

SAVE HINDU TEMPLES Supplement



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Hinduism as I know it entirely satisfies my soul, fills my whole being ... When doubts haunt me, when disappointments stare me in the face, and when I see not one ray of light on the horizon, I turn to the *Bhagavad Gita*...

-- Mahatma Gandhi

Table of Contents

INTOLERANCE TOWARDS HINDU CULTURE.....	5
BUS SURCHARGE ON MAHA SIVARATHRI	5
WHAT IS LORD RAM'S MISTAKE?	7
JUSTICE BHIKSHAPATHY'S REPORT ON CHRISTIAN EVANGELICAL ACTIVITIES IN TIRUMALA	8
ENCROACHMENT AND SALE OF TEMPLE LANDS & PROPERTY.22	
TIRUPATHI DECLARATION (AGAINST YSR GOVT. ATTEMPT TO TAKE OVER 5 OUT OF 7 TIRUMALA HILLS AND ENCOURAGING CONVERSION ACTIVITIES ON TIRUMALA).....	22
SEVEN HILLS COVER 250, NOT 27 SQ KM	25
TEMPLES LANDS LEFT TO FATE (THE PLIGHT OF TEMPLES LANDS SITUATION IN AP)	26
JUSTICE VENKATA RAMI REDDY REPORT PUTS ALL RESPONSIBILITY ON THE ENDOWMENTS COMMISSIONER (FOR THE MASSIVE TEMPLE LAND SCAM)	29
YSR GOVERNMENT, EYEING TTD FUNDS FOR JALA-YAGNAM.....	34
AUCTION OF MANDIR LAND	34
STATE PUTS DIVINE PROPERTY UP FOR SALE.....	36
INDIRAMMA: TEMPLE LAND TAKEOVER STAYED	37
BHARDRACHALAM LORD RAMA'S LANDS FOR POLAVARAM VICTIMS.....	38
TEMPLE LAND LEASE SCAM IN ANDHRA PRADESH	39
(EENADU, APRIL 23, 2007)	39
STATE PUTS DIVINE PROPERTY UP FOR SALE.....	41
TEMPLE LANDS READY FOR SALE (3,000 ACRES IN EAST GODAVARI DISTRICT).....	43
AP TEMPLE LAND AUCTION NETS 1.10-CRORE REVENUE BY AUCTIONING 3,048 ACRES IN RECORD TIME.	44
NOTHING WRONG IN SELLING VACANT TEMPLE LANDS: REDDY	45
SHARKS EAT UP GOD'S LAND, HYDERABAD.....	46
YSR LAND SCAM – CNN-IBN INTERVIEW(TV)	48
CURTAILING RELIGIOUS FREEDOM FOR HINDUS.....	49
PANEL SUBMITS REPORT ON CHILUKUR TEMPLE	49
AP STATE WILL TAKE TOTAL CONTROL OF ALL MUTTS	50
YSR ENDOWMENT MINISTER DECLARES THE TAKE OVER OF 181 MUTTS.....	51
STOP MEDDLING IN RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS' (SEER WARNS YSR GOVT.).....	51
IMPOVERISHING THE TEMPLES AND PRIESTS.	53
IN SERVICE OF THE LORD, YET IGNORED (THE PLIGHT OF PRIESTS).....	53
DEVOTEES URGED TO TOE 'CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE' LINE	54
PROMOTING CHRISTIAN CONVERSION ACTIVITY	56
RELIGIOUS CONVERSION IN AP POLICE STATION	56
VICE CHANCELLOR OF PADMAVATHI UNIVERSITY SHOULD BE REMOVED DEMANDS BJP..	57

TIRUPATI: UMA MAHESHWARI'S SUICIDE - WHY ARE OFFICIALS SILENT?.....	58
LANDMARK JUDGEMENT	60
MAKE WAQF-LIKE BOARD FOR HINDU RELIGIOUS BODIES: HC	60
THE ANSWER.....	62

Intolerance towards Hindu Culture.

Bus surcharge on Maha Sivarathri

[Eenadu, February 16, 2007 \(Leading Telugu Daily\)](#)

Hyderabad: BJP deplored the surcharge levied on passengers visiting various Shiva temples on the occasion of MahaSivaratri festival. The surcharge went up to 50 percent. BJP deplored that the same Government which provides subsidies to non-Hindus (Muslims and Christians) visiting holy places discriminated against Hindus by charging extra fare. BJP complained that Andhra Pradesh Government under the leadership of YS Rajasekhara Reddy is showing antipathy towards Hindus. K. Lakshman, General Secretary of BJP released a press statement asking Government to take steps so that such discrimination is not repeated.

ఈనాడు

THE HEART AND SOUL OF ANDHRA PRADESH

Friday , February 16, 2007

Today's Paper

FROM

జాతీయ వార్తలు

రాష్ట్ర వార్తలు

సంపాదకీయం

మీమూట

వ్యాఖ్యానం

రాజకీయాలు

బిజినెస్

స్పోర్ట్స్

వసుంధర

సినిమా

కార్టూన్ / ఫాటో

ప్రతిభ

సాహితీ సంపద

అంతర్యామి

గ్రహం అనుగ్రహం

వాతావరణం

ఉద్యోగ అవకాశాలు

శివరాత్రి బాదండు

శ్రీశైలానికి అదనపు దోపిడీ

అన్ని ఐసెల్లోనూ 50% పెంపు

హైదరాబాద్, న్యూఢిల్లీ:



గురువారం ఉదయం శ్రీకాళహస్తి పురవీధుల్లో హంస, శుక వాహనాలపై ఊరేగుతున్న శివపార్వతులు.

ఈనాడు ఎక్స్‌ప్రెస్

సందేశాలు

కొనసెట్టి

పెళ్లిపందిరి

విపుల

అన్నదాత

తెలుగు క్యాలెండర్

ఈటీవీ ప్రాగ్రాం గైడ్

OTHER STORIES

ఇంపాక్ట్ వీ జుల భారీ

పెంపునకు ప్రతిపాదన

అటకెక్కిన జలవిధా

నం

మరో ప్రాస

శివరాత్రి బాదుడు

గత నెల్లో సంక్రాంతి సీజన్‌ను చక్కగా వినియోగించుకున్న ఆర్టీసీ శివరాత్రితో మరో ముందడుగు వేసింది. ఇప్పటి దాకా అదనంగా నడిపే హైటెక్, వోల్టేజీ బస్సుల్లోనే అదనపు ఛార్జీలు వసూలు చేసేవారు. అది కూడా 30 శాతం ఎక్కువగా తీసుకునేవారు. సంక్రాంతి సమయంలో దాన్ని గుట్టుచప్పుడు కాకుండా 50 శాతం నికే పెంచేవారు. ఇప్పుడు శివరాత్రికి ఈ అదనపు ఛార్జీని సామాన్యులు వెళ్లే బస్సులకూ విస్తరించింది. వందగ కోసం ఆర్టీసీ శ్రీకైలానికి 50 ప్రత్యేక బస్సులను సిద్ధం చేసింది. వీటిలో అన్ని రకాల బస్సులపైనా 50 శాతం అదనపు ఛార్జీని వసూలు చేస్తోంది. హైటెక్ బస్సు సాధారణ ఛార్జీ రూ.124 కాగా రూ.190 వసూలు చేస్తున్నారు. లగ్జరీ బస్సు సాధారణ ఛార్జీ రూ.109 ఉండగా రూ.165, ఎక్స్‌ప్రెస్ ఛార్జీ రూ.98 కాగా రూ.150 తీసుకుంటున్నారు. మరో రెండు రోజుల పాటు ప్రయాణించే వారికోసం ఇంకో చంద బస్సులు సిద్ధం చేసి నట్లు అధికారులు పేర్కొన్నారు. ఏడుపాయల జాతర కోసం 150 అదనపు బస్సులను సమకూర్చినట్లు తెలిపారు. కాగా హైదరాబాద్ నుంచి నిండుగా వెళ్లే అదనపు బస్సులు ఖాళీగా తిరిగి వస్తుండడంతో అదనపు భారం వేస్తున్నామని వారు పేర్కొంటున్నారు. నిజానికి జాతర, దర్శనాలు మార్తయిన తర్వాత భక్తులు తిరిగి అవే బస్సుల్లో వస్తుంటారు. అందువల్ల రద్దీలో మార్బేషీ ఉండదు. అయినా అదనపు ఛార్జీలు వసూలు చేస్తున్నారు.

What is Lord Ram's mistake?

(Sri Rama Navami taken off Govt. Holiday List)

Andhra Jyothy, April 5, 2007

Hyderabad, April 4 (online): The AP state Government's attitude in declaring holidays is causing controversy even among the party and official circles. The Government has declared holidays on April 5 for Babu Jagjivan Ram's birthday and April 14 for Ambedkar's birthday. The Chief secretary Harinarayan passed orders to this effect using negotiable instruments act. Many citizen associations and groups have earlier requested state Government to declare holiday to financial institutions on SriRama Navami using negotiable instruments act. Government rejected the demand claiming that under the act holiday count cannot exceed 18 in a given year. The AP Government also claimed that even in other states under negotiable instruments act the number of holidays cannot exceed 18 thereby silencing the people.

But the new orders passed by Chief Secretary is raising the controversy. People are questioning YS Rajasekhara Reddy's Government how the act which was used the state Government to deny Hindus of their religious holiday is used by Government to further its political interests.

రాముడేం పాపం చేశాడు ?

సెలవులపై విమర్శలకు తావిస్తున్న సర్కార్ వైఖరి

హైదరాబాద్, ఏప్రిల్ 4 (ఆన్లైన్): సెలవులు ప్రకటించడంలో ప్రభుత్వం అనుసరిస్తున్న వైఖరి అధికార వర్గాల్లోనే విమర్శలు మొదలవుతున్నాయి.. ఈసెల అయిదవ తేదీన బాబూజగ్జీవన్ రామ్ జయంతిని, ఈ సెల14న అంబేద్కర్ జయంతిని పురస్కరించుకుని రాష్ట్ర ప్రభుత్వ కార్యాలయాలకు సెలవులే. నెగోషియేట్ ఇన్ స్ట్రుమెంట్ యాక్ట్ కింద కూడా ఈ రెండు రోజులను సెలవుదినాలుగా ప్రకటిస్తూ ప్రభుత్వ ప్రధాన కార్యదర్శి హరినారాయణ ఉత్తర్వులు జారీ చేశారు. శ్రీరామనవమి సందర్భంగా కూడా నెగోషియేట్ ఇన్ స్ట్రుమెంట్ యాక్ట్ కింద బ్యాంకులు ఇతర ఆర్థిక సంస్థలకు సెలవు ప్రకటించాలని భారతీయ జనతా పార్టీతో సహా పలు సంఘాలు ప్రభుత్వాన్ని కోరాయి. ఈ

చట్టం కింద సెలవుల సంఖ్య 19కి మించ కూడదన్న ఉద్దేశంతో ప్రభుత్వం ఈ డిమాండ్ ను తోసిపుచ్చింది. దేశంలోని ఇతర రాష్ట్రాల్లో కూడా నెగోషియేట్ ఇన్ స్ట్రుమెంట్ యాక్ట్ కింద 19 సెలవులే ఉన్నాయని ఇంతకు మించి ఇవ్వడం కుదరదని స్పష్టం చేసింది. నిబంధనలు అలా ఉంటే చేసేది ఏముందని అంతా మిన్నకుండిపోయారు.

