

DON'T FORGET THIS! THE PARIVAR & THE MEDIA



"I am not giving away any state secrets by revealing that not many days ago the prime minister (he had just returned from Danga) told me that attacks on Christians in Gujarat had been vastly overplayed. 'The English press has played a negative role,' he said ...We cannot manufacture good news when all around us is bad news... The biggest sin a journalist can commit is to spread false optimism merely to spuriously lift the spirits of the country and the coalition in power. These matters may seem elementary to you and me but to our rulers they suggest a 'conspiracy'."



Bajrang Dal Warning

Bajrang Dal has warned English language newspapers in the state, including *The Indian Express*, of dire consequences if they "try to publish reports in an exaggerated manner." The warning comes in the wake of a series of attacks on Christians in south Gujarat.

Indian Express, January 2, 1999

होशियार, खबरदार, जागते रहो!



In times of
barbarism,
our choices,
however
limited,
are clear.



SAHMAT
A VIOLENCE FREE SOCIETY
New Delhi: 110 565 141, 111 313 278

"Who are these men, who purport to rule our country, as they sit in sinister meetings planning death and mayhem, cleverly sowing suspicion, spreading illusions? What macabre minds do they have that they then watch smugly, even helplessly, as their efforts unleash forces beyond their control, that even when the conflagration apparently dies down, its embers simmer and burst into flame when fanned next by expediency?"

"What do we do now? Vote. We may never have the candidates we want, but to vote out candidates we do not want is critical."

Merle Almeida, via email, Outlook

तय करो किस ओर हो तुम

BJP government has a lot to answer for WHY WAS NOTHING DONE?

WARNINGS IGNORED

Between August 1998 and March 1999, Brig Swinder Singh, Brigade Commander of the Kargil sector, sent Ak Jethwa to his superiors, the Army Chief and the Defence Ministry informing them of increasing threat perceptions along the LoC.

Why was nothing done?



होशियार, खबरदार, जागते रहो!



Ideology that killed Gandhi controls the BJP



The RSS has stepped in to take stock of the BJP led government and the unstable political scenario by convening two interactive meetings with the BJP MPs. The invitation for 'tea' was on RSS letterhead.

The Hindustan Times, July 2, 1998

Members of Sanskar Bharati, the cultural wing of the RSS, are actively associated with the cell (to promote the philosophy of cultural nationalism through the arts) which will advise the HRD ministry to reconstitute committees of the country's leading institutions like the Lalit Kala Akademi, the National Gallery of Modern Art and Indian Council of Cultural Relations.

The Indian Express, September 4, 1998

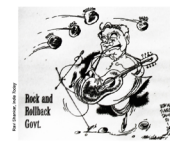


An Inept Govt: A Roll-back Govt



"You don't need to be a political scientist to recognise that Vajpayee government is neither stable nor effective. Each day it is terrorised by a new ally. On alternate days finance minister withdraws yet another provision of his budget. (Wags say it might have been easier to just withdraw the entire budget.) The country's foreign policy is run by a superannuated bureaucrat whose chief claim to fame is that he hung around Vajpayee when Advani was on the ascendance. The law and order situation has never been so bad; worse still, it is the BJP ruled states where the rule of the law seems to have collapsed the most. When this government goes it will go because it is inept, not because it tried to change the agenda."

Vir Sanghvi, The Telegraph, July 26, 1998



Corporate tax collection plunged 42% in April-June 1999. This belies talk of an economic recovery.



SAY NO TO CULTURAL POLICING

On May 1, 1999, Samudaya, a theatre group of Karnataka was attacked by hoodlums led by the BJP councillor M. Nagaraj, while performing a play on communal harmony at Anekal, a taluka town near Bangalore.



Artists stage protest demonstration

Artists and concerned citizens organised protests in Delhi and Bangalore.

Demonstrating at the BJP office in Delhi, the artists said in a statement that the attack on creative persons and creative activity is nothing new for the Sangh Parivar and appealed to all to resist such acts.

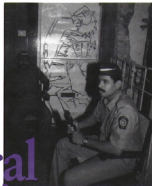
Attack on Karnataka street theatre group condemned

STOP THE GOONS



On May 1, 1998 Bajrang Dal activists forced their way into the Bombay house of artist MF Husain and created mayhem. Earlier they had destroyed his paintings in Ahmedabad in October 1996. The protest was against paintings Husain had done more than two decades ago.

Say NO to Cultural Policing



ARTISTS PROTEST



"We strongly condemn the vicious assault on the home of the renowned painter MF Husain, by Bajrang Dal activists in Mumbai. The increasing attacks on the arts and artists have alarmed us all, but this invasion of the private space of an eminent citizen shows the brazen confidence these forces have recently acquired.

