

Dr. Manmohan Singh hailed as a great Prime Minister

Apropos of the letter by AC Dutta (28 July), I can't but protest against the remark made by the correspondent against Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. He is not only a bureaucrat but bears all the good qualities of a great leader and he has proven his ability as a great statesman through his work; he is successfully leading the nation to a definite goal even in these stressed years of recession, which has badly affected even developed countries like the USA, UK and others.

Dr Singh has a grand overview of the political and economic scenario of the world and he works on silently but resolutely to bring economic stability to the country against all opposition. He deserves the post of the Prime Minister and hence he has been selected for a second term unequivocally.

It is sad to note that Mr Dutta could not evaluate such a personality whom we can equate to some extent with former Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee, who too worked steadily, silently and resolutely to lead the nation to glory.

I support Dr Singh as Prime Minister because his perception is clear, he is selfless, without any craving for charismatic charm or personal gain.

[This letter was published in The Statesman, Delhi & Calcutta, 6 aug. 2009]

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The Bhagat Naamdev Miracle

Sir: I have just read the article in (pg 65 of July 2009 issue) *The Sikh Review*, regarding the place where the temple is situated where Namdev ji was turned away from the front of the temple, and pushed and dragged to the back, and the temple turned towards him.

I have seen your note below the article, confirming without a caveat her surmise that the Udipi Krishna temple is indeed that place.

I have been a judge in Washim (Maharashtra), part of then Akola Distt in 1956-58. On the way from Washim to Nanded, about 5 miles off the road is a place called Hingoli.

I have visited the temple, locally known as Ondha Nagnath, also called Namdev Ka Deorha. The legend is that it was at that temple that Namdev sat in the front, enjoying kirtan. When the priests found him to be of low caste, they dragged him and made him sit at the back. **They were shocked to see that the whole temple turned towards him.**

Just a fortnight back, part of my family attended the 70th IIGS camp at Dehradun. They told me that one, S Ishar Singh, a theologian and advocate from Hyderabad, had visited the camp and showed the photos and history of *Nanded da Deorha*, as stated above. You may write to Sachkhand Hazoor sahib for confirmation.

In my opinion, if Udipi temple was that place, then at least the locals would have referred to Namdev ji's name.

BALBIR SINGH AHUJA

C 353 Defence Colony

New Delhi 110024

Email: balbir.ahuja@yahoo.com

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Afghanistan's Sikh Lady Doctor MP's Initiative

Dear Shri S.M. Krishna,
Hon'ble Union Minister for External Affairs.
Govt. of India
New Delhi

You are aware that most Hindus and Sikhs have migrated out of Afghanistan, and hardly 3,000 of them are now living in Kabul and other towns. When I went to Kabul recently, I met a Sikh woman, a Dentist Doctor who is immensely popular among the people, and in the media. Her name is Anarkali Honaryar; she is a Sikh, and her father S. Kishan Singh is an engineer. Anarkali was born in 1984 in Baghlan province of Afghanistan; she moved to Kabul after finishing High School.

Recently, she has been named as 'Afghan Person of the Year' for 2009 by Radio Free Afghanistan, for her struggle to uphold the rights of women and religious minorities. She is working for International Council for Human Rights (ICHR), and has frequently appeared on TV and Radio. She has been a Member of the Loya Jirga - Afghan Parliament.

I propose that the Govt. of India invite her as a special Guest to tour India. This will greatly boost Indo-Afghanistan relations. She will also be able to visit the Golden Temple, Amritsar and meet various women NGOs and Human Rights Groups in different parts of the country. You may like to ask the Indian Embassy in Kabul to sponsor her.

TARLOCHAN SINGH, MP

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Correction

Sir,

In the July 2009 issue, the article on Naam Simran wrongly quotes Gurbani on p. 12, as "Parmatma" for "*Pratma*". It should read:

ਆਤਮਾ ਪਰਾਤਮਾ ਏਕੋ ਕਰੇ ॥
ਅੰਤਰਿ ਕੀ ਦੁਬਿਧਾ ਅੰਤਰਿ ਮਰੇ ॥

P.S. BAGGA

Email: psbagga@sms.co.in

The error is regretted.

- Ed. SR