కానీ చీఫ్ సెక్రెటరీ తాజాగా జారీ చేసిన ఉత్తర్వులు ఇప్పుడు వివాదానికి దారి తీశాయి. శ్రీరామనవమికి బ్యాంకులకు సెలవు ఇవ్వమంటే నిబంధనలు ఒప్పుకోవని తిరస్కరించి.. ఇప్పుడు జగ్జీవన్ రామ్, అంబేద్కర్ జయంతిలకు సెలవు ఎలా ప్రకటించా రన్న ప్రశ్న తలెత్తింది.

Justice Bhikshapathy's report on Christian evangelical activities in Tirumala

His Holiness Sri Vishweshwara Teertha of Pejawar Mutt, Udipi, requested Justice G. Bikshapathy, Justice K.B. Siddappa, former Judges of Andhra Pradesh High Court, Shri T.S. Rao, former Director General of Police, Andhra Pradesh, Dr. P. Geervani, former Vice-Chancellor of Padmavathi Mahila Vishwavidyalaya and Dr R. Srihari, former Vice-Chancellor of Dravidian University, Kuppam, to function as a fact-finding committee under the chairmanship of Justice G. Bikshapathy to ascertain the factual position as regards the activities

of non-Hindu religious communities in Tirumala and Tirupathi.

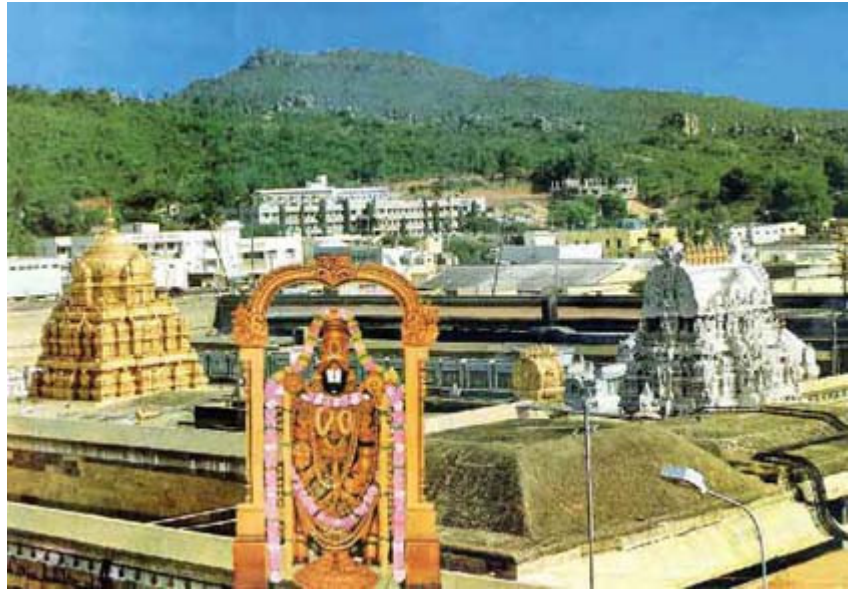
Many people from Christian and Muslim communities were being employed in the TTD and some of the Hindu employees were even converted as Christians and they practice Christianity. About 40 families in Balaji Colony are Christians. They hold congregations and prayers on Sundays.

Only Hindus are to be appointed as employees in the TTD under the rule. However, the EO stated that for some period this was not followed with the result that some Muslim personnel came to be appointed. He further stated that steps are being taken to shift them to some other places gradually. Some employees in the TTD also profess Christianity and that in the police quarters also congregations and prayers are conducted regularly.

Discontinued the practice of garlanding the portraits of Lord Venkateswara and Goddess Padmavathi everyday. Instead she kept a portrait of Jesus Christ and the Cross on her office table. She sends batches of students in the university buses to the church. It is also stated that in the Mahila University, the students are not allowed to have tilak on the forehead now-a-days and that students putting tilak are being discriminated.

Cow slaughter is taking place in down hill at Tirupathi near D.R. Mahal. The meat is being transported to Tirumala clandestinely. TTD Kalyana Mandapam at Nagalapuram is being used by the Christians for their prayer congregations and for performance of Christian marriages. Near Sree Rama and Siva Temple in Tirupathi, Christian prayers and propaganda take place by intercepting the Hindu devotees visiting the temples.

Sri Vishwesha Teertha Swamiji of the Pejawar Mutt in response to startling disclosures of the planned evangelist activities in the holy Tirupathi temple premises announced that the leaders of Hindu mutts would meet in the temple complex on July 15 to



discuss the activities of Christian missionaries, including attempts to convert Hindus in Tirumala and Tirupathi.

The Swami said it was disturbing that Christian missionaries had selected these places to carry out conversions. “We will meet in Hyderabad on July 11 and then in Tirupathi on July 15 to chalk out our course of action,” he said. He was speaking after receiving a report from a fact-finding committee on this issue and sent by him to Tirupathi. The committee visited Tirumala and Tirupathi last month and held meetings with people there before preparing the report.

“As a Hindu saint, I am worried about the conversion activity taking place there, which was why I constituted the committee to look into the matter,” he said.

Shri D. Bheemasena Rao, the convenor of the Tirumala Tirupathi Samrakshana Samiti, said the July 15 meeting is likely to chalk out a mass awareness programme against conversion. Retired Andhra Pradesh Director General of Police, Shri T.S. Rao, who was a member of the fact-finding committee, said that 15 to 20 families in Tirumala have been converted in the past two years. He alleged that the vice-chancellors of the Padmavathi and Venkateshwara universities were

using coercive methods to convert students to Christianity. “During public interactions, we were told that students who had enrolled for PhDs were being pressurised to convert. They have even been told that they would not get their doctorate unless they converted,” he added.

Dravida University’s former Vice-Chancellor Dr R. Srihari maintained that Christian missionaries had chosen some important places of worship in Andhra Pradesh as part of their strategy, which was why they had moved to Tirumala and Tirupathi for this exercise.

The following is the full text of the high-level committee’s report:

The Committee found that members of the Christian community distributed religious pamphlets and copies of the Bible to the students who were returning after writing the EAMCET examinations conducted at various centres in Tirupathi in May 2006. Apart from



other persons, who deposed before the Committee, this information was also disclosed by the son of Shri Prabhakara Acharya, Secretary of Vaikhanasa Ashram at Tirumala, who appeared for the EAMCET examinations. This activity of the Christians led to serious tense situation in Tirupathi. It was also revealed to the Committee that a large number of women and men, dividing themselves into several groups, distributed Christian religious material at various places including EAMCET centres. Some student organisations protested against these activities. Police had to intervene to maintain law and order.

On April 9, 2006, two Christians by name Balaraju (pastor) and Babu while coming down from Tirumala to Tirupathi in bus bearing No. AP 11Z 1130 distributed pamphlets propagating Christianity to the pilgrims travelling in that bus. One of the passengers Shri Arvind of Hyderabad complained the matter to the AV&SO Shri S. Sivananda Kishore, who after enquiry, gave a report on 11.4.2006 to the Vigilance and Security Officer, TTD. Basing on his report, a case in crime No. 8/2006 was registered against S. Balaraju and P. Babu, residents of Tirupathi and the police took up investigation. On the basis of the said complaint, Shri R. Sivananda Kishore (AV&SO, Sector-III, TTD, Tirumala), in his report recommended as follows:

“In the light of instant case, the following recommendations may be considered to avoid recurrence of such incidents in future.

As per Rule 197 of APCHR and E Act 1987 the population living in Tirumala shall adhere to the norms and shall follow the sentiments of Hindu Religion. As such a thorough probe has to be taken up to verify the antecedents of non-Hindu employees who are working in TTD as well as government departments, i.e. police, fire services, commercial taxes, etc., who are staying in Tirumala. The identified employees and their families shall be shifted from Tirumala.

His Holiness Sri Vishweshwara Teertha of Pejawar Mutt, Udipi, requested Justice G. Bikshapathy, Justice K.B. Siddappa, former Judges of Andhra Pradesh High Court, Shri T.S. Rao, former Director General of Police, Andhra Pradesh, Dr. P. Geervani, former Vice-Chancellor of Padmavathi Mahila Vishwavidyalaya and Dr. R. Srihari, former Vice-Chancellor of Dravidian University, Kuppam, to function as a fact-finding committee under the chairmanship of Justice G. Bikshapathy to ascertain the factual position as regards the activities of non-Hindu religious communities in Tirumala and Tirupathi and to furnish a report to His Holiness for considering the steps to be taken to

prevent undesirable activities of the Christian and other non-Hindu communities.

Some of the family members of the TTD employees such as wife and children are practicing Christian ideology and inviting the pastors to conduct prayers in their homes at Tirumala, the committee found.

In the Rule 198 of APCHR&E Act 1987 the following activities are prohibited at Tirumala:

(A) Carrying and possession of holy books of other religions like Bible, Quran etc. (B) Any kind of propagation of other than Hindu religion by way of distribution of pamphlets, literature, brochures, stickers, banners, flags, including prayers and speeches etc.



Two Christian women belonging to Chilakuluripet were found in the TTD queue complex and they were caught red-handed on 26.4.2006 distributing religious pamphlets to the pilgrims in the queue and were handed over to the Deputy Superintendent of Police at Tirumala by the pilgrims themselves. The Committee was informed that the Vigilance personnel took into custody these two Christian women and produced them before the DSP, Tirumala. The Committee was told that the Special Officer got released those two women after questioning them and arranged special darshan and gave prasadam. When the Committee met the Executive Officer on 22.06.2006, Special Officer Shri Dharma Reddy was present and he told the Committee that those

two women came from an old-age home, run by a Christian mission and they stated that as per the wish of some of the inmates of the old-age home who were suffering from AIDS, they came to get prasadam for distributing it to those inmates, and on that representation of the two women, he permitted them to have darshan after signing the requisite declaration and gave them prasadam. No name of the old-age home was disclosed.

