

## Chapter – II

### “AZAMGARH – A LAND TO BE PROUD OF BY THOSE BELONGING TO”

“MY LAND MY PEOPLE” a full page story by one, Pramod Pagedar, published in Hindustan Times, New Delhi Sunday Magazine dated 8<sup>th</sup> November 1998 followed by many articles in various Magazines about Azamgarh and its alleged nexus with antisocial elements. The ill informed journalists had claimed that Dawood Ibrahim and Late Haji Mastan are/were from Azamgarh. The fact is that none of them hail even from Uttar Pradesh, what to say from Azamgarh. Hindustan Times again publishes an article on 5<sup>th</sup> February 1999 with the title 5 Crore exchange hands through Hawala every day in Eastern U.P.

The tone of all the articles, and also a tale-serial, indicate that the entire district of Azamgarh is nothing but of proclaimed criminals, and mafia gang.

The Hawala transactions are not confined only to Azamgarh, but the entire country is involved in this activity. But there is difference in the pattern of Hawala transactions. There are those who do it for illegal activities such as politicians and big business houses, transfer the country's wealth to Swiss Banks. Smugglers do it which damage the economy of the country. Such activities are conducted with the help of big business men by under invoicing or over-invoicing and in big cities and not those belonging to villages. The Gujrat and South India have maximum number of people In Gulf mostly labor class. They try to transfer their hard earned money through Hawala so as to be able to make little more money as through Hawala they get better exchange rates. The remedy lies in adopting correct exchange policy by Reserve Bank of India. The people who are working in such countries if offered one or two rupees extra on each Reyal/ Draham, are tempted to en-cash it, as they have large number of people back home to support and every extra Rupee matter a lot to them. In most of the cases they had to repay Loan which they took to purchase the Visa from those who openly with connivance of the authorities fleece them.

The Ministry of Home Affairs & Foreign Affairs of the Central Government has issued instructions to the Regional Passport Office at Lucknow and else where that before issuing Passports to anyone even remotely connected with Azamgarh, strict scrutiny be conducted. With the result

right from Passport Office to the Police, C.I.D. who so ever is connected with the issue, renewal, correction of entry and verification etc., it is free for all to harass with rampant corruption. This has generated a big crop of brokers and agents working for the officials and further fleece one and all.

Prior to 1952 there were many medium size Zameendars created during British Rule consisting of mainly Muslims & Rajputs. After abolition of Zamindari in 1952 in U.P., the children of Zamindars, who, when grew up, were left high and dry with no job opportunities in the District. Here the word Zameendar include those who actually held under them villages under the Zameendari system and also those who did not have land under Zameendari system but held big land holdings under their direct cultivation through hired laborers.

Mr. S.S. Gill a career Civil Servant retired as Secretary in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Government of India, in 1985 wrote a book "Islam and the Muslims of India" Published by Penguin in 2008 in Chapter ten of the book gave the following details:-

1. The country was partitioned and not only did the population of Muslims in India drastically reduced, those who stayed behind became aliens in their own homeland.

2. The abolition of Zamindari system also meant that Muslim

Zamindars were ruined. A cultural setback to Muslims took place with the adoption of Hindi as the official language in place of Urdu.

3. There were three main classes of Zamindars and the impact of abolition varied from one class to the other:-

(a) Absentee Landlords, they were with large holdings but no direct involvement in the cultivation of land. They lived in cities and managed through intermediaries. They lived in lavish style and neither invested their wealth in productive ventures nor educated their children. They were the hardest hit due to the abolition. (Majority of them migrated to Pakistan and claimed compensation there).

(b) Then there were small Zamindars who had all the pretensions of landed aristocracy but no actual clout in power corridor, to bend the tenancy legislation to their advantage or enough resources to buy bhoomidari rights. This class was also ruined by the abolition of zamindari system. (In this class Muslims were in Majority)

(c) The third type of Zamindars were the best placed to survive the ravages of abolition. This class held substantial land holdings directly under them but they also maintained a significant presence in the urban sector. Members of this class had received modern education and were engaged in white color jobs, entered various professions or had setup their own enterprises. (In this class there were very limited number of Muslims as they considered, to be in service below their dignity.)

This class mostly comprised of non-Muslims had the advantage of political patronage and were able to take various pre-emptive steps to exploit loopholes not only to keep intact under them the most fertile portions of their land holdings but recaptured even such fertile land which they had given to other poor people to cultivate which Muslims could not do because of their position having become vulnerable due to the Partition of the country.

Mr. S.S.Gill also had mentioned that, 'out of total population of Muslims in India before Partition only 35% lived in Urban India. Rest 65% were essentially rural community and peasantry or landless in which large number were traditionally artisans and craftsmen or were engaged in low-income professions'.

These people heavily depended on the patronage of the feudal aristocracy and/or Muslim entrepreneurs engaged in metalware, embroidery, cotton rug making, woodwork, carpet weaving, handloom cloth etc. When bulk of such entrepreneurs either of their own migrated to Pakistan or were forced to migrate having been forcefully evicted from their enterprises and businesses or were looted and their establishments were burnt during and aftermath of partition.

The District of Azamgarh has always been neglected by those who came in power, be it, Mughal Kings of Delhi, Nawabs of Awadh or the British Rulers and even the Swadeshi Rulers, after the independence. Due to the above reasons, people are always in opposition. No developmental activities were undertaken. Every Govt. neglected the region. No one tried to understand the psychology of the people. No industry was established. The District continued to have a narrow gage rail link which got connected to broad gage only in 1997. There is no job opportunity available locally. Unemployment is the major problem of the Region. Country became independent in 1947. Due to partition of the Country between 1947 and abolition of Zameindari in 1952 and communal tension continuing till about a decade after the partition the unemployment situation particularly of Muslims took a grave situation. In fact just before the proclamation of abolition of Zameindari the Hindu Zameendars dislodged the Kashtkars and took most of the Zameindari Lands under their direct cultivation. But the Muslim Zameendars could not do so as most of the Kashtkars were Hindus and had the protection from Government agencies and politicians, hence Muslim Zameendars became beggars over night. Their children who never bothered to go to school remained illiterate. The income coming from Zameindari vanished. These ill-literate Muslim young boys, in-spite best efforts were unable to get jobs.

The communal situation which had developed due to the partition of the country subsided by about 1960. Unemployed Muslim young boys in search of job started moving to Mumbai, in search of job. Bombay was the only City which could provide job of all nature. While in Mumbai in the effort to earn their livelihood and to survive, some of them started selling goods on footpath, which were generally smuggled ones. In this process some of them may have come in contact with people like Late Haji Mastan, or such other smugglers operating in Mumbai. In the process few may have got involved in crime also but which region of this country can boast of no criminal record or criminals. What is so special about people of Azamgarh?

If the leaders of this country or those who came in power in Delhi & U.P. even after independence would have done something for the development of the District, the young people would not have gone to Mumbai or elsewhere and would not have come in contact of such element who are always on the look of such young boys to use them for their benefit by providing them immediate job opportunities which these boys desperately needed.

Azamgarh is situated between the Rivers, Sarju (Ghagra) in the north, Gomti and Sai, in the South touching the borders of Varanasi and Jaunpur, Sultanpur and Faizabad in the West and districts of Gorakhpur, Deoria, Ballia and Ghazipur in the East. The present district of Mau and Seondrabad town of Ballia and some parts of Sultanpur, Ghazipur & Faizabad were part of Azamgarh region in the past. In the present shape Azamgarh has a population of about 32,00,000 out of which over 29,50,000 people live in villages, as per 2001 census.

Azamgarh has been full of great people. In literary field. Allama Shibli Naomani, Maulana Ameen Ahmad Islahi, Maulana Hameeduddin Farahi, Maulana Abdus-Salam Nadvi and Maulana Waleeduddin Khan are of international fame. Maulana Shukrallah, Hakeem Ishaq and Mr. S.D. Singh Advocate, Kanhaiyalal Mishra, Advocate Mr. Iqbal Khan Suhail, Advocate are of National fame. Apart from the above there are lots of people from Azamgarh, in judiciary, civil services, army, police, education etc.