Shiv Sena chief Bal Thackeray's statement, 'If Husain can enter Hindustan, why can't we enter his house', is absolutely shocking and deserves the strongest condemnation. To speak of fellow citizens in these communal terms is inflammatory and unacceptable to us.

The Government has to act immediately to restore the atmosphere in which the creative community can continue to function without fear."

STOP THE GOONS



SAY NO TO CULTURAL POLICING

On 26 April 1998 Shiv Sainiks marched into the hall of a Mumbai hotel where noted Pakistani singer Ghulam Ali was to perform, snatched the microphone and resorted to vandalism, forcing the organisers to call off the event.

THE DAY THE MUSIC DIED



VHP and Bajrang Dal workers disrupted Miss Saurashtra contest in the Union Territory of Diu. Earlier the Dal workers had stalled Miss Surat contest and disrupted a fashion-cum-beauty contest at Vadod.

150 Shiv Sainiks led by former Navi Mumbai mayor damaged furniture, assaulted female artistes and threatened the producer of a play which had been cleared by the Sena's cultural police.

STOP THE GOONS



SAY NO TO MORALITY BRIGADE

...the Bajrang Dal needs to be told by those in charge of its mercurial destiny to spare a thought for something called the Indian Constitution, for while dictating a particular course of behaviour, the outfit is brazenly questioning the fundamental tenets which govern the polity.



Fifty-nine Muslim families of Randhikpur in Gujarat's Dohad district were forced to leave their homes in the last week of June following tension after two Muslim boys married two tribal girls.

Fundamentalist Hindu organisations in Bardoli clamped down on Hindu girls for marrying Muslim boys.

STOP THE GOONS





WHAT DO THEY STAND FOR?

The RSS is not nationalist because its definition of the Indian nation is so restricted that a greater part of the regions, literatures, and religions stand excluded. The multiple historical strands which form the network of national consciousness are clipped. Above all, the RSS is not nationalist because it is unable to incorporate the ideals of liberty, justice and equality which mould modern nationalism.

The Times of India, July 7, 1998

The RSS is quintessentially a petit bourgeois organisation... which imitated western ideas of militant nationalism on a puny scale. In many ways, the RSS is a colonial caricature in its dress code as well as in the paramilitary drill.

The Times of India, July 7, 1998



REJECT THEM FOR RE-WRITING HISTORY

A full fifty years after the assassination of the Mahatma, the Bharatiya Janata Party in its latest in-house journal, *BJP Today*, has as its lead story - *Who Plotted Gandhi's Assassination? A Fresh Assessment*.

It is being seen as an attempt to wash off the stain on the RSS. The cover story in *BJP Today* has been written by Mr. R. Chandrachud, who was a sub-editor in *The Hindustan Times* during those tumultuous days. The article says and suggests that it is "possible" that British Intelligence may have "got round to Godse" to influence him to murder the Mahatma. Even if one assumes that it was the handiwork of British Intelligence, that would mean that Godse's mind, fed on a hate Gandhi RSS propaganda, must have been found by the Intelligence network to be the most fertile ground for sowing the seeds of treason.

The Hindu, September 12, 1998



No civilised society grants the right to kill a man on grounds of difference of opinion.

SAY NO TO TALIBANISATION

Delhi's BJP government wanted to remove churches from the list of places of worship because sacramental wine is distributed here.

"...they know that in Delhi's famous Bhairon temple the standard offering is hard liquor, usually rum in large quantities. This has not provoked anyone to suggest that the place be declared a "drinking den".
Indar Malhotra (The Hindu, July 8, 1998)

In July VHP organised a 'mango ice-cream picnic' at Delhi's Lodhi Garden to "propagate the idea of Akhand Bharat". When they finished there were mangled gates and railings, damaged pathways and trampled plants. They wanted "Pakistan and Bangladesh to be united with their motherland".



"Indian girls must adopt either sari or salwar kameez which conforms to our culture"

Hari Vishnu Dalmiya (The Times of India, August 16, 1998)

Delhi's BJP government tried to implement a dress code for school girls, claiming they were doing it as a precaution against dengue fever.

Schools, parents, teachers and students protested the thinly disguised imposition of a dress code. Why not a burkha? Wouldn't that be the best option against mosquitoes? It is worth mentioning that at no point did the RSS offer to give up the khaki knicker to protect its cadre.

STOP THE GOONS

A series of *Parichay Mala* booklets distributed by the VHP explicitly mentions terrorizing Christians and Muslims in its "Hinduisation" drive and lists the following instances of violence as 'achievements':

- Forcible occupation of places of worship of other religions
- Occupation of missionary-run schools
- Physical assault on members of the minority community
- Inducing people to reconvert to Hinduism

VHP'S PRIDE NATION'S SHAME



STOP THE GOONS

ENOUGH! NO MORE!

Violence against Christians in six districts of Gujarat, including burning of churches and chapels; begging Bal Thackeray to allow cricket matches to be played with Pakistan for one more year; the denial to Sonia Gandhi of any right to criticise the RSS and its Sangh Parivar over the atrocities and the brutal killing of a missionary serving the poor and the needy together with his two young sons, to the accompaniment of slogans in praise of the Bajrang Dal; all these add up to a very unflattering reflection on the Vajpayee government for its failure to act.



The President has led the nation in expressing disgust at the latest assault on our secular credentials...

The death rattle sounds in this government's throat."

The Statesman, January 2, 1999



BACK TO THE TEMPLE



"No construction activity for a temple is going on anywhere near the disputed site."

Atal Behari Vajpayee



The BJP is willing once more to plunge the country into the same communal maelstrom as it did six years ago. It has no compunctions either about the trauma which the country experienced or the widening of the communal gulf... obviously it believes that whipping up a frenzy all over again on this issue will pay handsome political dividends. It is cynicism, not religiosity, which remains the BJP's main motivation.

The Hindu, June 17, 1998



"Thousands of Kar Sevaks are waiting to complete their mission. They will rise again. Then nobody can control them."

Uma Bharati, The Indian Express, June 19, 1998

होशियार, खबरदार, जागते रहो!

HARVEST OF HATRED

From December 25 to 31, 1998, 'forces of Hindutva' set fire to nine and vandalised eleven churches across Dangs, the smallest district in Gujarat.



"In pre-planned, guerrilla-style manoeuvre, night after night through the week, hundreds of these men descended on to the villages to break, vandalise and set fire as per their fancy, churches, prayer houses and beat up men and women of the Christian faith.

It is an attack on the fundamental rights and personal freedom that the Indian constitution assures to all citizens of the country. It threatens to reduce democracy to majoritarianism."

The Pioneer, January 4, 1999

STOP THE GOONS

DAMNING INDICTMENT OF BJP-SHIV SENA

SRIKRISHNA COMMISSION

"The immediate causes of the communal riots on 6 December 1992 were: (a) the demolition of Babri Masjid; (b) the aggravation of Muslim sentiments by the Hindus with their celebration rallies, and (c) the insensitive and harsh approach of the police while handling the protesting mobs which initially were not violent."

"From January 8, 1993 the Shiv Sena and Shiv Sainiks took the lead in organising attacks on Muslims and their properties under the guidance of several leaders of Shiv Sena from the level of Shakhya Pramukh to the Shiv Sena Pramukh Bal Thackeray who, like a veteran general, commanded his loyal Shiv Sainiks to retaliate by organised attacks against Muslims."



ENOUGH! NO MORE!



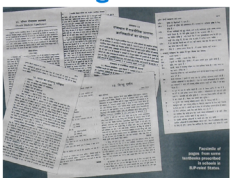
"The response of police to appeals from desperate victims, particularly Muslims, was cynical and utterly indifferent. On occasions, the response was that they were unable to leave the appointed post; on others, the attitude was that one Muslim killed was one Muslim less."

The report attributed a key role to the BJP-led Ram Janmabhoomi movement in the genesis of the Mumbai riots.

POISONING YOUNG MINDS

In 1996, the National Council of Educational Research and Training reported that the Vidya Bharati chain of schools was using textbooks, many of which "were designed to promote bigotry and religious fanaticism in the name of inculcating knowledge of culture (*sanskriti gyan*) in the younger generation." Many of these schools, colleges and other institutions, which are now claimed to total 14,000, are located in states where the BJP has been in power. About 5,000 of them have been given recognition.

Doctoring Textbooks



Crude Communalism

In Uttar Pradesh, three pages of *Itihaas, Bhag 2*, taught in high school, are devoted to KB Hedgewar, founder of the RSS, while the entire history of the freedom movement after 1857 is covered in twenty pages.



In Rajasthan, *Nutan Gadya Padya Sangrahan* prescribed for Class IX has four articles introduced in 1998, one each by RSS chief Rajendra Singh; Tarun Vijay, editor of RSS weekly *Panchajanya*; K. S. Sudarshan, RSS ideologue; and Dr Jalam Singh Raviot of the Swadeshi Jagran Manch.

STOP THE GOONS

