

SAVE HINDU TEMPLES



<http://savetemples.org>



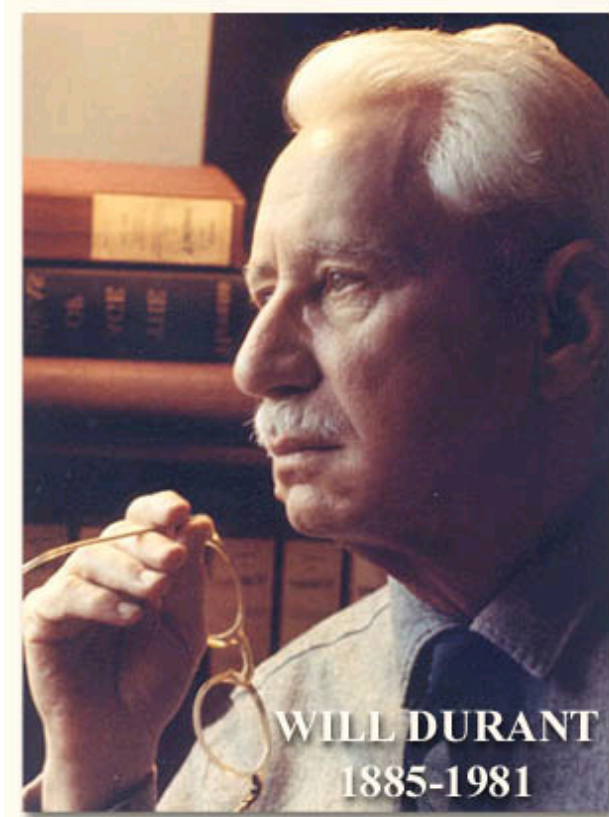
Hinduism as I know it entirely satisfies my soul, fills my whole being ... When doubts haunt me, when disappointments stare me in the face, and when I see not one ray of light on the horizon, I turn to the *Bhagavad Gita*...

-- Mahatma Gandhi



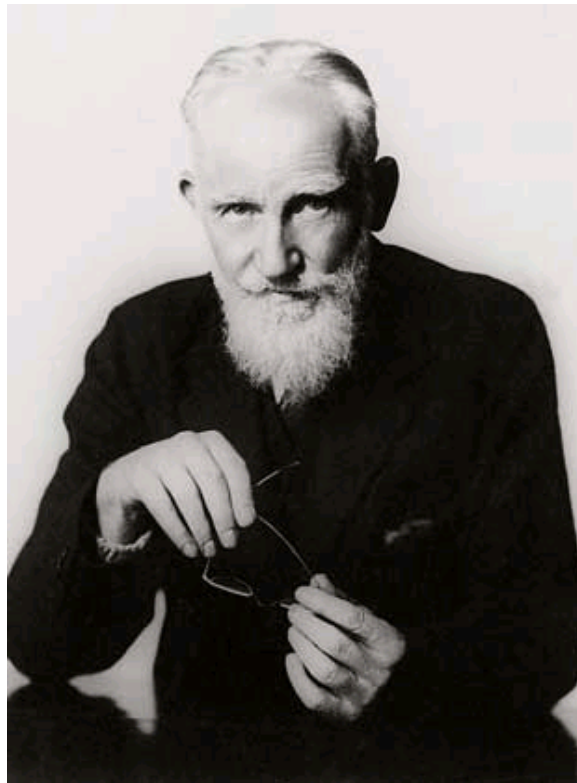
After a study of some forty years and more of the great religions of the world, I find none so perfect , none so scientific, none so philosophical and none so spiritual that the great religion known by the name of Hinduism. Make no mistake, without Hinduism, India has no future. Hinduism is the soil in to which India's roots are stuck and torn out of that she will inevitably wither as a tree torn out from its place. And if Hindus do not maintain Hinduism who shall save it? If India's own children do not cling to her faith who shall guard it. India alone can save India and India and Hinduism are one.

– **Annie Besant**



Perhaps in return for conquest, arrogance and spoliation, India (hinduism) will teach us the tolerance and gentleness of the mature mind, the quiet content of the unacquisitive soul, the calm of the understanding spirit, and a unifying, a pacifying love for all living things.