Institutions, such as ,Darul-Mosannefin-Shibli-Academy, Shibli Post Graduate and Inter Colleges, S.K.P. (Chatriya) College, D.A.V. College and Wesley Inter College are existing in such a small city for over a century. Wesley School is existing since 1837. Azamgarh had the privilege of providing girl education with three prominent institutions vize Aggrasen College, Niswan School, now a Degree College, and a Govt. Girls School for the last 75 years when modern education to girls was considered a taboo. Islaah an Islamic institution had produced renowned scholars like Maulana Abbul-Lais Islahi, Maulana Amin Ahmad Islahi, Maulana Ziauddin Islahi and many others. Now there are over a dozen Degree Colleges with hundreds of Inter and High Schools practically in every village of the District. The District has the distinction of having produced renowned poets like Rahi Masoom Raza, Kaifi Azmi and Iqbal Suhail.

The ancestors of the P.M. of Trinidad Mr. Basudev Pandey and the present President of Mauritius, were from Azamgarh. Shekh Suleman a right hand of late President Su-Karno of Indonesia fought the war of Indonesia's Independence was also from village MAHUWARA of Azamgarh.

The great socialist leader Shri Algu Rai Shastri communist leader Prof.Z.Ahmed, the first Finance Minister of Pakistan Mr. Mohammad Shoeb who also held the post of president of World Bank the Ex-Chief of Army staff of Pakistan Mirza Aslam Beg, all were/ are from Azamgarh.

The famous Brigadier Usman and Hawaldar Abdul Hameed who sacrificed their lives for the nation in 1948 and 1965 fighting Pakistan also hailed from areas which were part of Azamgarh. Out of the total army of I.N.A. of Netaji Subhash Chander Bose at least 30 to 40% of the army men were from Azamgarh Villages. These were the people who were stranded in Rangoon during 2<sup>nd</sup> world war and joined the I.N.A. At least three persons from my village, Waheed Khan of Uttar Mahalla, Mushtaq Ahmad Khan of Pachchim Mahalla and Mr. Muneer Ansari of Dakhin Mohalla, were in I.N.A. Two of them Waheed Khan and Mushtaq Ahmad had the bullet injury marks which I saw with my own eyes in my childhood.

Temperamentally the people of Azamgarh do not accept dominance and do not tolerate any injustice and fight for their rights and self respect and do not submit before any one or authority trying to dominate. They have always been in opposition of the ruling group. Congress continued in power year after year right from 1947. In the parliamentary elections since 1952 out of three M .Ps. of the District, at least two M.Ps. used to be from opposition parties. In 1977 elections, when the entire Northern India was with Junta Party the only M.P. elected for Congress in Northern India was Mrs. Mohsina Kidwai, from Azamgarh. Even in 1998 elections when majority of M. Ps. and M .L. As. from U.P. were of B.J.P. Azamgarh sent out of two M. Ps. one of B.S.P. and the other of Samajwadi Party and most of the M. L .As. are of Samajwadi Party. In 1999 parliamentary elections also not one seat of M.P. had gone to B.J.P. the then Ruling Party of the state.

The people of Azamgarh have always been politically alive and active. Maulvi Peer Ali Khan led the rebellion against the British in Patna on 3<sup>ed</sup>. of July 1857 and was hanged on 7<sup>th</sup>. July 1857 along with his followers, was from my village Mohammadpur Azamgarh. The Rajputs of 28 villages popularly known as "Athaisia" and the Afghan settlers in the villages particularly Mohammadpur, Khadwari, Barhadia, Khudadadpur, Phariha etc. fought side by side Sher Shah Suri in Kanoj against the Moghal King Humayun and defeated him and made him to flee to Iran.

Babu Koonwar Singh with the help of these Afghan settlers and Rajputs defeated the Britishers at various places including at Mohammadpur in Azamgarh in 1857. Babu Kunwar Singh was provided shelter, by the grand father of Iqbal Khan Suhail at his residence, and then Babu Kunwar Sing was safely carried to the bank of Ganga in the District of Ghazipur to crossover Ganges to reach to his native town Jagdishpur. The Muslims and Rajputs of the entire district jointly fought against British during 1857. Raja Iradat Jahan, Amar Singh the commanding officer of Iradat Jahan's army attained martyrdom fighting Britishd then Iradat Jahan's son Mozaffar Jahan, fought with British till 1860, Rajab Ali of village Bamhur and Mohammad Naeem Khan of village Mohammadpur revolted on 3<sup>rd</sup>. of June 1857 against the British rule in which Rajabali succeeded in getting released the Hindu Zameendar but attained the martyrdom. The region from Azamgarh up to Ghazipur remained out of British dominance for over 2 ½ years between 1857 till 1860.

Abu Asim Azmi a young boy from village Manjeer Patti, Azamgarh presently Rajya Sabha M.P. had the guts to challenge Mr., Bal Thakray, claiming to be lion of Maharashtra, right in his own den and provided base to Samajwadi Party in the strong hold of Shiv-Sena in Maharashtra. The people of Azamgarh always stand on their own feet. They stand erect against those in power. This has been the nature of the people of Azamgarh from olden age. During Moghal period, and even during British Rule and even now. The latest and the only example in the entire country is construction of a Bridge over the Kunwar river by the villagers of Manjeer Patti by their own contribution and with no help of the Government. Once they are determined to do something nothing can stop them.

A brief background and little bit from the pages of History of the region which became Azamgarh, will enlighten the holiness of the Region. The elaborate details one can find from the book which is under my pen as the History of Village Mohammadpur once the same is published (Insha- Allah).

In the pre-historic age the entire area was nothing but dense jungle Tamsa, Mangae, Majhui, Keyar, Kunwar rivers and may other small rivers flowing through the said jungles. The original inhabitants were Adivasees of Bheel and Sivree clans.

The region has been described by H. M. Elliot in "The History of India" edited by Prof. John Dowsan, and by the Cambridge History of India edited by Lt. Col. Sir Wellesley Haig as "Misi" "Manoj", "Bhij", "Maboj", "Manaich". The above observations are based on the writing of Utbi, Rashiduddin, Mikkand and Farishta. These names are all resemble to the name of the two rivers flowing through this region namely "MAJHUI" and "MANGAI". Apart from the above there is a village near Raniki-Sarai called Manaicha and another village near Kheta-ki-Sarai called as Manjhawan.

Dr. Purshottam Lal Bhargava one of India's leading historians and Indologist and a profound scholar of Sanskrit and Ancient Indian History has described the area in his book, "Founders of India's Civilization" published in 1909 in U.S.A. as the land of Prominent Rishis and Munees in Pre-historic age. Prominent of them Rishi Valmiki had his hermitage at the bank of Tamsa River. There are other important religious places such as, Durbasa Munees, Basudeo Munees, Pahari Baba, Karha-Gobind Saheb, Naga Baba of Dohri Ghat, Muni Kishan Das of Khairabad, Deo Raha Baba, Ashram of Mohan Ghat, Sheetla Devi in Nizamabad, Durbasa and Awantika (Present village Aanwak) etc. The Sufi Peer of Qalanderpur, and Sufi Saint Gulam Sabir Khan (originally from Mohammadpur Village) who migrated to Ghazipur and has his grave ( Mazar) there as a prominent peer. His brother had shifted and settled in the village Binapara near Saraimeer, Azamgarh.

Awantikapuri which later on came to be known as "Aanwak" was a very sacred place of Hindus. Lord Rama as is believed by Hindus, while on his way to Vanbasa (exile) made his night stopover first at Durbasa just few kilo mts. East of Ayodhya, on The Western Border of Azamgarh at the Bank of Majhui River and next stop-over was at Awantika now called "Aanwak" at the Bank of Mangai River. Later Raja Parikshit; the son of great Abhimanyu and grand son of the great Arjuna of Mahabharata epoch made it, his abode (hideout) to escape the death threat from Naga Tribe (as suggested by Dr. P.L.Bhargav) or from the Naag Raj Takshat as per Hindu mythology. Hindu believe that Janmayjaya the son of Parikshit conducted the Serp- yagya at the spot for which evidence is available which Hindu believe was conducted to take revenge against the

Naag Raaj who bite Raja Parikshit the father of JanmayJaya, to death. This was about 300 years after Mahabharata.