It is highly unlikely that a Christian would travel long distance to visit Tirumala to collect prasadam offered by a Hindu religious temple to be given to the inmates of an old-age home run by a Christian mission. The two women did not disclose to the TTD officials concerned before entering the queue complex that they were Christians, and they got into the queue complex without signing the requisite declaration and obtaining permission of the TTD officials concerned.

Two Christians David (pastor) and Kumar were found propagating Christianity in Tirumala and they were handed over to police. The police registered a case and kept them for two days on remand. Those two persons admitted that they committed a mistake. This was also confirmed by the EO, TTD who stated that the two were indulging in religious propaganda. However, strangely the Special Officer, Shri Dharma Reddy, stated that they did not indulge in any Christian propaganda. The two Christians were eventually released without taking any action against them.

On May 21, 2006, Special Officer Shri Dharma Reddy held a press conference in which he stated that no Christian religious propaganda was going on in Tirumala. It is evident that he is not taking a serious view of these objectionable activities of the Christians at the holy place of Tirumala.

Propagation of Christian religion in educational institutions in Tirupathi

Educational institutions at Tirupathi were established on TTD land and with TTD funds. But in the colleges and hostel at Tirupathi, Christian religious propagation is rampant. The Christian students themselves act as propagators. Shri Deva Sangeetham, Principal of S.V. University College,



openly indulges in propagating and converting the students to Christianity by making them go to Church, reading the Bible and creating disaffection towards Hindu religion. After Shri Deva Sangeetham has taken charge as Principal, the practice of garlanding the portrait of Lord Venkateswara is stopped.

After Smt. Veena Noble Das took charge as Vice-Chancellor of Padmavathi Mahila University, she got removed the photos of Lord Venkateswara and Goddess Padmavathi from all the institutions of the Mahila University and she also got removed the portrait of Lord Venkateswara from her office and discontinued the practice of garlanding the portraits of Lord Venkateswara and Goddess Padmavathi everyday. Instead she kept a portrait of Jesus Christ and the Cross on her office table. She sends batches of students in the university buses to the church. It is also stated that in the Mahila University, the students are not allowed to have tilak on the forehead now-a-days and that students putting tilak are being discriminated.

Employment in the TTD

Only Hindus are to be appointed as employees in the TTD under the rule. However, the EO stated that for some period this was not followed with the result that some Muslim personnel came to be appointed. He further stated that steps are being taken to shift them to some other places gradually. Some employees in the TTD profess Christianity and that in the police quarters also congregations and prayers are conducted regularly. There are about 40 Christian families residing in Tirumala and they hold religious congregations at their homes on Sundays. It is stated that even in the Annadanam Complex there is an employee, Shri Ananda Raju belonging to Christian community, working as Superintendent. The EO has stated that he will enquire and take action. Another Christian woman works in the electrical department. Gopinath, Garden Superintendent, also belongs to Christian community.

Non-Hindu employees of TTD and their activities

It is brought to the notice of the Committee that many people from Christian and Muslim communities were being employed in the TTD and some of the Hindu employees were even converted as Christians and they practice Christianity. About 40 families in Balaji Colony are Christians. They hold congregations and prayers on Sundays.

The Committee was informed that Gopinath, who was posted on deputation as Garden Superintendent, is a Christian and that he criticises worshipping Lord Venkateswara saying why should a black stone be decorated with garlands, and that he indulges in criticising Hindu Religion.

Considering the above facts and circumstances, the propagation of Christianity with an ulterior motive of conversion is taking place in Tirupathi and Tirumala. Since the EO has categorically assured the Committee that no such incidents will be allowed to take place, the

matter has to be reviewed periodically.

Scouts and guides

In the queue complex number of scouts and guides are deployed to regulate the pilgrims. It is understood that details of the religion of the persons who are so engaged is not verified and that some of them belong to non-Hindu communities. The scouts and guides are allowed into the main temple and to have darshan. The Executive Officer has informed the Committee that he would take appropriate measures to prevent non-Hindus being deployed as scouts and guides in Tirumala.

Hawkers and shopkeepers

There are number of hawkers who belong to Muslim community. Two instances are given. Shop Nos. 192 and 72 in the shopping complex are run by Shri Jamal Khadar and Maithri. When this was brought to the notice of EO he assured the Committee that he will look into the matter and take appropriate action. It is also further brought to the notice of the Committee that unauthorised hawkers are taken out of Tirumala by midnight and left in interior Bakrapeta forest area. Even in this process also, mainly Hindus are targeted and Muslims are rarely touched.

Opposite to Lepakshi Emporium, there are about 50 Nepali shopkeepers who are Christians and they also offer prayers on Sundays, reading the Bible and other Christian religious material in Tirumala.

About 40 Muslim shopkeepers also are there in Tirumala. They offer namaz on Fridays in Tirumala. There are also some Muslim hawkers



mostly from Kadiri (Ananthapur District).

Dress code and putting tilakam

Even though the EO has stated that dress code and tilakam were prescribed for the employees, these were not being strictly implemented. The Committee impressed upon the EO to implement these strictly.

Other illegal activities in Tirumala

The Committee was informed that various illegal activities both at Tirumala and at Tirupathi are going on, such as sale and consumption of liquor, sale and consumption of meat, flesh trade, gambling etc. Cow slaughter is taking place in down hill at Tirupathi near D.R. Mahal. The meat is being transported to Tirumala clandestinely.

TTD Kalyana Mandapam at Nagalapuram is being used by the Christians for their prayer congregations and for performance of Christian marriages. Near Sree Rama and Siva Temple in Tirupathi, Christian prayers and propaganda take place by intercepting the Hindu devotees visiting the temples.

The newly constituted Specified Authority in place of the Board of Trustees, (the term of which has expired) is being headed by Shri D. Rosaiah, IAS, who is said to be a Christian.

The Tourism Department is going to take up erection and operation of rope way from Tirupathi to Tirumala. The Tourism Department plans to establish multiplexes, food courts and other entertainment and recreational spots on Tirumala Hills. The Committee feels that in order to facilitate the activities of Tourism Department on the hills, the area of TTD is restricted to two hills covering an area of 27.5 sq.kms.

Division Bench of Andhra Pradesh High Court has observed in a

judgment as follows: “Although there is no documentation available as the origin is lost in antiquity, there is no attempt made before us to question the ownership of the Lord Venkateswara of Seven Hills. This being true and a real concept, the Board of Trustees, the Committee or the Executive Officer are only administrators of the property of Lord Venkateswara. They can have no right of ownership in themselves and they cannot thus decide to do anything against the interest of the right of the owner i.e., in the instant case, Lord Venkateswara. Once the ownership is resolved and the right to administer is deemed to vest as provided under Article 26 of the Constitution of India in the plurality of the devotees and regulated by the provisions of the Act and Rules framed thereunder, no administrator, whether appointed under the Act or otherwise can take liberty to destroy the sanctity and holiness of the Tirumala Tirupathi Devasthanams and domain, as we have already held, extends to all the Seven Hills called ‘Tirumala’.”

Earlier the Division Bench in para 3 held as follows:- “It is not in dispute that pilgrims in thousands and millions in number sometimes visit the temple and there is no day which is not full of activities of the pilgrims and various rituals, poojas and rites of the cult preserved since antiquity and no part of the Seven Hills, except some secular activities which are essential for the service of Lord Venkateswara, is free from religious activities in and around the temple right from the Foot Hills on all sides.”

The Sacred Seven Hills

The Committee is of the considered opinion that restricting the area of TTD to only 21 kms covering two hills, runs counter to the ancient texts and age-old traditions and practices of the temple and that the Hindus always considered Sri Venkateswara as Lord of the Seven Hills and lakhs of devotees climb the Seven Hills with utmost devotion and reverence bare footed chanting the names of Lord Venkateswara. The Committee further feels that opening the Seven

Hills to the Tourism Department will destroy the sanctity, serenity and spirituality of the Seven Hills and will seriously hurt the feelings of the Hindus throughout the country and the world.

Funds of the TTD

Previously Hindu Dharma Parirakshana Samithi was organizing various activities like Harikathas, devotional lectures and concerts in religious music and dance by eminent artists. Now, the name Hindu has been removed and a Dharma Prachara Parishad is in its place which hardly conducts any religious discourses by eminent Hindu spiritual leaders and does not conduct any religious cultural activities by prominent artists. The members of the public further expressed that eminent Hindu spiritual leaders should be invited to give discourses regularly at important places throughout the country and even abroad. They are of the further opinion that contributions of the devotees running into hundreds of crores should be utilised only for Hindu religious and dharmic activities and various service activities in the name of Lord Venkateswara only. The funds should not be diverted to other activities.

The Devasthanam has donated considerable land to a Muslim organisation for construction of a mosque, which has seriously hurt and agitated Hindus, arousing their religious sentiments. Several persons have expressed that more than 35,000 temples in the state are not having any means for performing daily poojas and donating for other religions is wholly unwarranted.

Constitution of TTD Board and the Committee

It is the general view of the public that TTD Board and its Committees should comprise of eminent devout Hindus who have contributed to the development of the Hindu faith and spirituality and government of the day should take the advice of the Hindu dharmacharyas and Hindu spiritual leaders in making such appointments.

(compare the surcharge with)

India Alert: AP state plans fund for Christian pilgrims)

[Deccan Chronicle, December 18, 2006](#)

Hyderabad, Dec. 18: The State government would consider a subsidy for Christians to travel to Bethlehem, Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy said on Monday. Responding to Hyderabad Archbishop Marampudi Joji's request at the United Christmas Celebrations, Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy assured that the government would study the possibility and financial implications of such a subsidy.

At present, the government subsidises Muslim pilgrims to perform the Haj. Bishop Joji said, "I visited the holy land and prayed at the place where Jesus was born. I request the government to assist Christians to fulfil their wish of making a pilgrimage to the holy land by subsidising the cost to some extent."

Dr Reddy replied, "The government is allotting a budget for construction of churches in towns and villages. While increasing the allocation we can adjust some money." On the issue of dalit Christians, Bishop Joji said, "Dalit Christians should be given SC status. I request the Chief Minister to get a resolution passed in the Assembly, as the UP Assembly has done, and send the recommendation to the Prime Minister, as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has done." Dr Reddy assured that he would examine the proposal. Bishop Sugandhar, legislator Christine Lazarus among others took part in the celebrations.

(compare the surcharge with)

AP Chief Minister okays public money for Churches

(Deccan Chronicle, August 23, 2006)

Nizamabad, Aug. 22: Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy has decided to sanction grant-in-aid to old churches for repairs. Similarly, grant-in-aid would be sanctioned to new churches. He is the first chief minister to take the decision to give a facelift to abandoned churches. State Government has issued a specific GO Ms No. 21, stating that Rs. 80,000 will be sanctioned to each church for repair and renovation purposes, and Rs.1.50 lakh for constructing a church in the shape of grant-in-aid.

Repairs and renovation of abandoned churches and constructing new churches would be taken massively in the State. The responsibility to promulgate these orders was allocated to the Minorities Welfare Department. Mr M.S. Parvez, district minorities welfare officer, told this correspondent that the GO was communicated to all 36 mandal parishad development officers of the entire district. According to the GO, the concerned MPDOs could invite proposals for churches from church authorities for repair and renovation, and also invite proposals from church preachers to construct new churches, in their jurisdictions.

He also said that the proposals, which the MPDO receives, should include a blueprint copy of the plan, detailed estimate in original, duly approved by the mandal engineer, a letter of permission and recommendation by the panchayat authorities for the construction of a new church, representation on the letterhead of the Church Committee, documentary evidence of the property of the church in case of new construction. Rev. T. Bhasker, District Churches Council, Nizamabad said that 300 churches were spread

over in the district with a 100 year history. Of them, 200 are in poor condition and some churches had already collapsed.

Encroachment and sale of temple lands & property.

Tirupathi Declaration (against YSR Govt. attempt to take over 5 out of 7 tirumala hills and encouraging conversion activities on Tirumala)
(Tirupathi, July 18 2006)

Swami Dayananda Saraswati
Vishveshwara Theertha Swami

http://www.acharyasabha.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27&Itemid=41

The three cardinal Articles of this Historic Declaration:

1. We Hindus assembled here declare that we do not support, directly or indirectly, any group, institution, religion, media, or political force, which preaches, practices or works against Hindu dharma in this country.
2. We appeal to all the Hindus in this country and elsewhere to subscribe to and support this declaration, the Tirupathi declaration.
3. We want all the Hindu religious endowments to be managed by Hindu bodies, and not by the government. We want the secular government to release all religious endowments from its hold.

The following resolutions were also adopted unanimously:

1. Immediate action must be taken to bring under TTD control over 250 sq. kilometre area covering various Theerthams closely associated with the legend of Lord Venkateswara as against the 27.5 sq. kilometres under Andhra Pradesh Government order (G.O.) No.338. In this context, they quoted Mackenzie's manuscript of the year 1801 as per which the Seven Hills extended up to the Swarnamukhi River near Sri Kalahasti in the east, Nagapatala Devarakonda in the west, Yerraguntla Thota in Rayachoti Taluk in the north and Pillari Kanuma near Narayana Vanam in the south. Such a law would ward off any threat of non-Hindu activities on the Seven Hills.
2. Only Hindus by law should be made eligible for appointment in TTD Service.
3. Andhra Pradesh Government should immediately give up its plans to convert Tirumala into a luxury tourist spot.
4. There should be a legal ban on all non-Hindu activities in TTD. medical and educational institutions.
5. TTD funds should be used only for Hindu spiritual activities.
6. The Dharma Prachara Parishad should be renamed as Hindu Dharma Prachara Parishad.

Speaking on the prohibition of non-Hindu appointments in TTD, the Swamijis urged that immediate steps should be taken to deport 40 Christian employees and other non-Hindus at Tirumala.

The Swamijis alleged that the TTD's medical and educational institutions have become centres of proselytisation by non-Hindus. They demanded that the Devasthanam should punish those non-Hindus indulging in such evangelical activities and identify the TTD and State Government Officials encouraging them directly or indirectly and to transfer them from Tirupati forthwith.

The TTSS also charged TTD with diverting devotees' offerings to other activities owing to Government political pressure. 'These offerings made by Hindu devotees were meant for running temples, conducting religious festivals and providing pilgrim amenities and propagating Hindu Dharma. They are not meant for the evangelization programmes of Andhra Pradesh Government under a Christian Chief Minister,' they said.

The TTSS also expressed its deep concern over the increase in evangelical activities at Tirumala and Tirupati and cited the documentary evidence adduced by the Five Member Fact Finding Committee appointed by the Pontiff of Pejawar with Justice Bikshapathi, former High Court Judge as its head.

The meet also cited High Court Ruling which said: 'The rights of Tirumala-Tirupati vest with Lord Venkateswara himself and the Trust Board and the EO are only trustees of the property. None can take any measures violating the right. All the Seven Hills fall under Tirumala (W.P. No. 26145 of 1996-97(2) and 59 (DB) dated 7.9.1996).

In conclusion, Pejawar Swamiji categorically told media persons that the Members of the TTSS fervently hope that their legitimate demand would be acted upon before 9 August, 2006 and that further action by the TTSS would be decided after ascertaining the nature, intention and direction of Government response.

A host of other influential Swamijis from different parts of India including Varada Ramanuja Jeeyar from Uttar Pradesh and Members of the Tirupati Fact Finding Committee, T S Rao, former Director General of Police, R. Srihari, former Vice Chancellor of the Dravidian University, Krishniah, State Backward Classes Welfare Leader and other prominent persons also attended the meeting. Several thousand Devotees deeply concerned about the need for protecting the Seven Hills and the Tirupati Temple joined in the call.

Seven Hills cover 250, not 27 sq km

([New Indian Express](#), Sunday July 16 2006 12:08 IST)

TIRUPATI: The Tirumala Tirupati Samrakshana Samithi (TTSS) on Saturday demanded a law declaring Tirumala as comprising all the Seven Hills covering 250 sq km before August 9 coinciding with the Sravana Poornima festival, to safeguard the sanctity and serenity of Tirumala-Tirupati.

A meeting of the samithi held here in the presence of a host of swamijis, including Visveswara Theertha of Pejavar Math and Dayanand Saraswathi, adopted five resolutions unanimously, including bringing under TTD control over 250 sq km covering various theerthams closely associated with the legend of Lord Venkateswara as against the 27.5 sq km under GO No 338.

The resolutions said quoting Mackenzie's manuscript of the year 1801 that the Seven Hills extended up to the Swarnamukhi river near Srikalahasti in the east, Nagapatala Devarakonda in the west, Yerraguntla Thota in Rayachoti Taluq in the north and Pillari Kanuma near Narayanavanam in the south. The *swamijis* and other religious leaders felt that such a law would ward off any threat of non-Hindu activities on the Seven Hills.

The samithi's other resolutions are: appointment of only Hindus in TTD service, giving up plans to convert Tirumala into a luxury tourist spot, ban on non-Hindu activities in TTD medical and educational institutions and using TTD funds only for spiritual activities.

Speaking on prohibiting non-Hindu appointments in TTD, the *swamijis* urged immediate steps to deport the 40 Christian employees and any other non-Hindus at Tirumala.

The *swamijis* alleged that TTD's medical and educational institutions had become centres of proselytisation by non-Hindus. They demanded that the Devasthanams punish those indulging in such activities and identify the officials encouraging them directly or indirectly and transfer them.

The samithi charged TTD with diverting devotees' offerings to other activities, bowing to government pressure. The offerings were meant for running temples, conducting religious festivals and providing pilgrim amenities and propagating Hindu dharma. It also wanted the *Dharma Prachara Parishad* to be renamed Hindu *Dharma Prachara Parishad*.

Later, the *swamijis* went in procession from Thyagaraja Mandapam, the venue of the meeting, to the TTD administrative building where a copy of the resolution was handed over to TTD Joint Executive Officer J Balaramaiah.

The Pejawar *Swamiji* told mediapersons that the mutt chiefs hoped their demands would be acted on before August 9 and TTSS would decide on its future action after that.

Temples Lands left to Fate (the plight of temples lands situation in AP)

Eenadu, May 2, 2007

Endowments department which does not care about protecting temple lands. They did not create separate cells even 7 months after GO was issued.

"Revenue department which has hundreds of staff is not able to protect encroachment of temple lands. How can Endowments department with fewer staff protect the temple lands?" This was the argument put forward by Endowments department till a few days ago. They do not have an answer when questioned about the order to setup separate cells for protection of temple lands. The orders are safe and clear on papers. Only temple lands are not safe.

Hyderabad - newstoday

According to the official survey held in 2003, temple lands account for 3.76 lakh acres. Of these 1.5 lakh acres are encroached. 1400 cases have been registered against encroachers throughout the state. Most of these cases are against poor people. These cases pertain to few tracts of land officials have identified while no cases exist against encroachers of vast segments. Considering the situation serious, the Government passed a GO on September 26, 2006 to set up separate cells to deal with encroachments and fast settlement of cases.

Government ordered that these cells be setup in Hyderabad, Tirupati and Kakinada. According to the GO the cell for protection of temple lands should consist of one special grade deputy collector, Tehsildar, deputy Tehsildar, three revenue inspectors and two surveyors. For the legal cell a retired lawyer as legal officer on contract basis and two people who worked in district courts as assistants are supposed to be appointed. Similarly two people from Law Department as superintendents, four computer operators and two stenographers were supposed to be appointed. Even 7 after the GO is issued the officials seem to be indifferent and separate cells are not set up. On the other side temple lands worth crores are falling into encroachers hands. The officials who who have been giving lame excuses such as staff shortage are not acting even after the GO was issued to setup separate cells. Under these circumstances recovering encroached land seems to

be a big task but the much bigger task is protecting the non encroached land.