— Will Durant



“The apparent multiplication of gods is bewildering at the first glance, but you soon discover that they are the same GOD. There is always one uttermost God who defies personification. This makes Hinduism the most tolerant religion in the world, because its one transcendent God includes all possible gods. In fact Hinduism is so elastic and so subtle that the most profound Methodist, and crudest idolater, are equally at home with it.”

--- George Bernard Shaw

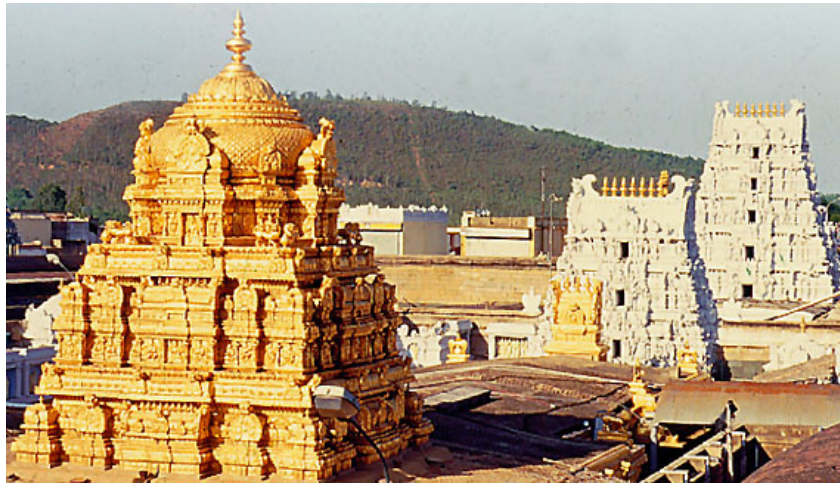


"To my mind', Hindu religion is truer than any other religion, because it never conquered. Because it never shed blood, because its mouth always shed on all, words of blessing, of peace, words of love and sympathy. It is here and here alone that the ideals of toleration were first preached. And it is here and here alone that toleration and sympathy become practical; it is theoretical in every other country; it is here and here alone, that the Hindu builds mosques for the Mohammedans and churches for the Christians." -- **Swami Vivekananda**



In 3000 years of our history, people from all over the world have come and invaded us, captured our lands conquered our minds. From Alexander onwards. The Greeks, the Portuguese, the British, the French, the Dutch, all of them came and looted us, took over what was ours. Yet we have not done this to any other nation. We have not conquered anyone. We have not grabbed their land, their culture, their history and tried to enforce our way of life on them. Why? Because we respect the freedom of others. **--President Dr. Abdul Kalam**

HINDUISM UNDER THREAT



A Hindu temple is the focus for all aspects of everyday life in Hindu community - religious, cultural, educational and social. The temple is also the place where one can transcend the world of man.

In India which is the home of Hinduism, Hindu temples are controlled by State Governments violating the fundamental rights defined in the Indian constitution. The State Governments have enacted Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act to manage the Hindu institutions whereas Christian and Muslim institutions are left untouched.

Successive State Governments all over India have been consistently mismanaging, misusing and encroaching our temple property.

Govt. Control of temples violates the Indian constitution:

1) The Karnataka High Court has struck down the Karnataka Hindu Religious Institutions and Charitable Endowment Act, 1997 terming it unconstitutional, stating that the legislation violated Articles 14, 25 and 26 of the Constitution which provided for right to equality, freedom of conscience, freedom of profession, practice and propagation of religion, and also the freedom to manage the religious affairs.

2) The Allahabad High Court has directed the Central and UP authorities to prepare a scheme for constituting a Board for Hindu religious organizations on the pattern of the UP Muslim Waqf Board. Both these vital verdicts lend credence to the argument that the Govt. must not meddle in temples and endowments. This decree by the said judicial body has been widely acclaimed as a welcome development.

3) Govt. must also abide by the Law passed by the Indian Parliament in 1991, specifically legislating that -"the status of religious places, as on August 15, 1947 shall be retained," and restore temples and their endowments to August, 1947 status. Moreover, due to widespread misuse of power by states, temples must be taken out of the Concurrent list of the Constitution by an amendment, thus preventing state authorities from meddling in religious affairs.