Much later during medieval period a magnificent QILA called "Rata Garh" (Durg), in Awantikapuri (Anwank) was built by Mahipala of Pala dynasty king who at that time ruled from Bengal up to certain areas of Eastern U.P. Since the fort was just at the border of Kannauj Raj, and during the same period Mahipala, captured Banaras, the Kannauj Ruler approached to Mehmood to check the advancement of Mahipala. Mehmood attacked the said fort in 1018 A.D. where large number of Mahmood's army men were also killed. Mehmood succeeded and demolished the fort and with the undertaking from the Mahipala not to threaten Kannauj Ruler, left for Asni a town in the present Distt. of Jaunpur. Mehmood did not attempt to trounce Banaras as per his settlement with Mahipala who never joined any confederation of Hindu rulers to challange Mehmood. The remnant of the said "Rata Garh" Quila is still available around Tall(Lake) adjacent to the village Anwank. A mass grave yard "Ganj Shaheeda" in the shape of a raised ground (Bheeta) about half a kilometer away existed at the Northern and Western side of the Tall (lake), where the soldiers of Mehmood of Ghazni, who were killed were buried existed till at least 1968. ( I visited the spot again in June 2009 and was shocked to find that entire surrounding has taken a complete change. The Bheeta which existed in 1968 has been dismantled and converted into agricultural field, the underground tunnel is no more existing, the original temple was no where to be found except that on the spot a very huge structure of a New Temple was under construction.)

The "Rata Garh" "Quila" is identified in the book "Medieval India Under Mohammedan Rule" (AD 712 to 1764) by Standly Lane Poole, published from T. Fisher Union Ltd. London Adelphi Terrace at page 167.

This fort at Awantika (Anwank) is described in Cambridge History of India Vol-III edited by Lt. Col. Sir Walseley Haig at University Press (1929) Cambridge in Chapter II pages 19 to 20 as under:-

"From Kannauj Mehmood marched to "Manaich". The fortress was strongly garrisoned and well furnished with supplies, but a vigorous siege of 15 days reduced the defenders to such a despair that they performed rite of JAUHAR..

Further its exact location has been indicated in the same book between the pages 16 and 17 Map No. 1 as being between 80° and 84 ° vertical lines and 30 ° and 25 ° flat lines about 27 ° North West side near the corner where 84 ° and 25 ° are crossing but wrongly described as near Gomti River instead Mangai River. The fort near Gomti River is that of “Asni” now know as Zafrabad in the District of Jaunpur where Mahmood went after capturing the “Rata Garh” Fort of Awantika (Aanwak). The eastern border of Kannauj kingdom was touching to the present highway coming from Jaunpur to Azamgarh.

After conquering the Rata Garh fort and on the undertaking from Mahipala, not to trouble Kannauj Mehmood deputed the two brothers the ancestors of Mohammadpur on the spot where the village Mohammadpur is situated to keep a watch on the activities on the side of Mahipal. There after Mehmood moved Southward and captured Asni Fort in the present Town of Zafrabad in Distt. of Jaunpur. However part of his army mostly Afghans who were not Mehmood’s regular paid army, settled in the area west of the highway Jaunpur to Azamgarh falling in the territory of Kannouj Raj.

The two brothers, who were of Kakar Clan of Afghan tribe, became the ancestor of the village Mohammadpur. They were settled at the bank of River “Mangai” at a spot which was/ is protected from 3 sides by the River “Mangai” and about 4 km West of “Aanwak” to keep a watch on the activities across the bother. Many others out of Afghans settled further North West side of village Mohammadpur. These settlers subsequently grew in the shape of various villages prominent of them are Mohammadpur, Phariha, Khadwari, Barhadia, Khudadadpur etc.

Mr. S.S.Gill at page 22 of his book rites, “ During the two centuries of rule by the Sultanate, thousands of Muslim immigrants settled all over the country and their numbers were swelled by local converts. Most of the Muslim rulers, the nobility scholars, ulema, craftsmen and others also made India their home.”

During the period when Mehmood Gaznavi was invading the Northern part of India many Rajputs flew from their homes of Rajasthan to escape the furry of Mehmood’s army and settled in the

area now popularly known as "Athaisya" i.e. group of 28 villages in the region of Present Madhuban Thana. Further north in the Kandhrapur Thana region Raj Bhars had settled. This could be possible because entire area was jungle.

These settlers Afghans, Rajputs and Rajbhars in fact made their own independent domain and always rejected attempts by any Raja or Ruler who tried to subjugate them.

It was with the help of these Afghan Settlers Sher Shah Suri defeated Humayun at Kannauj in about 1542 A.D. Even after Humayun regained his lost kingdom after the death of Sher Shah Suri, Afghan power had not completely vanished. They were still trying to take back the kingdom from Moghals. Humayun had to crush the revolt of few Afghan Sardars near Jaunpur. (Salateen-e-Hind Voll. II, Page 63). After Akber established himself in Delhi took out the grudge against the Afghan settlers in Eastern U.P. and Western Bihar. Akbar had not forgotten the Afghan settlers were responsible to dislodge Humayun. Akbar came in person and stayed in the area called 'Tekri ka Usar' near Nizamabad and crushed the Afghans and ensured that they do not mount again, to revolt against Mughal Kingdom. Akbar remained between Nizamabad and Western Bihar from 1574 to 1576.

Still Moghals did not trust the Afghan settlers hence, in 1594, about 70 years prior to the establishment of Azamgarh, King Jahangir with the object to have full control over the region and keep an eye on the Afghan settlers from revolting against the Moghal Kings carved a Jagir of the region and appointed a Rajput, Abhimanyu Singh Gautam S/o Chander Sen Singh Gautam as its ruler. This was an attempt by the Moghals to break the nexus between Afghans and the Rajputs.

Mr. Abhimanyu Singh Gautam established his capital in a place known Mehnagar about 20 Kms. East of Mohammadpur Village. Later Mr. Abhimanyu Singh adopted Islam and named himself Daulat Khan. The tomb of Daulat Khan built about 350 years earlier is still intact in Mehnagar. He had no son hence adopted his daughter's son Haribans Singh Gautam who succeeded Daulat Khan in 1629. Haribans Singh was not of good moral values hence his wife separated and settled in a place known after her as Rani Ki Sarai 10 Kms. South of Azamgarh.

After Harbans Singh his elder son Ganbir Singh succeeded. Ganbir Singh was killed by some one of his family. Then his brother Dharamvir Singh succeeded. Vikramjit the elder son of Dharamvir Singh succeeded thereafter. Vikramajeet Singh killed his brother Rudra Singh due to which Smt. Bhawani Koonwer W/o Rudra Singh complained to the Mughal King Shahjahan who got him arrested. He was brought to Delhi where he adopted Islam to escape the death from the King. He married a Muslim woman in Delhi and from her had two sons who were named Azam and Azmat. Later Vikramjeet Singh came back to Mehnagar and revolted against the Mughal King and was subsequently killed by the king's army. The Mughal King Shahjahan appointed Mrs. Bhawani Koonwer as the ruler of the region who took upon herself the responsibility of looking after the minor sons AZAM and AZMAT. Azam when grew up become the king in 1665 A.D. and established a new city and named it Azamgarh. He gave a jagir to his brother Azmat who established a town known Azamatgarh about 15 Kms. North of Azamgarh. The city of Azamgarh was established in 1665 when Aurangzeb was the King. Azam Shah was an able general and was deputed by Aurangzeb on an expedition of South India which he successfully achieved but before he could reach back to Delhi to report to Aurangzeb he was arrested in Kannauj on the orders of Aurangzeb who was made to understand that Azam is planing to revolt. Azamshah Died in captivity in Kannauj itself. Azmat Shah the brother of Azam Shah succeeded in 1677 and to take revenge of his brother's arrest and death revolted against Aurangzeb. Aurangzeb deputed his general Chabeli Ram with an army to attack Azmat Shah but Azmat Shah was able to arrest Chabeli Ram and defeated the Mughal Army and remained independent till 1688. Thereafter Aurangzeb deputed Himmat Khan the Subedar of Allahabad to crush Azmat Shah. In his fight Azmat Shah was defeated and ran away towards Dohri Ghat and while crossing Sarju (Ghaghra) River was drowned. His elder Son Ikram Khan was made ruler of Azamgarh, but he died soon. There after his brother Mohabat Khan took over but named his son Irbat Khan the ruler under his supervision. Mohabat Khan was great administrator and after establishing himself he too cut of all subjugation with the Delhi's Moghal ruler. It was during the Rule of Mahabat Khan the "BANDH" protecting the Azamgarh City from the floods of Tamsa River was constructed which exists even today at the Western, Southern and Eastern side of the City. In 1703 the Moghal King (Bahadur Shah-I), attacked on Azamgarh. Mohabat Khan defeated the Kings army at Kauria. Fed up with frequent revolts the then Moghal King Farukh Sheir in 1730 entrusted the Kingdom of Azamgarh to Nawab of Jaunpur Mr. Murtuza Khan. He