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రాష్ట్రంలో వెలుత్తం 3.76 లక్షల ఎకరాల ఆలయ భూములున్నట్లు 2003లో జరిపిన సర్వేలో అధికారులు నిర్ధారించారు. వీటిలో 1.50 లక్షల ఎకరాలు ఆక్రమణలోనే ఉన్నాయి. రాష్ట్ర వ్యాప్తంగా ఆక్రమణదారులపై 1400 కేసులు నమోదయ్యాయి. ఇందులో ఎక్కువభాగం నిరుపేదలపై పెట్టిన కేసులే. అధికారులు గుర్తించిన కాస్త వెలుత్తం భూమికి సంబంధించినవి మాత్రమే. మిగిలిన వాటిపై ఇప్పటికీ కేసుల్లేవు. దీనిపై దృష్టి సారించిన ప్రభుత్వం గత ఏడాది సెప్టెంబర్ 26న ఆలయ భూముల వరిరక్షణకు, కేసుల సత్వర పరిష్కారానికి రెండు ప్రత్యేక విభాగాలను ఏర్పాటుకు జీవో జారీ చేసింది. ఈ విభాగాలను హైదరాబాద్, తిరుపతి, కాకినాడల్లో ఏర్పాటు చేయాలని ఆదేశించింది. భూముల రక్షణ కోసం ఒక స్పెషల్ గ్రేడ్ డిప్యూటీ కలెక్టర్, తహసీల్దార్, డిప్యూటీ తహసీల్దార్, ముగ్గురు రెవెన్యూ ఇన్స్పెక్టర్లు, ఇద్దరు సర్వేయర్లను నియమించాలని జీవోలో పేర్కొన్నారు. న్యాయ విభాగానికి సంబంధించి కాంట్రాక్టు వద్ద తీపై ఒక రిటైర్డ్ న్యాయవాదిని లీగల్ అధికారిగా, జిల్లా కోర్టుల్లో పనిచేసిన ఇద్దరు సహాయ లీగల్ అధికారులుగా నియమించాలని తెలిపారు. అలాగే న్యాయశాఖలో పనిచేసిన ఇద్దరు వ్యక్తులను సహవరింటెండెంట్లుగా, ప్రైవేటు ఏజెన్సీల నుంచి కంప్యూటర్ పరిజ్ఞానం ఉన్న నలుగురు వ్యక్తులను, ఇద్దరు ఫైవో గ్రాఫర్లను నియమించాల్సిందిగా సూచించారు. ఈ ఉత్తర్వులిచ్చి ఇప్పటికీ ఏడు నెలల దాటినా అధికారుల్లో కదలికలేదు. ప్రత్యేక విభాగాలు ఏర్పాటు కాలేదు. ఓవైపు కోట్ల రూపాయల విలువైన ఆలయ భూములు అన్యాయం చేస్తున్నాయి. ఇన్నాకలా తగినంత సిబ్బంది లేరంటూ కంటి సాకులు చెబుతూ వచ్చిన అధికారులు అందుకు అనుమతి వచ్చినా నిర్లక్ష్యం చేస్తున్నారు. ఇలా అయితే ఆక్రమణకు గురైన భూముల స్వాధీనం సంగతేలా ఉన్నా... ఉన్న భూములను రక్షించుకోలేని స్థితి వస్తుందనే ఆందోళన వ్యక్తమవుతోంది.

Justice Venkata Rami Reddy Report puts all responsibility on the Endowments Commissioner (for the Massive Temple Land Scam)

Eenadu, May 2, 2007

I. Venkateswarlu, the retired Endowments commissioner is only responsible for the massive land scam, says Justice Venkatarami Reddy report. Even though there are allegations against ex-Endowments minister MS Satyanarayana Rao and PCC president K Keshava Rao the commission did not mention their names in the report. Except I. Venkateswarlu there is no evidence against other officers and 'OTHERS' in this massive land scam says the report. After Congress party formed the Government a massive scam involving temple lands took place in April, May 2005. Eenadu investigation exposed this scam. I Venkateswarlu, the endowments commissioner irresponsibly sold lands at throwaway prices which donors have donated to temples for their daily maintenance. The investigation also exposed the role of congress leaders. The then endowments minister M S Satyanarayana Rao wrote letters recommending sale of temple lands. Mr.. M S Satyanarayana Rao openly declared that the ban on sale of temple lands was abolished on the recommendation of PCC president K Keshava Rao. Mr. MS Satyanarayana Rao offered to resign which was promptly rejected by chief minister Y S Rajasekhara Reddy. He was shifted to sports ministry. On June 15, 2005 a commission was set up under Justice Venkatarami Reddy to investigate the massive scam. An year and half later the commission submitted the report which the state Government has not made public yet. "Newstoday" got hold of a copy of the report.

In this 700 page report there is no mention of alleged conspirators MSR and K kesava Rao and other officers. The entire blame was put on I Venkateswarlu and his ways of dealing. Mr. Venkateswarlu who was employed as endowments commissioner from Jan 2005 to May 2005 has sold hundreds of acres of lands illegally at throwaway prices thereby causing massive loss to temples. Many of his decisions are in bad spirit and all the decisions taken by him violated the law, clarified the report. The commissioner cleared 61 files related to

temple land sale just in 4 months 10 days, the duration in which he was the commissioner. All these decisions were taken just 2 months before his retirement. He cleared 12 files in April and 36 files in May. In addition to that he pursued 12 more cases till the end but did not clear them. He signed 6 more files with month and year without mentioning the date. All these events point to commissioner acting in hurry without taking enough precautions. Clearing these many (61) files related to land sale just before retirement in such a short time points to his interest in clearing these files before his retirement. This also points his dishonesty. The commission pointed out that he misused power under 1987 law section 30 (89-2). Though MSR and KK's names cropped up related to scam in sale of lands at Devara Yamzal, the commission pointed out that the only the endowments commissioner is responsible. Devara Yamzal lands in the outskirts of Hyderabad had a market value of over 1 crore per acre but the commissioner decided to sell them at Rs. 4.32 lakh per acre. The commissioner took into account the basic and market prices mentioned by MRO and sub-registrar without considering the prevalent market prices and real estate boom in 2005.

On some lands the rate decided by the commissioner is far less than the basic price mentioned by MRO. For the land identified by RC book number M4/57820/2002 the market value identified by sub registrar was Rs. 2.5 lakh whereas the commissioner fixed the price at Rs. 1.8 lakh. The 11 acre land sold to Mr. Venkat Rao (RC book number: M4/61934/2004) has a market value of Rs. 4 lakh/acre as decided by sub registrar but the commissioner sold it for Rs. 3.5 lakh/acre. The 2.5 acre land sold to KV Srihari Rao (RC book number M4/49928/2004) faced the same fate exclaimed Justice Venkatarami Reddy. 23 acres pertaining to C Bhagyalakshmi and 9 others though valued at Rs. 12 lakh/acre was sold at Rs. 3.1 lakh/acre by the commissioner. The 22.78 acres of land pertaining to K Raghava Rao

(L1/61322/2004) was valued at Rs. 4-5 lakh/acre whereas the commissioner Venkateswarlu sold it at Rs. 90,000/acre.

The officers who were supposed to protect the temple lands and selling off the lands at throwaway prices by claiming encroachment. In Guntur district, Palnad town 2544 acres of land belonging to 57 Hindu institutions was sold to SC corporation at nominal price by claiming potential encroachment. In Rajahmundry, temple lands worth crores was sold to a petroleum company at a very low price. In all these instances, the commissioner ordered management committees to agree to lower prices. Due to this temples lost crores of property. It is very difficult to estimate the extent of loss exclaimed Justice Venkatarami Reddy.

Where is the action on commission's report? It has been confirmed that Justice Venkatarami Reddy submitted the report to Government 4 or 5 months ago. But the Government which did not make the report public did not even take necessary steps. It is being criticized that the report has been made public.

ఈనాడు

THE HEART AND SOUL OF ANDHRA PRADESH

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Today's Paper

TARIFF

FONT HELP

ARCHIVES

FR

జాతీయ వార్తలు

రాష్ట్ర వార్తలు

సంపాదకీయం

మీమాట

వ్యాఖ్యానం

రాజకీయాలు

బిజినెస్

స్పోర్ట్స్

వసుంధర

సినిమా

కార్టూన్స్/ ఫాటో

ప్రతిభ

సాహితీ సంపద

అంతర్యామి

గ్రహం అమృతగ్రహం

వాతావరణం

ఉద్యోగ అవకాశాలు

అత నొక్కడే దోషి!

ఆలయ భూముల స్కాంలో తప్పుతా నాటి కమిషనర్ దే

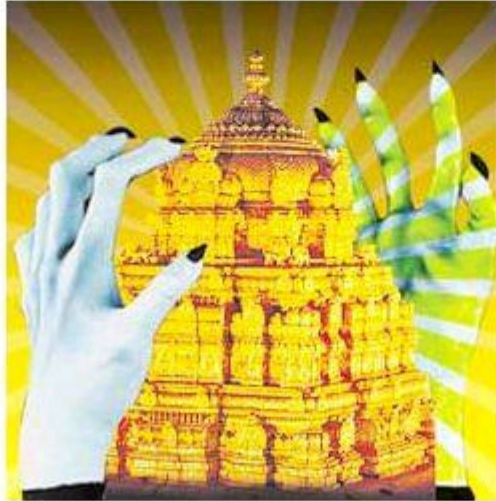
ఇంకెవరి పైనా ఆదారాల్లేవు

జస్టిన్ వెంకట్రామి రెడ్డి నివేదిక

గుట్టుగా సంపాదించిన 'న్యూస్ టుడే'

ఎవెన్యూ ప్రస్తావనే లేదు

హైదరాబాద్- న్యూస్ టుడే



ఆలయ భూముల కుంభకోణం, కేదలం అప్పటి దేవాదాయ కమిషనర్ ఐ.వెంకటేశ్వర్లు చేసిన తప్పునని జస్టిన్ వెంకట్రామి రెడ్డి కమిషన్ తేల్చింది. ఈ ద్వంద్వహారంలో నాటి దేవాదాయ మంత్రి ఎం.సత్యనారాయణరావు, పీసీసీ అధ్యక్షుడు కేశవరావులపై ఆరోపణలు వచ్చినప్పటికీ, వారి పాత్ర గురించి కమిషన్ ఎక్కడా ప్రస్తావించ లేదు. వెంకటేశ్వర్లు మినహా మిగిలిన

అది కారులకు, 'ఇతరులకు' ఈ ద్వంద్వహారంతో ప్రమేయం ఉన్నట్లు ఎలాంటి

YSR Government, eyeing TTD funds for Jala-Yagnam

(Just Andhra, March 22, 2006)

Hyderabad: The fund starved YSR Government, to support its prestigious Jalayagnam, is now eyeing on cash rich Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam. The TTD has about Rs.15,00 crores of reserve funds. Andhra Pradesh government is contemplating with an idea to barrow Rs.500 crores from TTD by issuing irrigation bonds. But the rules prevailing does not permit so.

To overcome this situation government is planning to enact law in assembly to enable it to draw funds required for jalayagnam. But the official and parties are opposing the move. The congress MLAs are in fear of public outcry against the move. The political parties are ready to launch a scathing attack on government, if it does so.

The TTD funds are to be used to serve the destitute, or for spread of spiritual knowledge pertaining to Hinduism, opined a TTD member. However government is overcautious on this and don't want to take any hasty decision.

Auction of Mandir Land

(Eenadu, March 30, 2006)

7000 ACRES IN PHASE I. SALE TO FETCH Rs. 20,000 CRORES. GREEN FLAG BY THE CHIEF MINISTER. PROCESS TO START IN APRIL:

HYDERABAD: NEWSTODAY

Even though numerous Mandirs in the State have no one to light Deepam, some have plenty of landed properties. State Government has decided to sell off such lands located in the urban areas. In the first phase 7000 acres of lands located in other States will be sold. From this the Government is trying to raise Rs.20,000 crores. Government says such sale proceeds will be deposited by them in the accounts of the respective Mandirs and see that the interest will be put at their disposal for their expenditure. However, Government sources themselves are not ruling out the possibility of diverting such liquid amounts to irrigation or some such projects.

Chief Minister YS has reviewed the proposal to sell the Mandir Lands on Wednesday, in the presence of Endowments Minister J.C.Diwakar Reddy. J.C.Diwakar Reddy told the newspersons that the CM has ordered to sell Mandir lands in 'open auction'. It is now known that in Hyderabad city itself about 2000 acres of land would be sold and in similar scale, lands of Simhachalam Devasthanam located in Visakhapatnam District too would be sold. The lands listed for auction include lands near Tirupathi and Vijayawada. It is simultaneously decided to regularize the sale of Ghatkesar Trust lands of Hyderabad sold some time ago as per the market rate. Several VIPs including Hero Nagarjuna feature in the people who purchased the above lands. This Trust still has a land of 300 acres. Government wants to auction these lands too. However, it is noteworthy to see that Revenue Department claims this land is their property since they recognized it as 'surplus land'.

Endowments Department has 180,000 acres in the State of which 30,000 acres are located in the Urban areas. Along with these, lands too are there in other States. In the past, Guntur Amaravathi Devasthanam's Sadavarthi Chowltry has donated 450 acres on the Mahabalipuram Road, prime place of Chennai. People have built permanent buildings on 300 acres of this donated land. The

encroached lands were identified with the help of Tamil Nadu Government and regularize as per the market rate. Remaining 150-acres would be auctioned off. A delegation led by Diwakar Reddy is going to Chennai to discuss the issue there. In the middle of Bangalore's Basavanagudi, 12 acres is situated. Of this, 6 acres is under encroachment and remaining part with Endowments Department. Encroachments shall be regularized and remaining lands auctioned off. There are lands in Mumbai too and they too would be hived off.

Official sources told the sale process would begin in a month's time. When our correspondent asked if Committees would oversee the auction process, JC said no such need is there. Apart from this, for encroachments at District level, District Collector shall be the Chairman, Executive Officer of the concerned Mandir, Vice-Chairman/Municipal Commissioner of the concerned place and Police Commissioner of the District would constitute the members of the Committee. He also said that Government would approach the High Court for permission in view of the interim stay imposed by it is pending.

State puts divine property up for sale **(Deccan Chronicle , April 8, 2006)**

Over 6,000 acres of urban lands belonging to the “gods” are being put up for auction by the endowments department. This decision was taken after the department realised that land sharks had no fear of the gods and were grabbing even “divine” property. After the endowments department expressed its inability to protect the lands, the government gave the green signal for the auction.

In Hyderabad district alone, temples under the endowment department own 4,559 acres of land. Similarly, Sri Narasimha Swamy temple at

Simhachalam in Visakhapatnam has 400 acres in urban areas while Hathiram Matam at Tirumala has about 100 acres. The department has already auctioned 9,201 acres of temple lands in rural areas.

“It has become increasingly difficult to protect prime land in urban areas from land sharks,” said A.B. Krishna Reddy, commissioner of the endowments department. “We approached the government and it agreed to the disposal of such lands in open auction.” Mr Krishna Reddy added that the department expected substantial revenue from the sale of lands. “The amount will certainly be huge,” he said. “In places such as Hyderabad, land prices are very high.”

For the present, the endowments department is only planning to auction urban lands. The endowments department owns 3,76,376 acres of land in the State out of which 94,136 acres are wetland and 2,248,136.06 acres are dry land. The department gets an annual income of Rs 62.43 crores through lease of 1,62,829 acres. About 6,124 acres of endowment lands are caught in legal wrangles. “We will also auction 22 acres of prime land belonging to Kashi Visweshwara Swamy temple in Prakasam district,” said Mr Krishna Reddy.

Indiramma: temple land takeover stayed **(The Hindu, May 31, 2006)**

HYDERABAD: A Division Bench of the High Court comprising Justice L. Narasimha Reddy and Justice Appa Rao on Tuesday restrained the Government from taking possession of the temple lands in the State in the name of house sites for the Indiramma scheme.

The bench was dealing with two separate writ petitions filed by functionaries of Devalaya Parirakshana Samithi and A.P. Archaka Parishad.

The petitioners brought to the notice of the court various judgements, interim orders of the High Court delivered on earlier occasions pertaining to taking over of the temple lands by the Government in the name of house sites.

It was brought to the notice of the court that in East Godavari district Rs. 8 crores had been due to temples since 1996 for the lands acquired.

The petitioners complained that in the last three weeks the Collectors of East and West Godavari districts had issued 91 notifications seeking to take over hundreds of acres of temple lands though the Commissioner of Endowments told them that appropriate clarifications and permission had to be obtained from the High Court.

The Devalaya Parirakshana Samiti challenged the constitutional validity of Section 80 of the Endowments Act, which authorises the Government to permit sale of temple lands.

The bench did not appreciate the hasty action of the district Collectors and directed issuance of notices to them taking serious note of their action.

Bhadrachalam Lord Rama's lands for Polavaram victims (Eenadu, April 2, 2007)

AP Government is giving away Bhadrachalam Lord Rama's lands to Polavaram victims

జాతీయ వార్తలు

రాష్ట్ర వార్తలు

సంపాదకీయం

మీమాట

వ్యాఖ్యానం

రాజకీయాలు

బజినెస్

స్పోర్ట్స్

వసుంధర

సినిమా

కార్టూన్స్ / ఫోటో

ప్రతిభ

సాహితీ సంపద

అంతర్యామి

గ్రహం అమృతగ్రహం

వాతావరణం

ఉద్యోగ అవకాశాలు

'పోలవరం' బాధితులకు

రాముడి భూములు?

హైదరాబాద్, న్యూస్ టుడే: పోలవరం ప్రాజెక్టు నిర్వాసితులకు భద్రాచలంలోని శ్రీరామచంద్రస్వామి దేవస్థానానికి చెందిన 900 ఎకరాలను కేటాయించాలని ప్రభుత్వం యోచిస్తోంది. ఇందుకు సంబంధించి మార్చి నెవేదికను తయారు చేసి ప్రభుత్వానికి సమర్పించాల్సిందిగా ఖమ్మం కలెక్టర్ కు మౌఖిక ఆదేశాలు జారీ చేసి గట్టు సమాచారం. పోలవరం వల్ల ఖమ్మం జిల్లాలోని 198 గ్రామాల ప్రజలు నిర్వాసితులవుతున్నారు. వీరికి ఒకే ప్రాంతంలో మనరావాసం కల్పించడం ప్రభుత్వానికి పెద్ద తలనొప్పిగా మారింది. దీన్నించి బయటపడేందుకు ప్రభుత్వం ప్రత్యామ్నాయ మార్గాలపై దృష్టి సారించింది. ఇందులో భాగంగానే దేవస్థానానికి చెందిన భూములను మార్కెట్ దరకు కొని నిర్వాసితులకు ఇస్తే సమస్య సులభంగా పరిష్కారమవుతుందని భావిస్తోంది. రాముడి భూములను కేవలం వేలం ద్వారానే విక్రయించాలని గతంలో కోర్టు తీర్పు ఇచ్చింది. ఇప్పుడు భూములు నిర్వాసితులకు ఇవ్వాలంటే ముందుగా కోర్టు అనుమతి తీసుకోవాలి. కోర్టు అంగీకారంతోనే భూపంపిణీ ప్రక్రియ ప్రారంభించాలని ప్రభుత్వం భావిస్తోంది. కోర్టుకు వాస్తవాలను వివరించేందుకు ఒక నెవేదిక ఇవ్వాలని ఖమ్మం కలెక్టర్ కు ప్రభుత్వం ఆదేశించినట్లు తెలుస్తోంది. ఆలయ భూములన్నీ భద్రాచలం వట్టణానికి దగ్గరగా ఉన్నాయి. ఇందువల్ల నిర్వాసితులు వీటిని తీసుకోవడానికి ఒప్పకంటారని అంచనా వేస్తున్నారు.

Temple land lease scam in Andhra Pradesh

(Eenadu, April 23, 2007)

Temple properties

A temple in Tenali, Guntur (dist) owns a movie theater, it has been leased to some powerful people for last 30 years for Rs 30,000/- per year. They then subleased the same theatre for Rs. 13,000,00 per year. The above lease is about to expire, the current powerful lease holders are trying to continue the same lease without any auction with the help of a district minister.

Sitaramachandraswami temple in Ammapalli, near Hyderabad owns 200 acres of fertile land, worth many crores, you know how much lease the temple earns a year from these lands, and it is mere 2 lakhs.

Lakshmi Venkateswara temple in Kakinada own around 800 acres of Land, 400 acres of this leased for cultivation occupy coconut trees, the temple get paid Rs 26/- per acre, another 400 acres used to for rice, the temple gets mere 2 or 3 sacks of rice.

Venakateswara Swami temple in Old Alwar, Rangareddy dist, owned land of 68 acres, the corrupt politicians administrators sold 64 acres and pocketed the money themselves, the Lord Venkateswara left with 4 acres of land.

Lakshmi Narasimhaswami temple in Banjara Hills, Hyderabad had 48 acres of land, which is occupied corrupt land grabbers, now the temple cannot even afford money for daily expenses for the service of the Lord.

These are the some cases, thousands of temple properties been leased by powerful people for nominal amounts, then they sublease for a big profit. The government of Andhra Pradesh recognized the temple in the state own 4.2 lakh acres of land out of which 1.11 lakh acres of

land leased for income of 43 crores a year, another one lakh acres is under occupied cultivation by powerful people with the help of politicians and corrupt officials.

Thousands of acres of temple land in cities & town are already occupied by powerful land grabbers. Now, the temple cannot afford the daily service of the GOD, they cannot afford the maintenance, or cannot afford to pay the temple priests.

No Action

The responsible officials are just ignoring, the politicians, senior officials are under political pressure and bribes are helping the land grabbers, leasing the temple properties to everyone on nominal amount, who then sublease them to make big profit. No one is caring for welfare of the temples.

Amendment to endowment Law

TRS MLA Mandadi Satyanarayana Reddy criticized the endowment department saying "the endowment department officials who need to take care of temple property and temples are only interested in making money, these officers or the department never tried to spread the Dharma"

State puts divine property up for sale

([Deccan Chronicle, April 8, 2006](#))

Hyderabad, April 7:

Over 6,000 acres of urban lands belonging to the “gods” are being put up for auction by the endowments department. This decision was taken after the department realised that land sharks had no fear of the gods and were grabbing even “divine” property. After the endowments department expressed its inability to protect the lands, the government gave the green signal for the auction.

In Hyderabad district alone, temples under the endowment department own 4,559 acres of land. Similarly, Sri Narasimha Swamy temple at Simhachalam in Visakhapatnam has 400 acres in urban areas while Hathiram Matam at Tirumala has about 100 acres. The department has already auctioned 9,201 acres of temple lands in rural areas.

“It has become increasingly difficult to protect prime land in urban areas from land sharks,” said A.B. Krishna Reddy, commissioner of the endowments department. “We approached the government and it agreed to the disposal of such lands in open auction.” Mr Krishna Reddy added that the department expected substantial revenue from the sale of lands. “The amount will certainly be huge,” he said. “In places such as Hyderabad, land prices are very high.”

For the present, the endowments department is only planning to auction urban lands. The endowments department owns 3,76,376 acres of land in the State out of which 94,136 acres are wetland and 2,248,136.06 acres are dry land. The department gets an annual income of Rs 62.43 crores through lease of 1,62,829 acres. About 6,124 acres of endowment lands are caught in legal wrangles. “We will also auction 22 acres of prime land belonging to Kashi Visweshwara Swamy temple in Prakasam district,” said Mr Krishna Reddy.

Temple lands ready for sale (3,000 acres in East Godavari District) **(Deccan Chronicle, March 14, 2006)**

Deccan Chronicle <http://www.deccan.com/> Rajahmundry, March 14:

The Endowments department will be going for an open auction of its lands to the tune of 3,000 acre from April to June in East Godavari district to safeguard temple lands and improve its sources of revenue. Addressing a meeting of officials here on Tuesday, Endowments assistant commissioner B. Venkataswamy said that they had auctioned 50 per cent temple lands in the district, raising revenue to the tune of Rs 2 crore, based on the Supreme Court's judgment with regard to the Tenancy Act especially for the State.

He directed the temple officials to make efforts on a war footing to auction the remaining 50 per cent lands in the next three months and said that they could fulfill the ideals of donors by doing so. He asked the officials to give exemption to farmers who had taken about 2.5 acre land on lease in delta areas and those who had taken five acre of land on lease in upland areas as they were landless poor. He directed

them to carry out open auction of lands which did not fall under these categories.

He asked them to maintain a property register without fail. He warned of stern action against the officials if they resort to any lapses while auctioning temple lands. Referring to the two bomb blasts at Varanasi recently, he asked executive officers to maintain strict security at temples by appointing security guards to keep round the clock vigil. He advised them to take police help to ensure safety to devotees, especially at important temples in the district.

AP Temple Land Auction nets 1.10-crore revenue by auctioning 3,048 acres in record time.

(THE HINDU, July 3, 2005)

Staff Reporter

<http://www.hindu.com/2005/07/03/stories/2005070306390300.htm>

RAJAHMUNDY: In a record time, the Endowments Department has auctioned 3,048 acres of temple land in the district, through which it netted a revenue of Rs. 1.10 crores.

The department is likely to get more revenue by auctioning the remaining 2,000 acres, the process of which is in progress.

The Assistant Commissioner of Endowments, B. Venkataswamy, said on Friday that there was 18,300 acres of endowments land in the district, out of which 11,914 was wetland.

Repeated negotiations with farmers by the department officials and follow-up action to the eviction notices had resulted in enhancement of lease and also good result in public auctions.

He, however, said the department was facing problem in convincing some tenants of Laxinarasimhaswamy Temple in Antarvedi.

The Assistant Commissioner wrote to higher authorities to settle the tangle.

Nothing wrong in selling vacant temple lands: Reddy

(Andhra Pradesh News, April 20, 2007)

Visakhapatnam, Apr 20: Andhra Pradesh Endowments Minister J C Diwakar Reddy today said there was nothing wrong in selling the vacant temple lands.

Talking to newsmen after offering [prayers](#) at Sri Varahanrusimha Swamy temple here on the occasion of 'Chandanotsavam,' he said the government had decided to auction the lands as the Endowment department was not generating any [income](#) from it.

Stating that the department was facing an uphill task to safeguard the temple lands, the Minister said the money garnered from the sale would be deposited in the banks to provide better facilities to the devotees visiting the shrine.

The Simhachalam Devasthanam officials have prepared a plan to **auction** 400 acres of temple lands, he added.

*Article Title: **Nothing wrong in selling vacant temple lands: Reddy***

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Sharks eat up God's land, Hyderabad

Deccan Chronicle on the web, Sept. 9,2006

<http://multifaith.blogspot.com/2006/09/could-jesus-have-sinned-faith-wise.html>

Gods too are under threat from predatory land sharks, if one goes by the encroachment of temple lands in the State. It seems land grabbers are not afraid of divine wrath. Be it the fiery Varaha Laxmi Narasimhaswamy of Simhachalam or the serene Lord Ram in Bhadrachalam, all deities and their dwellings are fair game for them.

Of the 4,20,028 acres of temple lands owned by the endowments department in Visakhapatnam, Kakinada, Guntur, Kurnool, Warangal and Hyderabad, 60,843.47 acres are under illegal occupation and 24,349.66 acres are caught in litigations of various kinds. Major temples whose lands are under encroachment include Jagannadhaswamy Balaji Mutt in Ramayapatnam (54 acres), Dharmatopu temple in Tangutur (5.17 acres), Sri Ramalingeswaraswamy temple of Chimakurthy (2.05 acres), and Sri Lakshmi Narasimhaswamy temple in Peddadornala (13.41 acres).

Apart from this, lands belonging to Nageswaraswamy temple in Tangutur, Sri Madana Gopalaswamy temple in Chirala and Sri

Lakshmi Chennakeshavaswamy temple in Markapuram have also been encroached upon. Agriculture lands constitute 3,49,359 acres of the total endowments lands, while forest lands amount to 27,213 acres. Encroachment of endowment lands is highest in Warangal with 19,228.12 acres followed by Visakhapatnam with 14, 858.77 acres and Hyderabad with 12,122.85 acres.

Not all encroachers are professional land grabbers. Some are poor Dalits who have built dwellings in these lands. But the majority consists of “invisible” bigwigs with political clout. The government has initiated action against several encroachers and has succeeded in removing them from endowment lands. But several have pre-empted the government by moving court. “We are trying our best to check encroachments in temple lands,” said endowments commissioner Dinesh Kumar. “But the properties are huge and staff strength is low.”

The government also tried to regularise some of the lands, but the High Court recently put a stop to it and asked it to dispose of its lands through public auction if necessary. “But the fact remains that auction can be conducted only if the lands are free from encroachments,” pointed an endowments official. In East Godavari, about 6.37 acres of wet land and 585.17 acres of dry land owned by the endowments department is under unauthorised occupation or caught in legal disputes.

Thanks to an HC stay on acquisition of endowments land, the Indiramma housing scheme for the poor has also come to a halt here. Meanwhile, endowments officials in Khammam are fighting a bitter battle to recover 1,835 acres of encroached lands including 906 acres belonging to the Sita Ramachandraswamy Temple at Bhadrachalam. Mr V.S.C.V. Subba Rao, assistant commissioner of endowments in Ongole, said that 135. 46 acres owned by the department was under

illegal occupation. “We have filed cases against some encroachers,” he said.

YSR Land Scam – CNN-IBN Interview(TV)

<http://www.cyberabadtimes.net/2007/02/ysr-devil-advocate-interview.asp> has complete interview in video.

Curtailing Religious Freedom for Hindus.

Panel submits report on chilukur temple **(The Hindu August 24, 2006)**

Chief Minister urged to make report public The Government constituted the committee after devotees resisted the move of the Endowments Department to take over the Chilkur Balaji temple

HYDERABAD: The three-member P.V.R.K.Prasad Committee constituted to look into the controversy regarding the proposed takeover of the Chilkur Balaji temple by the Endowments Department, submitted its report to the Government on August 15.

Temple protection movement convener M.V.Soundararajan, in a representation to Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy on Tuesday, appealed for making public the report as its outcome was awaited by devotees.

The Government constituted the expert committee after devotees resisted the move of the Endowments Department to take over the Chilkur Balaji temple. The devotees had even moved the Supreme Court.

The apex court maintained that the State Government should take an independent decision on the constitution of the board of trustees to administer the temple.

In light of the Supreme Court clarification, the temple's hereditary priest, Dr. Soundararajan, has appealed to the Government to exempt the temple from the purview of the Endowments Department on the basis of its unique traditions.

AP State will take total control of all mutts

(Deccan chronicle, November 24, 2005)

Hyderabad, Nov. 23: The State government has decided to take absolute control of Hindu mutts. The proposal has been pending for four years. The State government is also considering bringing Hindu religious trusts under its control. The government is planning to amend the AP Endowments Act to enable the endowments commissioner to oversee the day-to-day administration of mutts

Once the Act is amended, 181 mutts will come under the control of the endowments commissioner. According to sources, the law department has vetted the proposed amendment. An ordinance amending the Act is expected after the winter session of the Assembly. Another amendment pertains to scrapping the clause which specifies that only officials above the age of 45 should be appointed as endowments commissioner.

This is being done in the wake of the High Court nullifying the appointment of IAS official J.S.V. Prasad as endowments commissioner, since he did not fulfil the age requirement. Mutts such as Hathiramji of Tirupati, Raghavendra of Mantralaya, Byragi of West Godavari and Gavi in Uravakonda in Anathapur, which have assets

worth crores of rupees, would come under the control of the government.

This will strip many "financial powers" of the heads of mutts. For instance, "padu kanukalu" (offerings made to deities of temples run by mutts), will now go into a general account. Earlier, they were considered the property of the mutt head. Sources said the government was also keen on bringing wealthy Hindu religious trusts under its control but was yet to take a concrete decision on the matter.

YSR Endowment Minister declares the take over of 181 Mutts **(Deccan Chronicle, 12th March 2007)**

Cuddapah, March 12: The Endowment Minister Shri. Diwakar Reddy A.P. State Govt. has said that the Andhra Government will take over all Temples within the state under its control. Speaking to Reporters here Mr.Reddy said the Government will take a final decision only after consultations with Endowment Board After Ugadi.

Stop meddling in religious affairs' (Seer warns YSR Govt.) **(The Hindu Nov 24, 2006)**

Staff Reporter

<http://www.hindu.com/2006/11/24/stories/2006112408410500.htm>

Seer visits Hathiramji Mutt

Tirupati, Nov 24, 2006: Swamy Swaroopanandendra Saraswathi of Sarada Peetham, Visakhapatnam, advised the Government to keep its hands off the administration of mutts, peethams and other religious and spiritual centres.

The Peethadhipathi visited the Hathiramji Mutt here and met newly-appointed Mahant Swami Arjun Das on Thursday. The pontiff's statement assumes significance in the context of the Supreme Court verdicts on land worth several crores spread over Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra, which are now free from Government intervention following the apex court's verdict.

Speaking to the media, the pontiff said that the mutts had been endowed with the task of maintaining the well-being of a society and the administration has no right to dictate terms to a religious body. The Supreme Court verdict delivered the message loud and clear that it was not for the Governments to intervene in the administration of religious bodies.

He was took exception to Government's plans to sell off mutt lands on the pretext that they were being grabbed by land mafia. "The mutts can take care of their properties and the Government should extend help from outside," he said.

He congratulated Arjun Das for winning a decades-old suit and setting the path for similar endowments-related cases.

Impoverishing the temples and priests.

In service of the Lord, yet ignored (The plight of Priests)

(Deccan Chronicle, October 6, 2004)

A V Ramana Dikshitulu, the main archaka of the famed Sri Venkateswara Temple at Tirumala, gets Rs 200 per day as wages for serving the Lord. He only gets this money on the days he performs the rituals. But he is definitely better off compared to thousands of other archakas across the State who lead a hand-to-mouth existence.

Compare this with the salary and perks drawn by the officials of the Tirumala Tirupati Board, mostly on deputation from other government departments. They travel and live luxuriously and have the best of comforts. For many of the archakas, even travel by train is a great luxury. The NTR government's scrapping of hereditary rights way back in 1987 had literally pushed many archakas to the streets. They are now asking for the revival of hereditary rights, which will at least ensure them a modest living. The archakas also want the government to give them endowment lands for cultivation.

"I feel ashamed to reveal my salary," says Dikshitalu, who holds a doctorate in philosophy. "I get Rs 200 per day. Sometimes when I work for 30 days a month I can make Rs 6,000. There are archakas in Tirumala who earn less than Rs 2,000 per month. We are servants of God and we are treated shabbily." Most of the archakas in Tirumala depend on the money given by pilgrims and the meagre share from Arjita Seva tickets.

The archakas of the mutli-crore temple are drawn from members of four traditional archaka families. Government figures themselves narrate the sad tale of thousands of other arch-akas. Out of the 32,000-odd temples across the State, over 27,000 temples have income below Rs 1,000 per annum. So there is no need to talk about the life of archakas in these temples.

"Why are we forced to live like beggars?," asks Dr M V Soundararajan, head priest of Chilkur Balaji Temple. "We have been demanding the restoration of hereditary rights and the lifting of the ban on aarthi, hundi and gifts," he said.

Devotees urged to toe 'civil disobedience' line

(The Hindu, April 23, 2007)

v.N. Harinath

Temple panel sets June 8 deadline for passing of Endowment Amendment Act

-
- *Asks pilgrims not to put donations in hundis*
 - *"Don't buy tickets for sevas from temples"*
-

HYDERABAD: The Temples' Protection Committee which organised an 'open debate' here on Saturday on the Endowments Amendment Bill-2007 has called for "a civil disobedience movement" by devotees. It has set June 8 as the deadline for passing the legislation.

M.V. Soudararajan, convener, told *The Hindu* that the committee would also embark on a plan to take up 'doopa deepa naivedyam' scheme in temples across the State, as envisaged in the Endowments Amendment Bill-2007, since there was uncertainty about its passage after it was referred to the Select Committee on April 9.

"We will give a call to the devotees, as part of civil disobedience movement, to stop donating to 'hundis' and not to purchase tickets for performing 'sevas' in 206 temples State-wide, he said.

The professor-turned archaka of Chilkur temple expressed distress that the bill could not be passed on the last day of the recently concluded session despite assurances by Ministers N. Raghuveera Reddy and P. Lakshmaiah.

Campaign planned

He said the committee would launch a State-wide campaign to educate the people and mobilise their opinion with the intent of pressing its demand for an ordinance replacing the bill. The campaign would take off with the committee organising meetings in Telangana districts. It would culminate with a public meeting at Warangal on May 20 to be attended by legislators of different parties. A similar drive in the Rayalaseema and Andhra regions would follow.

Already, people were organising poojas and conducting bhajans in the Ananta Padmanabha Temple at Devarampalli village in Ranga Reddy district and in Ranganatha Swamy Temple in Warangal. Families were taking turns to prepare food and offering it as 'naivedyam' in the temples. This trend will increase, with more devotees following their example, Prof. Soundararajan observed.

Promoting Christian Conversion Activity

Religious conversion in AP police station

(Eenadu, April 11,2007)

**Christian literature on the walls
Victims are forced to read Bible
Police inspector attacks the journalists**

Newstoday, Hyderabad, Begumpet: Police who are supposed to protect the people, law and order are fast becoming the centres of controversy and creating troubles. The proof is events ongoing on in Begumpet Police station. The police here have converted this police station into a platform for Christian teaching and Christian religious conversion. The walls in this police station are covered with verses from Bible. The victims who approach this police station are forced to read bible.

Police case if you don't read the bible verses

Normally women victims of domestic violence approach this police station. Under normal circumstances, both the victim and husband are counselled to compromise and come to an understanding and only if the counselling fails a case is registered. But in this police station the procedure is totally different. Victims who approach the police station for help are forced to read the bible verses written on the walls. The abuser or defendant is called to the station and forced to read bible.

They are warned with rigorous punishment if they disobey. The police are achieving their wish by threatening severe mauling.

Inspector abuses media people

Responding to complaints from victims various TV channels including ETV-Eenadu visited the police station on tuesday. The inspector G R Reddy started abusing newspeople who were video recording the writings on the walls and interviewing victims. While abusing the newsmen with foul language pushing away the cameras he said " Shoot whatever you want. I will remove my shirt, I will remove my pant. shoot it!" He immediately got the walls whitewashed.

Vice Chancellor of Padmavathi University should be removed demands BJP

(Andhra Jyothy, March 30, 2007 Page 8 of Hyderabad supplement)

BJP legislator Kishan Reddy submitted a memorandum to state Governor Rameshwar Thakur demanding removal of Veena Nobel Das as Vice Chancellor of the University as she is forcing Christian religious conversion in the University and also responsible for the death of a student. On Thursday several BJP leaders joined the MLA and submitted the events in writing. Speaking to reporters on this occasion Mr. Kishan Reddy said that since the appointment of Veena Nobel Das as Vice Chancellor she has been forcing the students directly and indirectly to convert to Christianity.

The Vice Chancellor went even to the extent of threatening the

students with failure in the examinations if they did not convert. During this process a student named Uma Maheshwari a M.Sc. student belonging to Jammalamudu of Cuddapah district, who was forced to convert, committed suicide as she was unable to bear the mental agony caused by religious conversion. The Vice Chancellor has immediately confiscated and kept confidential the student's suicide note. BJP leaders Kishan Reddy, S Malla Reddy and Vijayanand claimed that the Governor promised to hold an inquiry on this issue.

Her name should be removed MLC list

Veena Nobel Das being successful in getting foreign funds to convert students in University, the Chief Minister Y S Rajasekhar Reddy is trying to nominate her to legislative council under Governor's quota alleged the BJP leaders. The leaders requested the Governor not to nominate Veena Nobel Das under any circumstances as that would vitiate the social and communal harmony.

Tirupati: Uma Maheshwari's Suicide - Why are officials silent?

(Eenadu, March 15, 2007)

Newstoday, Tirupati

Events raise more suspicion

Ms. Uma Maheshwari's suicide confirms the allegations that Christian missionary activity and conversions are going on unabated in Padmavathi Women's University. It has been confirmed that for the past few months Uma Maheshwari has been participating in Christian

religious activity. It seems that the victim and some other women students used to spend all their time discussing about Christianity while avoiding contact with non-Christians. Some students confirmed that every Sunday two preachers visit their hostel. Recently the hostel management has been handed over to a firm whose employees are all Christian. It seems that these employees were involved in Christian preaching inside the hostel.

Why officials are not revealing the contents of suicide note?

Hostel students demanded the management to reveal the reasons for Uma Maheswari's suicide. Students demanded the authorities to reveal the contents of the suicide note. Officials concealing the suicide note is raising the suspicion that suicide note contains specific reasons and might reveal names. Veena Noble Das, the Vice Chancellor of the University was always in controversy for forcing students to convert to Christianity.

Why are her room mates missing?

Uma Maheshwari has 3 other room mates who are missing since the day incident happened. Officials had to bite dust when students demanded to see the other three room mates. Officials mentioned that they are in the lab but it seems that they are staying at a senior official's home. Questions are raised on why these three students are moved away from hostel and not allowed to speak to anybody.

In a related development 22 leaders of BJYM, AVBP and BJP leaders are arrested under non-bailable warrant for staging a dharna outside the University premises. The protestors seems to have damaged the official car used by Ms. Veena Noble Das, the Vice Chancellor of the University.

Landmark Judgement

Make Waqf-like board for Hindu religious bodies: HC

Press Trust of India

Allahabad, June 6, 2006

http://www.hindustantimes.com/news/181_1714562,000900010004.htm

Hindustan Times

The Allahabad High Court on Tuesday asked the Centre and Uttar Pradesh to prepare a scheme for constitution of a Board for Hindu religious organisations on the pattern of the UP Muslim Waqf Board. Passing the order, Justice SN Srivastava said the Board so constituted shall be an autonomous body and it will register all such religious and charitable establishments and endowments according to the norms represented by mutts, monasteries, temples and religious and charitable trusts or societies, as the case may be, through their heads.

The Centre as well as the state government may also frame schemes for providing minimum wages and other welfare measures for those working in temples, the court added.

The judgement was passed on a writ petition filed by Shree Satya Narain Tulsi Manas Mandir at Varanasi.

The court said that the schemes so framed may be placed before the court on September nine. The court was of the view that though provisions of Minimum Wages Act were not applicable to temple as it

is not an industry, fair wages cannot be denied merely on the ground that the establishment or institution is of a religious or charitable nature or that persons who are engaged are 'sevadars' or employees at the pleasure of management.



In the morning I bathe my intellect
in the stupendous and cosmogonical
philosophy of the Bhagavat Geeta,
since whose composition years of
the gods have elapsed, and in
comparison with which our
modern world and its literature
seem puny and trivial.

--Henry David Thoreau

The Answer

1. We demand repealing Endowments Act and let Hindus manage their temples as guaranteed by the constitution of India
2. Have the Hindu community appoint a committee, nominated by Acharya Sabha, Dharma Sansad , etc. to oversee the Endowment Department to ensure transparency, protection of temple lands and proper utilization of their revenues till the formation of a Hindu Board.
3. Constitute a Waqf like Hindu Board , as decreed by the Allahabad High Court, for overseeing the management of Hindu religious institutions.
4. Stop discriminatory practices against Dalits and assure their entry into temples by making pujaris and public co-operate by awareness of "the Orissa High Court ruling on December 5, 2006, that Dalits have a right to enter any Hindu temple"

We demand Government to be secular, sensitive and tolerance towards Hindu feelings



In the End...
We will conserve only
what we love,
We will love only what
we understand,
And, we will understand
only what we are taught.
- Baba Dioum, Senegal