(see Landmark Judgement section of the supplement at savetemples.org for additional details.)

Many State Governments have been violating the Constitution, suppressing human right of religious freedom for Hindus and demolishing religious infrastructure against Hindu interests.

The actions against Hindu institutions can be divided into two classes:

1. Gross Mismanagement & Corruption
2. Ideological reasons.

Temples of Andhra Pradesh under Govt. control are victims of mismanagement and corruption for many decades under earlier regimes. However, the recent events indicate another dimension i.e., ideological, which have dangerous repercussions across India, professing to be a secular country.

YSR Crusade against Hinduism



Since coming to power, the Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy Govt. has been engaging in systematic and planned destruction of Hindu Institutions and Hinduism. The whole state administration was engaged in this task. His Government which is supposed to be a protector has become a destroyer threatening the very existence of Hinduism.

1. From mismanagement and corruption perspective, his government is engaging in illegal encroachments of temple lands, massive temple land scams, demolition of temples and taking over and virtually looting the rich temples and mutts. Even the most sacred Tirupati temple is not spared, nay

specially targeted. It is deeply distressing that the Govt. took over temples on assumed allegations of corruption, but do not provide transparent management or make public disclosures.

His Govt. attempted to take over 5 out of 7 hills of sacred Tirumala temple for churches and tourism. In massive land scams, his Govt. sold hundreds of acres of temple lands worth many crores of rupees at throw away prices (in some instances less than 5% of their market value). It attempted to sell multiple crores worth temple lands in Godavari districts for Indiramma scheme. During his regime temples were allowed to be blown up and thousands of acres of temple lands worth multiple crores were allowed to be encroached. YSR is alleged to use TTD money for hockey tournament in his parents name. His Govt. allowed the demolition of 10 temples for a Golf Course.

2. From ideological perspective, his Govt is abetting massive religious conversions in the vicinity of all major temples and other Hindu institutions. It is making it difficult to practice Hinduism by acts such as 50% bus surcharge on Maha Sivarathri day and selectively removing most important Hindu religious holidays such as Sri Rama Navami from Govt. holiday list. It is undermining religious character of Hindu Institutions by appointment of individuals who are bent upon destroying Hinduism such as rabid evangelical Veena Noble Das as Vice Chancellor of Padmavathi University whose conversion activities is alleged to have cause death of Hindu student who was forced to convert. YSR Govt. is planning to give her honorary seat in AP Legislative Council.

Endowment Department allows large Christian prayer meetings in temple lands with advertisements for these meetings right inside the temples with the goal of converting Hindus.

State Govt. Endowment department lacks transparency for 80% of temple revenue, while on other hand the temples priests are allowed to starve. More than 40,000 Priests are given salary below Rs.500/- Month and over 3,000 Priest are paid only Rs. 400 /- for the whole year.

The brazenness of his Govt. activities can be witnessed by a police station right in the capital city of Hyderabad which would not even entertain filing a case until Bible is read and has bible teachings written on all over the walls of the police station.

The same state Govt. which is destroying Hinduism in all of its aspects is making all efforts to support Christianity and Muslim religions as vote banks. It is providing funds for state treasury to build and renovate churches and mosques. The Govt. which placed surcharge on Hindu pilgrims on Maha Sivarathri day, pays 12,000 Rs/- per pilgrim for Haj trip to Mecca for Muslims and considering proposals to pay for Christians to travel to Bethlehem. The Govt. which never touches the funds of Christian and Muslim Institutions relentlessly siphons away Hindu Institutions funds and lands.

In a country known for its religious tolerance, where Christians and Hindus have lived harmoniously for more than thousand years, actions of his Govt. is creating communal tensions in villages, and across the state.

Our forefathers and leaders had a grand vision for a country that is religiously tolerant and where every religion would

survive and thrive. YSR was voted to power by the Hindu majority community. However, he is misusing his power and engaging in a relentless crusade against Hinduism.

Wake up! Hindu Identity of India is under serious threat.