also failed to control the region and sold the region to the Nawab of Avadh Sardar Khan. He also failed to control and ultimately in 1745 the Nawab of Jaunpur Murtuza Khan and Nawab of Avadh Sardar Khan jointly attacked on Azamgarh and defeated the then Ruler of Azamgarh Mohabat Khan who was arrested and sent to Gorakhpur where he died in 1747 and thus the Jagirdari of Azamgarh which was created by Jahanagir in 1594 came to an end after 153 years in 1747. The area came directly under Nawab of Awadh Sardar Khan, who surrendered it to Britishers in 1801, against whom the people of Azamgarh particularly Muslims and Rajputs together spear-headed the revolt for over 60 years. The Muslim inhabitants of Azamgarh along with the Rajput inhabitants of the area did not accept the subjugation of Moghals followed by British till 1860. The harmony and brother-hood between Muslims and Rajpurts (Chattaris) of Azamgarh continued for many centuries. Who destroyed it?

On the Background of such a glorious past of Azamgarh and its people the carnage by the Media against the District and its people particularly against the Muslims is unjust. Literally AZAM means "Great" and GARH means "Centre", i.e. the centre of great people. Please do not try to re-name it "MAFIA GARH" or "CRIMINAL'S GARH"

March, 1999.

## Chapter – II (a)

While I was trying to get the above article published to counter the sinister design of the Media and political leaders, officials, police and security agencies, Mr. Mahaveer Barjatiya, General Manager, Rajshri Pictures Pvt. Ltd., Delhi sends me a paper cutting of a News Item published in Delhi-Mid-Day, New Delhi dated 26<sup>th</sup>.May,1999. The note of Mr.Barjatya is reproduced for its full effect:-

“Dear Khan Saheb,

27/5/99

The Media has confirmed that Azamgarh is now new capital of Underworld. I am sending a news cutting for your perusal.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely.

Sd/-Mahaveer”

At the face of it, the note was very innocent. But if read minutely you will find that the emphasis of Mr.Mahaveer, fully knowing that I belong to Azamgarh and I feel proud of it, was that I should stop speaking very high of Azamgarh, even the ”media has confirmed that Azamgarh is now new Capital of Underworld”. It does not need any elaboration as to what extent the media has poisoned the Hindu community against not only Azamgarh but the entire Muslim community of Azamgarh, I being one of them.

The news item which Mahaveer forwarded to me, is briefly reproduced here as under:-

### “AZAMGARH NEW CAPITAL OF UNDERWORLD”

#### A SLANDEROUS ALLEGATION BY MEDIA

which read as under:-

**“Slowly but surely, Azamgarh in UP has become India’s notorious underworld and Mafia hub. Infamous dons seem to somehow come from this corner of Uttar-Pradesh. In fact the rest of Eastern UP too, is providing its share to the underworld. Dawood Ibrahim, the king of dons, now operating from Dubai originally hails from Azamgarh, the crime infested district of poverty-stricken Eastern UP. where people are known to live on gobi, half digested grain retrieved from fresh gobar through washing.”**

To justify the above claim the paper gave the following grounds:-

1. Dawood originally hailed from Azamgarh.
2. Abu Salem, from Sarai-Meer is reported to be the right-hand of Anees, Dawood's brother.
3. Irfan Goga another key man of Dawood also comes from Azamgarh.
4. Dawood’s brother Mustaqeem is married to the daughter of an influential and affluent Haji Iltaf of village, Bisham a village of Azamgarh.
5. About 10,000 young-men left Azamgarh last year, driven by poverty. The ultimate destination was Dubai and Mumbai the transit camp. Sarai-Meer Rani-ki-Sarai and Phoolpur areas of Azamgarh amply show the large scale flow of the people from this region to Dubai via Mumbai. At least one member of each family is now based in a Gulf country.
6. As many as 4 PCO booths (all ISD) function in the small town.
7. The development of 109 Madrasas in the district is also linked to the flow of money from the Gulf. People liberally donate for their renovation. Many students from Kashmir and neighboring Nepal have come to Azamgarh to study in these Madarsas.”

Undeterred from the hidden advice of Mahaveer, I once again tried to refute the allegations and the motivated propaganda by media, against the people of Azamgarh. I wrote letters to the editors of all the prominent news papers being published from Delhi, but none of them published

the same. First I got very angry and dejected from the attitude of the media but later by analyzing the situation it dawned to me as to why should they publish the refutation? when they themselves are involved in this sinister design. However with the help of some friend, Delhi Mid-day in its issue dated July 8, 1999, published an edited version of my letter, with the title, "IN DEFENCE OF AZAMGARH " which I reproduce here under:-

**I was really shocked to read the article published in your news paper dated 26<sup>th</sup>. May,1999 titled –“ Azamgarh new capital of underworld.”** there was nothing new in the article. It was a repetition of the Article published by The Hindustan Times, in its Sunday Magazine dated 08<sup>th</sup>.November,1998. What is shocking is that your reporter who has contributed this news item seems to be so biased with the district that merely because, the brother of Dawood Ibrahim, Anees married to a lady whose brother settled in Mumbai, originally belonged to Azamgarh and Abu Salem, allegedly right hand of Dawood Ibrahim, also originally belonged, to district Azamgarh, the entire district Azamgarh has become part of Underworld? Your reporter has tried to generalize the entire district as the den of the underworld. The reason he gives that because more than 10,000 young boys from the place were working in Gulf countries to earn their livelihood? The other reason he gives is that students from Kashmir and neighboring Nepal come to study in these Madrasas. Are these grounds enough for declaring the district as the capital of underworld? If that be so, which place of this country is free from criminals? Your reporter has also tried to attribute some criminal with the name of Goga from Azamgarh only because nobody has got details as to from which place the person belongs? He has also tried to attribute Dawood Ibrahim to the district Azamgarh without ascertaining the correctness of his whereabouts. Dawood Ibrahim does not belong to Azamgarh or even the state of Utter Pradesh. How and from where this information has been collected, is any body's guess.? A detailed article with full research on Azamgarh,in reply to the one published by Hindustan Times, was written by me a copy of the same is sent here with to enlighten you and your reporter about Azamgarh. In fact Dawood Ibrahim is a Gujrati and belongs to Ratnagiri District of Maharashtra from where Bal Thakare also came to Bombay.

The article published by you is nothing short of defamatory. You can be hauled up for this crime in any court of law to defame the entire district of Azamgarh as den of criminals, or for that

matter declare those boys from poor families going to Gulf countries, Bombay or other places in search of jobs to earn their livelihood as criminals or anti-social. K.M.S.KHAN.”

Now the question is, the region which became Azamgarh, continued to have so close relations between Muslims and Rajputs/Thakurs/Chattaries for centuries since about 1000 A.D. how got communally infected? How the poison of communalism has infiltrated in the region? The conversion to Islam by large number of Rajputs of their own and not because of any pressure or force and continued brotherly relations are another factor of the secular mentality of the people of the region. The Village Jairajpur, the family of Babuan of Sidhari and even the family of earstwhile rulers of the Jagir created by Jahangir starting from Abhimannoo Singh Gautam who became Daulat Khan are some of the living examples. The future generatios of Azam Shah and Azmat Shah till date are known as Raja Saheb and not Nawab or Badshah. Azamgarh may be the only district at least in whole of Northern India where no communal riot took-place even during or after the Partition of India. Though the atmosphere, on account of partition and on the assassination of Gandhiji, by Nathu Ram Godsey a Hindu and R.S.S. member, became tense but the centuries old brotherly relations between dominant Rajputes and upper strata of Muslim population of the district played crucial role in keeping the trouble makers contained and kept the district free of any communal disturbance. Another factor which played the major role was that the Muslim populated villages were strong enough to match with any kind of misadventure by communal forces, which discouraged those who were destructive and were under the influence of communal forces. However the motivated propaganda sponsored by the Congress which foisted the blame of Partition on the Muslims, demoralized the community. Before they could come out of the setback the Zameendari abolition also came in 1952 in U.P. which broke the back bone of majority of Muslim Zameendars as well as those who were dependent on the agriculture.

The economic condition of the Muslims became very precarious Children of Zameedars and even those who had agricultural land under their direct cultivation and never bothered for any Government, job overnight found that they are left with no means to survive. Most of the Government departments were occupied by Hindu officers who systematically denied and rejected Muslim aspirants' appointments. This created all round frustration. After about two

decades of Partition the Arab and Gulf countries opened their doors for unskilled labour and the Muslim population moved ahead and migrated to Gulf and Arab countries as laborer, even educated unemployed boys accepted the job as labourer. Initially their remittances were spent by their family members on luxury items with the result the hard earned money went in the pockets of Banias and Aggarwals who had the monopoly in the business. The Muslim community remained as poor as before. However soon they realized that their hard earned money is going out of their hands and the community remained poor and illiterate. It was then they started investing their hard earned money in establishing business at the outskirts of their villages by acquiring land by the side of road passing near their villages and established shops. They knew that it will not be possible to get jobs in Govt. Departments because they are Muslims. Thus in the city of Azamgarh many shops owned by Muslims were established. With the establishment of business by Muslims the monopoly of the local Banias and Aggarwals was shattered. With economic conditions improving Muslims started sending their children in good schools and after completing their education in school these children competed and got admission in various technical and professional colleges and joined various non governmental and multinational companies in India and abroad.

With the improvement of financial condition of the Muslims, New Madrasas were established in various villages. Old and dilapidated Masjids were repaired and the Minars became taller. This alarmed the communal forces and political leaders under the influence of R.S.S, irrespective of party affiliations. They utilized the ever ready biased media, and created a phobia against the Muslims of Azamgarh. So long the Banias and Aggarwals had no competition from Muslim traders and were the sole beneficiaries of the economic growth of the Muslim community they were very happy as the cash flow in the hands of illiterate Muslims was coming to them only. But the changed situation started hurting them hence they joined hand with communal elements. The R.S.S. which came into being on 27<sup>th</sup>. December 1925, established by Dr.Headgever supported by Dr. Damodar Saverkar and Dr. Munje and Guru Golvalker. could not put their foot in the villages of the District except with certain elements out of the Banias and Aggarwalas of the City only. All the above named leader of R.S.S. were pro-British and even kept themselves aloof from the non-cooperation movement of Mahatma Gandhi started in 1930. The R.S.S. sponsored Jan-Sangh till about 1975 existed only in the cities and only the young boys of Banias and Aggarwals

were its member. The villages were completely untouched with the effects of RSS' sponsored communalism.

When Late Jai-Prakash Narayan started his movement against corruption the R.S.S. elements infiltrated and diverted it towards the Muslim Chief Minister of Bihar Mr. Ghafoor, then extended the agitation to the entire Northern India where in R.S.S. cadre took full advantage of the situation and influenced by Sanjay Gandhi. Mrs. Indira Gandhi just played in the hands of Sanjay Gandhi who was under the influence of R.S.S. hence imposed the internal emergency.

It was during Indira Gandhi's imposed emergency and the terror created by R.S.S. infected youth congress lead by Sanjay Gandhi created havoc. Thus in 1977 Janta Party came into being against Congress and R.S.S. cadre Jansangh joined Janta Party with the object to be part of Ruling group who till then were not able to come in power even in any state. Here again Late Sanjay Gandhi played an important role in dismantling the Janta Party. The Jan-Sangh cadre along with the RSS activists which had infiltrated first in Youth Congress and then with Janta Party, came out of Janta Party revived the Jan- Sangh and named it as BJP. Thus the communal elements got spread even in villages. The harmonious brotherly relations between Muslims which got the first setback in 1947 started crumbling step by step.

With the growth and development of Muslims, in business and education. the Hindu aspirants faced stiff competition, which started hurting the communal forces. Hence the communal forces started propagating that Petro-Dollar was being dumped by Arab Countries with the Muslims for anti-national activities. They further manipulated with the political corridors to check the migration of workers to Gulf and Arab countries, hence all sorts of obstructions were put in issuance of Passports to the Muslims particularly belonging to Azamgarh. Corruption reached on top of its limit, which shamed even the most corrupt known officials of East India Company during 18<sup>th</sup>. and 19<sup>th</sup>. Century. Muslims were not involved in any criminal and /or anti-national activities. Director General of Police of U.P. Shri R.K. Pandit stated in 2001 that in circulation of fake notes majority of Hindus are involved.( Ref. Daily Sahara issue dated 9<sup>th</sup>. August 2001). The, electronic as well as print media ignored the above statement of Shri R.K.Pandit and became active to harp that Azamgarh is the 'hub of criminals and that the Madrasas are producing fanatics and

terrorists. The Madrasas were/are training Muslim students on Islamic principles of life and Quranic teachings hence they are dubbed as terrorist and anti-National. As against that the R.S.S., Hindu Mahasabha and such other Hindu outfits are openly training in their Shakhas the use of gun, trishule, lathi, and other weapons, and they are Nationalist? Still in spite of constant provocations the Muslims of the district maintained complete restraint and remained calm and concentrated on their developments and education.

The biased Media discovered an individual Abu Salem who originally belonged to Azamgarh and had shifted to Bombay in search of job. In the course of his strive to earn he may have come in contact of Haji Mastan or Daud Ibrahim, and may have got involved in extortion and other criminal activities in Bombay as being alleged. Out of the population of over three millions of the District, just one or two Muslims engaged in criminal activities, were made excuse to malign the entire Muslim population of Azamgarh. There were and there are hundreds of Hindu bad characters and criminals in the District of Azamgarh, who are involved in heinous crimes but have patronage of R.S.S. infected political leaders, and are hand in glove with other communal forces, work day and night to generate the communal atmosphere with sole object to check the economic and educational growth and development of Muslims of the district. The political bosses manipulated the media to propagate, and create tirade against the Muslims of the district. The articles of Hindustan Times published in 1998 was the beginning of such malafide biased tirade by media.

The people of Azamgarh specially the Muslims always believed in what is said by Professor Max Muller : -

“If I were to look over the whole world to find out the Country most richly endowed with all the wealth, power, and beauty that nature can bestow –

If I were asked under what sky the human mind has most fully developed some of its choicest gifts, has most deeply pondered on the greatest problems of life, and has found solutions of some of them which will deserve the attention even of those who have studied Plato and Kant –

I should point to INDIA.

AND if I were to ask myself what literature, we, here in Europe, we who have been nurtured exclusively on the thoughts of Greeks and Romans, and one semitic race, which is most wanted

in order to make our inner life more perfect, more comprehensive, more universal, infact more fully truly human, a life, not for this life only, but a transfigured and eternal life – again I should point out to **India**".

Similarly the Muslims of Azamgarh believe and practice the composit culture of Nationalism as taught by Vedas, Bible and Quar'an, without compromising on the principale of Wahdaniat.

## Chapter – II (b)

### ULTIMATELY THE TRAITORS SUCCEEDED IN

#### THEIR SINISTER DESIGN:

On 13<sup>th</sup> September 2008 Delhi was rocked by multiple blasts. The police immediately declared that an Organization claiming to be called, 'Indian Mujahideen', claimed its responsibility. Almost immediately and without any investigation or proof, Jamia-Nagar a locality in South-East Delhi, home of over five lac Muslims became the target of Police. Large number of people belonging to Azamgarh are living in Jamianagar locality and are engaged in various jobs. Similarly there are large number of students from Azamgarh studying at various levels in various institutions as well as in Jamia Millia University to brighten their future and be a valuable citizen of the country.. A witch hunt started by the Police and the entire force of T.V. channels. the print media openly started accusing the Muslims. The police which takes months and years to investigate and most of the time remain unable to catch even the petty criminals, claimed to have solved the case in no time. The following day 14<sup>th</sup>.September, 2008, Sunday a social activist, Abdul Rasheed Agwan, and a 30 year old youth Adnan Fahad both resident of Abul- Fazal Enclave in Jamianagar locality, were taken to the Special Cell headquarters in Lodi Estate for questioning. But they were released late in night after 12-hours of ordeal. On 18<sup>th</sup> September a research student of Jamia Millia Islamia was picked up by special cell for questioning, stripped, beaten and tortured in custody ultimately was released on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2008.(read details in the report of Jamia Teachers' Solidarity Group.)

On 13<sup>th</sup> September 2008, the day of blast, the police took hold of a balloon selling boy at Bara Khamba road who claimed to have seen the culprits, and based on this minor illiterate balloon seller's description and some other eye witnesses,as claimed by Police, four sketches of the so called terrorists were published. Those who saw and heard the varying versions of the said balloon boy on various channels and then seen the sketches can form their own opinion about the authenticity of the statements of the balloon boy and the police version as well. The authenticity of the sketches made resembling to Muslims is also doubtful. Then there was another person who came, on one of the Channels with a story that he saw an auto standing in

which one person wearing Muslim type cap was sitting and another person was standing and chatting. He also claimed that from the attire, both looked like Muslim which made him suspect. He further claimed that first he went towards Akashdeep Building but again came back to see whether they were still there and found them standing and talking. One wonders as to why he did not alert the police if he was disturbed so much, as he claimed?

The media got after the governments of Delhi and of the Centre. Both ruled by Congress. The Hindut-vadies in their usual design through the biased media started directly raising fingers against the Muslims. They started accusing the government for not taking action against Muslims. They accused that the Congress Government is not taking action against the Muslims due to fear of losing the impending elections. B.J.P. also tried to en-cash the tragedy to mobilize Hindu Vote Bank against Congress. Congress got worried not for the terrorist attack but for losing the Hindu vote bank. Congress knew that as for Muslims are concerned they have no choice but to remain with congress, in any case will not go to B.J.P. Other parties are either regional or caste based and had no base in Delhi. Hence Muslims had no choice but to vote to Congress only even if they are victimized. They also knew that Muslim community is never united like other caste based communities. The Congress also knew that so called Muslim leaders are purchasable and are ever ready to stoop down for post and money. Hence if few Muslim boys are sacrificed, to gain the sympathy of Hindus, it will not have any adverse impact on the Muslim votes any way.

The Congress leaders found the weak link in its government and caught its Home Minister Shivraj Patil, not for their failure to catch the real culprits but for not picking up Muslim boys and for not implicating them. Shivraj Patil must have approached the Delhi's Chief Minister for help to save the image of Congress Governments among Hindus. To save the position of Congress Government's. A characterless and greedy congress M. L. A. who carries with him the label of a Muslim, and could do any thing for personal gain was tempted to come to the rescue of Congress Governments. On the bidding of this MLA with the help of local police who are in hand in glove with him in land grabbing deals, picked-up the innocent Muslim children, specially from Azamgarh as the said so called M.L.A. had the grudge to grind on Azamgarh's population living in Jamia Nagar who were not expected to support him in the election. What transpired on 19<sup>th</sup>.

September, 2008 at L-18, Batla House, 4<sup>th</sup>. floor in the day light was seen by hundreds of people of the area. The building L-10, being exactly opposite L-18, and I live on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. floor of L-10. All the inhabitants of this building and the neighbors saw the full drama enacted by the police, including the said Congress M.L.A. directing on mike sitting on the police gipsy. The neighbors of L-18, and others of the area, are unable to understand as to why the police had to resort encounter when those boys were students and every day were going to their colleges and institutes. They could have been arrested any time from the institutions and even while going to the institutions. Why the police did not take the help of neighbors if they wanted to arrest them? Any one may have called them out of their flat. What was the need to raid and kill them? What was the need to announce all the residents to remain inside their houses? The nation has read a lot about it. The details of the tragedy and the fake encounter enacted there has been detailed for months together in Rashtriya Sahara Urdu and through the report published by Jamia Teachers' solidarity group, as to how two innocent boys from Sanjarpur village of Azamgarh were murdered in cold blood. But how many people read Urdu papers. Moreover as against the numerous T.V. channels harping menacingly the concocted and cooked-up story implanted by the Police and the Congress Party led Governments of Delhi and the Centre the writings by Urdu papers could not counter the propaganda. Various non-congress and non B.J.P. political leaders, real human rights activist and freelance journalists such as Arundhati Roy and such others visited the site and saw the real situation as existed on the spot which clearly falsified the police's cooked-up story in all respect.

A book written by Prof. Rakesh Sinha, published by Bharat Neeti Prathisthan, Hauz Khas New Delhi, with the title, " Atankwad Aur Bharti Media". At the face of it, the book appears to have been written with the object to analyse the three language, English, Hindi and Urdu Media. However by the time you will go through the book you will find that the writer in fact has targeted and indicted only the Urdu media, specially Mr. Aziz Burni the group editor of Sahara group of news papers and also Mr. A.R. Antuley's stand on the killing of Hemant Karkare on 26/11/08 in Mumbai and the stand taken by Mr. Aziz Burni on L-18, Batla House, New Delhi.

Out of 156 pages of the book 52 pages have been allocated to English Media, 21 pages to Hindi Media and 61 pages on Urdu Media. In fact the object of the book is nothing but to indict and

discredit the Muslims and Urdu Media because they questioned the authenticity of L-18 Batla House episode and questioned the motive of the killing of Karkare.

Mr. Suhail Anjum in Sahara Urdu issues dated 16<sup>th</sup>. March 2009, and 23<sup>rd</sup>. March 2009, has exposed the communal and biased contents of the book against the Muslims of India and the Urdu Media specially Mr. Azis Burni. Mr. Rakesh Sinha has expressed his anger on Aziz Burni as to why Aziz Burni has linked Mumbai's 26/11 episode with Mosad of Israel and C.I.A. of America. Mr. Suhail Anjum has shown the biased attitude of Rakesh Sinha where in, he accepts the police version in the case of L-18, Batla House and rejects the Police Version in the case of Malegaon. No reason has been given by Rakesh Sinha for his biased and conditory views. Why not his views be considered as communal? In the case of L-18, police accuses Muslims that too belonging to Azamgarh, and in the case of Malegaon the ATS lead by Late Hemant Karkare accused Hindus.

Mr. Suhail Anjum also questioned the English, Hindi and Electronic media as to why they are silent on the question as to how Amita Udaya went out of India without passport. Then the Sendera Senvel the maid of Israelis, Geyurilnoch Burg and his wife Revoka reached Israel without Passport and visa? How Israel's intelligence men entered the country saw the Israelis who died in 26/11 incidence and went back without the knowledge of Indian intelligence? There is no murmur from the Media on these questions.

A Supreme Court Sr. Advocate Shri Rajiv Dhavan living in New Friends Colony, just few hundred mts. away from Jamia Nagar Locality wrote in Mail Today, New Delhi issue dated 20<sup>th</sup>. October, 2008, where in he mentions:-

**“What was the original intent of the Delhi Police’s Batla operation of 19<sup>th</sup> September? Was it investigation? Surveillance ? To arrest? Or to kill in an encounter? It turned out to be the last with its courageous officer M. C. Sharma and young ‘terrorists’ Atif Ameen and Mohammad Sajid losing their lives. Mystry and doubt surrounds the theory on the other terrorists’ escape, the logistics of escape and killing and the forensic evidence on**

**bullets in the body. If the purpose was surveillance and arrest, something was clearly botched up, giving rise to the accusation of a 'kill-in-encounter' either by intent or inept carelessness. Hence the demand for a judicial inquiry into the full facts and not just whether brave-heart Sharma played dare-devil."**

Mr. Rajiv Dhavan further writes:-

**"The Batla affairs raises questions and eyebrows. A surveillance and arrest turned into a police encounter. The police's details of the encounter are questionable. The encounter seems unjustified even though a brave policeman died. The police themselves had given a prior verification of the Batla inmates. The police of various states were competing with each other at cross purposes. Arrests were made of those who went to police or press with information. Access to lawyers and to relatives was denied until the court intervened. A damning clandestine interview was taken during police custody and published with no less damning results. We are still left with question--- who masterminded this operation (operation Batla House) and why?"**

**Arrest on a hunch, kill by provocation and condemn through adverse publicity cannot be the foundation for Indian criminal law. Suspected terrorists are not guilty before conviction. Nor can communities be targeted on suspicion-----even if the Sangh Parivar thinks otherwise."**

Mr. Rajiv Dhavan described:- "Batla story a bizarre" and "trial by media completed before trial by the court."

Unfortunately what is not the foundation of criminal law of land, has been and is being followed against the Muslims, by the governments be it Congress or Sangh Privar or their tools the so

called security agencies. It was done by British and is being followed by Congress and Sang Parivar Governments.

In its issue dated 26<sup>th</sup>. September, 2008 Hindustan Times published an article by Prateek Kanjilal who also questions the theory of the police that few young children of Azamgarh are responsible for the Terrorist activities in the Country. Mr. Kanjilal also said that the police has taken all the confessions with pressure. He wonders as to why the police has not taken confession from them even for 9/11 of U.S.A. and the murder of even Mahatma Gandhi as these boys under pressure would have accepted the responsibility of those crimes also.

Muslims of Azamgarh in particular and of India in general, do not have to prove their patriotism, secularism, nor they; need certificate from other communities that they are not terrorist. But there is constant pressure from Media, political leaders and persons such as Togadia, Mahant Yogi Nath to the effect that Muslims have to declare that they are against terrorism and that they are Nationalist. The Media, the biased Political leaders and communal forces together have once again demoralized and are trying to push the Muslims to the situation of 1857 and 1947 status. All this is only because the so called security agencies, police, barrocrates, R.S.S. family sponsored political and religious outfits and above all biased media are busy, day and night, in maligning and accusing Muslims for all misdeed committed by others.

The A.T.S. chief Late Hemant Karkare was made victim of his honesty in exposing the real culprits who were involved in the terrorist activities in the name of Muslims and fake Muslim Organisations. Hindu Jan Jagruti Samiti (HJJS) was established in 2002 which established, "Sanatana Sanstha". On 16<sup>th</sup>. June,2008. Ramesh Hanumant Gadkadi and Mangesh Dinakar Nikam were arrested by A.T.S.(headed by Heman Karkare) who admitted to have placed bombs at a Theatre in Thane and at an Auditorium in Vashi on 31<sup>st</sup>. May 2008. They also confessed that they had planted bombs at Gadkori Rangayotan Auditorium in Thane on 4<sup>th</sup>. June2008, and at Panvel Cinema Hall while film Jodha Akbar was running on 20<sup>th</sup>. February 2008. It was also confessed that the Ramesh Gada Kadi and Mangesh Nikam used the house of another HJJS activist Bhave of village Pen of Raigarh District, for the purpose of assembling the bombs.

Ravi Pandian another activist of R.S.S. confessed that he had hatched the conspiracy to plant the bomb in front of R.S.S. office on 24/1/2008 to implicate the Muslims and to create communal disturbance. In another incidence in Tamil Nadu R.S.S. activist Kumar Pradhan planted a bomb where his associate Tenkasi was killed. The Sangh privar to divert the attention of the Police from them demanded that Muslims be arrested, however Mr. Kannappan, DIG Tirunlvali Range after investigation arrested three persons, S. Ravi Pandian a Cable T.V. operator, S.Kumar an auto driver both from Tenkasi and V. Narayana Sharma of Seneottai, all Sangh Privar activists. Later arrested A. Balamurrugan, S. Velmurugan, A. Murugan all from Tenkasi and Massaanam of Shencottai.

On August, 6, 2006 a bomb exploded in the house of a Bajrang Sal activist of Nanded Maharashtra while manufacturing bomb two persons were killed and three other were seriously injured. The police found on the spot many explosive devices, artificial beards, Kurta Pajama and topis. This was found to be the nefarious design of Bajrang Dall to implicate of Muslims. The police concealed the report and explained that this was crackers hence was not serious. **What a theory?** Three persons killed three seriously injured still police call it cracker incidence? Similarly in Mecca Masjid blast in Hyderabad an artificial beard fell down from an injured person while he was being taken to Hospital but the police suppressed the matter because it would have exposed the real culprits being not Muslim.

The Bheekoo Chowk blast by Sadhvi Prigya Singh Thakur Sadhvi and Sant Dayanand Pandey, Lt.Col. Prohit were exposed and arrested at the instance of Hemant Karkare but the Media, and political parties are making their efforts to prove that they are innocent. Hindutva-Vadi terror outfits were found involved in Nander where two Bajrang Dall workers died and fake beard, Muslim style caps, Kurta Pajama two site plans of two Masjids were found from their possession. But these incidents are being ignored by Media and the Police as well as other security outfits. Does not the recovery of fake beards and Muslim style caps at Nander and at some of the other blast sites and also recovery of Arabic literature from Bajrang Dall workers, stickers of Islamic slogans, on the Mobyke of Prigya Singh, indicate the involvement of Hindutva Vadies to malign Muslims?

Muslims themselves are victims of Terrorism, first in the hands of British during 18<sup>th</sup>. and 19<sup>th</sup>. century and in the hands of Hindutva since 1947 and by the Government through the deroconian laws such as Tada, Pota, Mascocca, U.A.P.A. etc. used against Muslims only. It is the Muslims alone who are targeted and killed in fake encounters. Who were killed in Hameedia Masjid, Malegaon, Bara Qubristan, Bheekoo Chowk, Jalna, Purna and Parbhani Masjids? Who are those who are found involved in planting the Bombs? On general principle of investigation, for every crime 1st. thing the police tries to findout as to what could be the motive of the crime? And next, who all could be the beneficiaries of the murder or crime? Then why in the case of the murder of Hemant Karkare this aspect was not investigated and ignored? Those including A.R.Antuley who raised this question were accused and were forcefully silenced, Why? Similarly in the case of L-18, Batla House episode the Government is shy to get the matter investigated by an independent Judicial authority? Even judiciary rejected the demand not because no case is made out but on the ground that it will demoralize the Police against whom the charge is madeout. The Government and Judiciary both are not bothered for the demoralizing effect, if not on the entire Muslim population of India, at least the entire Muslim Population of Jamia Nagar and Azamgarh.

Within few weeks of the Batla House episode Delhi Vidhan Sabha elections were held, the congress M.L.A.of the area, knew his fate. He was sure to loose and was loosing throughout. More than the Congress the area police officers were looking worried. But at the fag end of the counting suddenly the loosing Congress M.L.A. was declared elected by about 400 votes. How? Every one wondered. The said M. L. A. was further rewarded by Congress and was made M.P.(Rajya Sabha). This was done (as the press repot said) by Mrs. Sonia Gandhi over ruling all other congress leaders present, and bypassing many prominent Muslims who are known for their selfless services to the people.

Within one year the Almighty gave a befitting reply to the Congress and gave victory to the selfless friend of the people of Jamianagar, Mr. Asif Mohammad Khan who defeated not only the Congress but BJP and others also and was declared elected on 18<sup>th</sup>.September,2009 as the M.L.A. from Okhla Vidhan Sabha Constituency. Asif Mohammad Khan from day one stood with

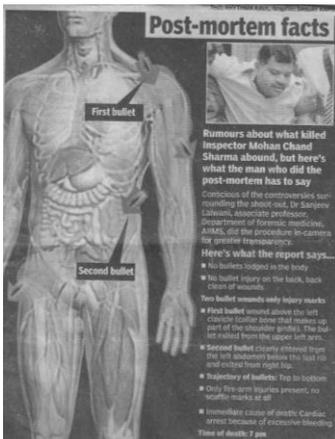
the people and always raised the voice against the atrocities of the police and other security agencies against the Muslim young boys specially belonging to Azamgarh.

The congress government tried to kill not only two but many birds with one stone. With one stroke entire District of Azamgarh which has been voting since 1952 generally against Congress was punished for their such audacity and was declared as the "Aatank Garth". Two innocent Muslim boys at the prime of their youth and at the threshold of their bright carrier were eliminated from the scene, plus dozens of other Muslim boys of Azamgarh were arrested and being tortured in custody. Even if they are ultimately released they and their family members' future is completely ruined for all time to come. Many young and bright students of Azamgarh, studying in Jamia, Aligarh and in many other professional colleges have dropped-out in the mid of their studies and went back home due to the terror created by so called security agencies who implicate them in false cases or made victim of fake encounters. Regular complaints are being received that young Muslim boys traveling by bus or train are intercepted during the journey by police and the moment they disclose that they belong to Azamgarh they are de-boarded and subjected to worst type of torture mentally and physically plus with unprintable abuses. .

After Ishrat Jahan's encounter report by an honest and brave judicial officer, the Congress Government at the Centre, after having filed an affidavit without investigation that she belonged to some terrorist organization, is asking that all encounters enacted in Gujrat be re-investigated by an independent agency. Very good they must be re-investigated. But why they are not willing to get the L-18 Batla House encounter investigated by a Judicious and honest Judicial authority? Why not the encounters of Congress and other party's ruled states should not be investigated? In every and each encounter it is the Muslims who are the victims. The Congress fully know that by independent and honest judicial enquiry, the truth will come out and they themselves will get indicted. The judicial enquiry of L-18 Batla House encounter will also expose as to how and by whom Inspector Mohan Chand Sharma was killed. The biased media and communal forces question the demand of independent judicial enquiry and say that those making such demand are antinational and are questioning the martyrdom of Mohan Chand Sharma. One wonders as to how an independent enquiry to bring out the truth as to what actually transpired at L-18 Batla

House will undermine the martyrdom of Mohan Chand Sharma? Will he not be called martyr if he became victim of the bullet of some of his own colleague?

Is it not possible that some personal rivalry between him and any of his colleague/s became the cause of his murder? Was not he might have been made victim of a conspiracy to make the whole drama look as a genuine encounter? An independent enquiry would have exposed, as to who called Mohan Chand where he had gone to wife, and had to rush to bullet proof (as per the who decided that the Sharma be taken to Holy police official who had rush to AIIMS? Why left to bleed till about 7 excessive bleeding and and why he was allowed much? As per the report were damaged then, why was he not operated in time to stop the bleeding? Why was he not rushed to better equipped hospitals such as Escorts just across the road of Holy Family Hospital or to Apollo Hospital, or to AIIMS, if Doctors at Holi Family Hospital were not in a position to control the wounds? Both the spots of injuries of Mohan Chand Sharma, on top of his left shoulder and on the left side of waist/abdomen and the exit points of the bullets show that the killer shot him from behind and must have been at least one step above him.



The exit point indicate that the nozzle of the gun was downwards and not straight or upward. It shows that he was shot while he was coming down from the flat which is on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor. If he was stepping down that means he had already done his job meaning had already killed Atif and Sajid. if he was the one who killed them. According to police's own version two others had runaway in the

confusion. No body explains as to what was the confusion and how they ran away when there is only one exit, that too very narrow exit completely covered by the police? If that be the situation who shot at Mohan Chand Sharma? The dead Atif and Sajid could not have shot him that too while he was coming down?

As for the bullet marks on the body of Sajid, one bullet mark was on top of his head and three marks on the right side of the forehead above the right eye. That proves that he was pin-down on the floor before he was shot. If he was pin-down alive why was he killed? Why was he not arrested alive? The bullet marks on the side of fore head show that when he was shot he was on the floor lying still other wise three identical and on equal distance bullet marks was not possible. As for Atif, the skin of his back had been peeled out. That means he was arrested alive earlier and tortured and then killed elsewhere and not at L-18 Batla House. The entire operation at L-18 was over just within ten to fifteen mts. The photographs were taken during bath rituals before the burial. The neighbors also say that only one body was seen being brought down by the police. Those who were involved in the bath rituals say that Atif's body was emanating foul smell while Sajid's body was not. This confirms the theory that both Atif and Sajid were not killed at L-18 simultaneously. It also proves that Atif was killed earlier and elsewhere and Sajid at L-18 that is why people saw only one body being brought down from L-18 4<sup>th</sup>.floor. The skin peeling from Atif's back also gives strength to the doubt that Atif was tortured else where and killed and to cover up his killing the encounter drama was enacted at L-18 and Sajid a minor was killed. Why no punchnama was prepared when hundreds of people of the locality were present there? Why not few prominent persons of the locality out of neighbors were taken to the flat and shown what all was in the flat?

Thus the Congress, BJP, RSS, Hindu Maha Sabha, Bajrang Dall and such others all together and the biased electronic and print Media, played the active role to destroy the image of Azamgarh and its Muslim population.

One point is very important to note that if Muslims get united, though very rarely, they are considered and accused as communal, fanatic and fundamentalist. A green flag is considered as Pakistani flag. Even an educated lady Simmi Grewal at NDTV-24 after 26/11, at the pitch of her

voice accused the Muslim Slum Dwellers of Mumbai as Paqkistani because some of them may have displayed green flag.. What a shame! On the other hand if Hindus organize Jagran and other religious congregations the media call it national festival. If Muslims hold any meeting called, "Ijtema" the media project it as the congregation of fanatics and fundamentalists. Hindus displaying Bhaguva flag are Nationalist. Hindus apply tilak on their forehead media does not take any notice of it. But Muslim having beard cap is looked upon as the fundamentalist and fanatic. This is how the media project two similar situations in different light and malign the Muslim community. Any Muslim with beard, wearing Kurta Pajama or Shalwar and a cap is called, in disgrace, "Mulla" or "Kath Mulla" by majority of Hindus, as well as media. As against that Hindus wearing Dhoti-Kurta with tilak on the forehead are not denounced as ponga Pandit or Panda. The so called Mahant Yogi Nath had the audacity to ask Muslims to leave India if they do not sing Vande Mataram. He considers himself better patriot than even Guru Ravindra Nath Tagore who clearly wrote to Netaji Subhash Chander Bose as early as in 1937 that Vande Matram was written by Bankim Chandra treating Bengal as the incarnation of Durga hence Muslims can not be expected to worship treating India as the ten handed deity. He calls Muslims sons of Babar and Mehmood of Ghazni but forgot that it was the Rajputs of India who gave their daughters/sisters in the marriage to Akbar and Jahangir. Jahangir and Shahjahan were the son and great grand son of Babar besides being sons of Hindu Mothers who did not convert to Islam inspite of being married to Muslim Kings. If Muslims, as alleged, by Yogi Nath and such others claim as sons of Babar or Akbar, why not they are called sons of Hindu Mothers? If Hindus claiming to be Suryavanshi or Chandra Vanshi or Aryan are Indian. If Muslims claim as Pathan, Sheikh, Syed or Moghal they become non Indian? Yogi Nath is asking Muslims to sing Vande Matram else leave India. Yogi Nath belong to Gorakhpur. He must be told that during 1857 it was a Muslim called Mohammad Husain who was leading the Jihad against British and not any one from Yogi Nath's ancestors. He and others like him must take it clearly that India does not belong only to their fathers it belongs to the fathers of Muslims of India also, If Aryans having migrated to India centuries before can claim as Indian why not Muslims migrated from Persia, Arab or Afganistan few centuries later can not claim to be Indian? The soil of India is glowing with the blood of Muslims more than the Hindus of India, The Hinditvadis should read the History of 17<sup>th</sup>. 18<sup>th</sup>. and 19<sup>th</sup>. Century A.D.

Muslims never hesitate to vote to a Hindu candidate even if he is pitched against a Muslim candidate, still they are called communal vote bank, but Hindus generally do not vote to a Muslim candidate if he is contesting against Hindu candidate/s still Hindus are not described communal, Why? Sekander Bakht of Delhi, Shah Nawaz Husain of Bihar Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi of UP are elected on B.J.P. ticket from Muslim majority areas. