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To spread the word of God is the highest form of charity. It appeals to the mind, the heart, the soul. That being the eamest endeavour of thismagazine, how noble-spirited it would be of you, dear readers, if you sent it on regularly to friends and relatives. Make a gift of it. Think of a whole year's subscription as being both a delightful present as well as a contribution to a worthy cause.
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The form 'sent' is gramatically necessitated by the use of the word 'would' in the principal clause of the sentence. The other possible alternative would be 'could send' but not 'send.'

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## Communal Twist

Sir, - We have noted with growing concern a recent tendency in The Times of India to give a communal twist to news items and even to editorial comments. An example of this is a report from Mathura dated 15 September and entilled, "Krishna's Birthplace after Aurangzeb." It evoked considerable correspondence, some of which, as could be expected, was markedly communal in tone.

Your readers should know that historical analysis and interpretations involve more than a mere listing of dates with an eye to pious sentiments. The Dera Keshava Rai temple was built by Raja Bir Singh Deo Bundela during Jahangir's reign. This large temple soon became extremely popular and acquired considerable wealth. Aurangzeb had this semple destroyed, took the wealth as booty and built an Idgah on the site. His actions might have been politically motivated as well, for at the time when the temple was destroyed he faced problems with the Bundelas as well as Jat rebellions in the Mathura region. It should be remembered that many Hindu temples were untouched during Aurangzeb's reign and even some new ones built. Indeed, what is really required is an investigation into the theory that both the Dera Keshava Rai temple and the Idgah were built on the site of a Buddhist monastery which appears to have been destroyed.

Your news report also gives credence to the suggestion that this site was the birthplace of Krishna. This is extraordinary to say the least, when even the historicity of the personality is in question. It creates the kind of confusion such as has been created, probably deliberately, over the question of the birthplace of Rama in the matter of Ramd-Janam-bhumi. A Persian text of the midnineteenth century states that the Babari mosque was adjacent to the Sita-ka-rasoi-ghar and was known as the Rasoi Sita mosque and adjoined the area associated with the birthplace of Rama. It would be worth enquiring whether there is reliable historical evidence of a period prior to the nineteenth century for this association of a precise location for the birthplace of Rama. Furthermore such disputes as there were between Hindus and Muslims in this area upto the nineteenth century were not over the Babari mosque but the totally different size of Hanuman-baithak.

It cannot be denied that acts of intolerance have been committed in India by followers of all religions. But these acts have to be understood in their context. It is a debasement of history to distort these events for present day communal propaganda.

The statement in your news report that the site at Mathura is to be "liberated" and handed over to the "rightful owners" as the birthplace of Krishna raises the question of the limits to the logic of restoration of religious sites (and this includes the demand for the restoration to worshippers of disused mosques now under the care of the Archaeological Survey of India). How far back do we go? Can we push this to the restoration of Buddhist and Jaina monuments destroyed by Hiadus? Or of pre-Hindus animist shrines?

ROMILA THAPAR, MUZAFFAR ALAM, BIPAN CHANDRA, R. CHAMPAKA LAKSHMI, s. bhattacharya, h. mukiha, suvira jaiswal. S. ratnagar, m.X. palat, SATISH SABERWAL, S. GOPAL, MRIDULA MUXHERJEE.







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U.N.I. helped us a lot. All papers gave the coverage.

Judge Saheb told that "Maulana's beauty lies in objectivity and coherent analysis. He likes comparative approach which is the tide of time."
Shamin Raza Saheb of Amin Manzil, Sabzi Bagh, Patna accomplished the long pending partition of family property after being impressed by your comments on Distributive Justice and acquisition of property. Shamim Saheb adopted tolerant attitude and sacrificial approach to end family feud.
Janab M.A. Manzoor Saheb of Chajjubagh, Patna (Retd Registrar and now advocate) derived three things while listening to your lecture at the residence of Hon'ble Mr Justice S.K. Sha of Patna High Court.
(a) Indulgence in petty matters soils the fibres of approach to life.
(b) Seeds of victory lie in the ashes of defeat. This mode of thinking will have no room for frustration. (c) Conditioned thinking eats into the potentialities of one's personality.
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