Unless the country is protected, Dharma cannot be protected, and unless Dharma is protected, the country cannot be protected.Also, protect the Dharmi to protect Dharma.

And remember always: Hindu vote is sacred; never barter it away. In fact, this should be our refrain, nay a constant campaign all over India, at this critical juncture.Further, we should demand follow-up action on the '[Tirupati Declaration](#)' (July 15, 2006).

The following are the three cardinal Articles of this Historic Declaration:

1) We Hindus assembled here (in Tirupati) 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 Tirupati 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 –

-- **Swami Dayananda Saraswati.**

DETAILS OF YSR GOVT's Anti-Hindu ACTIONS

This sections is divided into 5 categories

1. Intolerance towards Hindu Culture.
2. Encroachment and massive land scams.
3. Curtailing Religious Freedom for Hindus.
4. Impoverishing the temples and priests.
5. Promoting illegal Christian Conversion Activity.

Intolerance towards Hindu culture

50% Bus Surcharge on Hindu pilgrims on Maha Sivarathri Day

(Eenadu, February 16, 2007)

Citizens of independent India are aware of subsidies to pilgrims on buses and trains, whereas YSR Government imposed a surcharge of 50% on bus fare on pilgrims visiting Lord Shiva temples on Shivaratri day in February 2007. The lame explanation given by the Government was that buses might return empty. The Government failed to provide any empirical evidence to substantiate this claim though Government has been running special buses on such occasions for many years. . The hollowness of the claim was stated in Indian media who pointed out devotees who visit a temple on a special festival return on the next day thereby buses by filling the buses on both the trips.

If Government wanted to minimize risk why they did not they sell a round-trip ticket (two-way ticket) at regular fare instead of charging a surcharge on buses which are used primarily by poor and middle class? Would the AP Government act similarly in case of Christian and Muslim festivals?

(compare above with)

AP state plans fund for Christian pilgrims

Tuesday, 19 December 2006

[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. Rajasekhar Reddy said on Monday. Responding to Hyderabad Archbishop Marampudi Joji's request at the United Christmas Celebrations, Chief Minister Y.S. Rajashekar 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.

Eliminating important Hindu Festivals (e.g., Sri Rama Navami) as Holidays ([Andhra Jyothy April 5, 2007](#))

AP Government seems to be systematically eliminating Hindu festivals as holidays. Recently in April, 2007 Sri Rama Navami was deleted from the list of holidays for financial institutions citing limitations in negotiable instruments act whereas a few days later the same act was relaxed to declare holidays on B R Ambedkar's birthday and Babu Jagjivan Ram's birthday as they serve the political interests.

(For additional details including complete news articles *see*
'Intolerance towards Hindu Culture' section in the supplement
booklet at savetemples.org)

Encroachment and sale of temple lands and 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:

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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.

Massive Temple Land Scam (hundreds of acres sold at throw away prices)

(Eenadu May 3, 2007)

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....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..

Misuse of temple money (500 crores TTD money for Jala Yagnam)

(JustAndhra.com Mar 22, 2006)

Devotees donate to temples for promoting Hindu religion and thought. The Government which manages these temples has been using the temple money for Government schemes. The State Government attempted to use TTD money to tune of 500 crores for Jala Yagnam. (Note: Govt. targets only Hindu devotees money and on contrary contributes to Mosques and Churches for repairs and renovation).

(compare above with)

AP Chief Minister okays public money for Churches

(Deccan Chronicle, August 23, 2006)

Nizamabad, Aug. 22: Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhar 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.

Temple lands taken over

(Times of India, June 03, 2005)

State Governments including the previous ones under the pretext of industrialization, housing schemes etc. have been taking over temple lands at nominal rates.

Inability to protect temple lands (77,000 strong staff paid with 18% of temple income is unable to protect temples)

(Deccan Chronicle , April 8, 2006)

The endowments department is auctioning free and encroached lands claiming inability in protecting them for land mafia. The Government on one hand is claiming its inability in protecting temple property while on the other hand trying to takeover Hindu institutions managed by private trustees.

Lease mismanagement (Looting by leasing with below market rates)

(Eenadu, April 23, 2007)

The successive State Governments have been leasing temple property to people connected to politicians at rates far below the market rate. This situation is impoverishing the temples through meager returns.

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:

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.

Indiramma: temple land takeover stayed (distributing temples land for Govt. Schemes)

(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.

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. (NOTE: Govt. always targets Hindu Mandir lands and NEVER lands belonging to Muslim or Christian places of Worship).

Temple land lease scam in Andhra Pradesh

(Eenadu, April 23, 2007)

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. (continued in Appendix 5)

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.

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.

Sharks eat up God’s land, Hyderabad (Deccan Chronicle on 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. 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)....

YSR Land Scam – CNN-IBN Interview(TV)

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

(For additional details including complete news articles see ‘Encroachment and sale of Temple Lands and Property’ section in the supplement booklet at savetemples.org)

Curtailing Religious freedom for Hindus

All the State and Central Governments are diluting their role in the administration and management of variety of institutions such as Public sector companies, Power, Industrial parks, service activities for better administration. Hindu institutions seem to be only institutions feeling an ever increasing grip over their management with the threat of takeover from Government.

Panel submits report on Chilukur temple (attempts to take over Chilukur temple in spite of stiff opposition from devotees)

(The Hindu August 24, 2006)

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

The Government constituted the expert committee after devotees resisted the move of the Endowments Department to take over the Chilukur Balaji temple. The devotees had even moved the Supreme Court. (Note: For more details on Chilakur Balaji temple see <http://www.protectchilukurubalajitemple.com/>).

YSR Endowment Minister declares the take over of 181 Mutts (Govt. eyeing cash rich 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)

<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.

Devotees urged to toe 'civil disobedience' line

(The Hindu, April 23, 2007)

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"*

(For additional details including complete news articles see 'Curtailling Religious Freedom for Hindus' section in the supplement booklet at savetemples.org)

Impoverishing the temples and priests

Temple priests starving

(Deccan Chronicle, October 6, 2004)

An office boy (peon) in AP Government takes home a salary of Rs. 10,000/month whereas the A V Ramana Dikshitulu, the head priest of Tirumala temple who happens to be the highest paid priest under AP Government earns Rs. 200/day (Rs. 6,000/month if he works without a holiday). Many temple priests earn Rs. 500/month. This situation is forcing many archakas to abandon the profession thereby leaving the temples priestless.

Many Temples cannot afford even daily Pooja, lamp or Prasadam

(The Hindu, April 23, 2007)

Many temples across Andhra Pradesh cannot even afford to have daily pooja, lamp or prasadam. Bowing to protests from various devotee groups AP Government proposed a 'Dhoopa Deepa Naivedyam' scheme. The Government seems to be insincere in implementing this amendment as it referred to a select committee on April 9 thereby creating uncertainty.

(For additional details including complete news articles see
'Impoverishing the Temples and Priests' section in the supplement
booklet at savetemples.org)

Promoting Illegal Christian conversion activity

Padmavathi University: A center for conversion (Hindu Student committed suicide due to forcible conversion)
(Eenadu, March 15, 2007)

Padmavathi University which received TTD funds has become a center for conversion under the Vice Chancellor Veena Nobel Das who is appointed by YSR. The Vice Chancellor gave hostel maintenance contracts to Christian agencies who in turn are using this opportunity to promote conversion. A student named Ms. Uma Maheshwari committed suicide due to forcible conversion. The state CID report also reported rampant conversions going on in the University directly involving teaching staff who threaten students with failure in examinations in case the students do not convert. In spite of all these incidents the YSR Government remains mute and patronizes Veena Nobel Das.

Conversion in police station in Hyderabad (Police will not register case until bible is read).

(Eenadu, April 11,2007)

Police stations are fast becoming hotbeds for Christian evangelical activity. Recently such incident was caught red handed by Indian media but the Government did not take any action against the police officer involved. This explains the State Government's sympathetic attitude towards illegal and forced conversions.

(For additional details including complete news articles see 'Promoting Christian Conversion Activity' section in the supplement booklet at savetemples.org)

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 treat all religions equally. We demand Govt. be secular, sensitive and tolerant.



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**