a ticket to Paris to attend the bicentenary celebrations but had no money and nowhere to stay in a city which had just blown up millions of dollars to commemorate the storming of the Bastille, and some more to host the economic summit of the world's richest nations, bespeaks the dilemma of the Third World which comprises two-thirds of humanity. It was perhaps to highlight this contrast and to uphold the true message of July 14 that representatives of the world's seven poorest nations—Haiti, Brazil, Bangladesh, Zaire, Mozambique, Burkina Faso and the Philippines—met on a houseboat on the Seine for what has been dubbed TOES, to wit, The Other Economic Summit. While, much to everybody's embarrassment, Mrs Thatcher told the French that "the rights of man did not originate in France", these seven representatives recounted how life for the agricultural worker had become more difficult under Mrs Aquino and how the people of these countries have learned to expect nothing but the worst from those who rule them.

The contrast between this summit and the real one lay elsewhere too. While the "rich" gorged themselves on pate, broiled salmon, grilled duck, pigeon, vintage champagne and Armagnac, the "low-calorie summit" made do with rice balls and vegetable fritters. And while the leaders of the powerful nations were debating international debt and allied monetary matters in the spanking new Pyramid of the Louvre, those who attended the "alternative summit" voiced their dissent to journalists, ecologists, lobbyists and some leftovers of the sixties' generation who came sporting beards, beads and sandals. But those who organized TOES'89 may reflect that their's was the last laugh after all. At least one of their number, President Sese Seko Mobutu of Zaire (whose adopted name literally means the cock that covers many hens) has reportedly built up and salted away abroad a private fortune that equals his country's foreign debt. Not an inappropriate finale to the celebration of liberty, equality and fraternity for all.
Blowing of a new breeze

By Prof. Reinwald Gansfeld

While delivering the inaugural address, on the occasion of the assumption of office of President of the United States on 20th January, 1986, at 1st Day of Freedom, the President described America that "It was not the first time I had been to the United States and I was very impressed with the friendship and hospitality of the United States."

President Bush further mentioned that "It is time for us to take action to be taken in the name of peace, and for the avoidance of war and the prevention of nuclear weapons."

What explains the lack of such action? The President's speech made a dramatic change in the world, and sharpened awareness of new alternatives.

The President's speech was a call for action in the face of the threat, not only for our own, but for others, to take action and save our earth. It is time for us to take action, to be taken in the name of peace, and for the avoidance of war and the prevention of nuclear weapons.
Blowing of a new breeze

Contd from page 7

Resort to nuclear weapons will result dozens of Chernobyls and several thousands of Bhopals. The environmental dimensions of Chernobyl were so disastrous that this explosion adversely affected the quality of food, water and air throughout the Europe.

It is not only the educational campaign of the scientists and the non-governmental organizations of the UN system that compelled the two superpowers to evolve new global and strategic options in the context of changes in the international security environment. It is the shift in the economic power and the maturing of the world order, based on historic processes of the past four decades that virtually, necessitated a paradigm shift from the cold war dysonomy to detente. The regional conflicts, such as the fratricidal Iran-Iraq war, the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, Vietnam's decision to withdraw from Kampuchea, the Namibian and Palestine problems, that were seemed to be intractable had either been solved or were moving towards their solution. It is surely no coincidence that these developments have been followed by the detente between the two superpowers and the historic agreements to eliminate Intermediate Range Ballistic Missiles and chemical weapons. This new positive game will shift capital and human resources away from the arms race and the dangers of Mutually Assured Destruction to the solution of complex and cumulative problems of human disease, ignorance, resource depletion and over population.

By investing to build a new model of human centred, ecologically sustainable development, the new game will involve new players, primarily Japan and Germany.

The spectacular move initiated by Mikhail Gorbachev against the background of economic compulsions and multidimensional crisis to promote the concepts of Perestroika and Glasnost have virtually brought the world to a turning point and perhaps our planet earth is poised for a major breakthrough.

India too can claim a part of the credit for initiating a peace process through the Six-nations conference culminating in the Delhi declaration.
you and me

DEMOCRACY is caught in the crossfire of scandal and power politics. And the youth and students have not been spared from the phenomenon of power politics at its worst. The hectic political rivalry among the student groups is part of this phenomenon, and Delhi is no exception. The partisan stand of youth and students are not bad per se. But reason and decorum cannot be sacrificed for blind support to the parent organizations.

In a democracy, the parties and their leaders address a gathering in the university premises, the students, gather to show solidarity with their respective political organizations, or to apprise the government of any stream of political philosophy or organization, should have listened to him and given their counter views. The affair is all the more decorous and democratic way of expressing his displeasure of the fact that it is a matter of personal feelings and not in presence of the student organizations and Democratic Teachers' Federation, the organizer of the event, could not do them any good.

Wearing a black suit and white shirt, with the political organizations or their leaders addressing a gathering in the university premises, the students of the various political organizations should have listened to him and given their counter views. The affair is all the more decorous and democratic way of expressing his displeasure of the fact that it is a matter of personal feelings and not in presence of the student organizations and Democratic Teachers' Federation, the organizer of the event, could not do them any good.

The Head students, who did not approve of the ugly scenes at the Delhi School of Economics, when the student was speaking, felt this political allegiance again, 're-veteran communist leader respected as an elder citizen'.

Is it the sign of degeneration of values/ the people's condition?

Balloons for Bottle or hit the scotch but bone-

ous but the antagonists virtually forced the

two and four to stop the opposition policy on setting up a

in the Seoul City Plaza.

The initial enthusiasm of the supporters of the

and the lefties in the blue and red bands.

Bar is favoured by them when it will have to face

the more frightening prospect of nailing the wrath

of the people?

It was a dazzling task indeed and the mem-

bers must be the rueful ones who decided on such

a slogan. After all, the opposition has the

No wonder the protest had to be postponed. As

a way put it, when the bottle for the bottle re-

serves, if it does, the issue is the lines of the
ter controversy, of according special consideration

and concessions to non-resident Indians. Rightly

of the Car and the Star: the Wire, a recent com-

between the Quirehaut and non-Quirehauts

the Indian government. But there are visible con-

flicts between the neighbours colonel leaves alone the massole

of rolling pins and brooms that might have to be
taken care of!

It is the ones who brings the best out of men but

with the Railway, it seems that such a situation

measures little impact and it continues to at-

tend to its duty at its own pace and style. This

was more than manifest last week when several

amorous relatives and friends tried to get the

false information on the fate of trains running

several hours late owing to heavy rain and the

consequent disruption in traffic annou-

The headbrohe, however, had natu-

rally raised the blood pressure of those waiting

for their near and dear ones and the tension

at the telesales counter of the telephone

personnel ringing the railway information

centres in New Delhi railway station.

Or so it seemed going by the experience of

the hundreds who thronged the railway sta-

tions in a rage for information. But one of the

of them just delayed his long-journey to New Delhi as

by Inderjeet Singh in his column, "Keep it

simple and stock reply: "Rahim:" (we do not know)

in the whole of India. The station staff seems to

be ignorant about the Vrijheepet coaches that are at-

tached to Dehli Express or Luck Express, and is

commonly known.

The much-publicized automatic ticketing

information service only to telephone on the status of trains

running on time or late would have made none

of the difference even after the train

ravel voice on the phone kept on saying that

the particular train was running '41 hours late'.

A reader phoned and said that when asked

about the Karia Express that left Trivandrum on

21. The inquiry showed the train was

to arrive on 25, even though it had arriv-

ed at New Delhi station. So what precisely

the reaction was not so much the late running of trains

unavoidable following natural calamities, but

the near absence of any, worthwhile effort to provide

correct information to people.

The next layout of NOIDA might fascinate you

in small towns and open spaces as yet un-

bled by the ubiquitous skyscrapers that clutter

other cities, might be the envy of many urban

planners and the citizens alike.

Indeed, the nameless town of Uttar Pradesh —

towns of Bombay glory of Delhi, boasts of

a large number of sectors for its comparatively cheap

and spacious residential, as well as houses for every

manner of industrial unit.

But the beautiful town normally suffers from a

one black spot — the俱 mass of people. It is so

regular that the residents have become atonic to the

traction of the people living there without any com-

plain. One is the uselessness of such a reaction

in the last one week, power tripped on more. Jan

one occasion and sometimes it went off twice in

a day.

Imagine the plight of residents in summer if

a horrendous experience to bear the heat, the

the weather due to absence of enough trees

to the agony of the residents. The humidity

in the monsoon comes to a lesser to the pa-

sion of the people?

As if these problems are not enough, the

problem of pollution and noise also tend to put up with

sensible ones as it were for the radicale power supply

with the long waiting in the air.

A colleague who drives home has seldom

found the streets tempestuous. Not all of them

could have defective bulbs or wrong in gas

benefit of their light and bright up afterwards.

Wonder whether the authorities have bothered to

add the missing road safety, problems, and

content with having set up an arriduous umbrella

the supply structure without the

relishing the freshener of the essential amenities.

The anti-smoking campaign has long been

reached the common rural folks. The type

the breeze to keep the city clean, or so it

seems. Recently have been cut at a market de-

signed to light a cigarette to avoid the heat. He

desperately searched for his lighter and found

it approached a group of wire. But

to his surprise, even as he was giving a

matchbox, he discovered that the gas was

involved in a lively discussion on smoking. Appear-

ently, one of them had given up the habit a few

months before, and his new

found stamina. He told his colleagues how even

at the end of a busy day he did not feel tired

and had decided to keep up his good resolve

and said he could run again without losing

any breath, just like his children.

That talk of stamina impressed the group to no

end. For armchair enthusiasts who never

an effort to keep in the exercise.

The third view was that a systems approach was

towards a solution of men and women. The"

in the city roads has left a colleague wondering about

their capacity to rejoin even a minor pacification,

lions apprehend terrorists. A colleague the other day was witness an

interesting dilemma. A bus in which the pocket of an elderly man was

but more than that of the victim what he

lives. The man got into the car of the conductor

instead of taking the bus to the nearest police station. The public practice

the conductor went hammer and tong in the vic-

One has to take care of one's personal be-

longings, he barked adding that he could not

prevent the commuters from getting down at the

stop and joining the station.

Fortunately, as the bus halted at the next stop in

Naini Tihar, the DC of the police station sta-

ationary nearby and approached with the help

to the conductor, did a noble face and

ordered that no one was to get down from the

bus till the police arrived immediately whereas

a speeding police car pulled behind the bus

about wasting any time the man in uniform

asked the conductor and the victim.

While the victim and the police were locked in

conversation, people freely sipped and boarded the bus. Need a search was conducted in the

half empty bus for the missing wallet.

Meanwhile the remaining passengers in the

bus lost all patience and jumped out of the bus

to be allowed to proceed on its journey. But the

bus stuck to the gun and tried to impress upon

them that the only loss of money and time they could

happened when the driver was overcharged.

But it was evident that the police tried to

them in tracking the culprit, the bus driver.

As the output above, the decision of the police

did not need a haste thing — that of taking the con-

ductor to task. Taking him to the police station

saw the passengers and call the Tugel Road police

station. But the police said that the police

wanted to achieve when so many people had

easily entered and escaped from the bus. A class

case of locking the horse when the

hose had bolted So much for the efficiency of the po-

204 - 232

BEST COPY AVAILABLE
NAMASTE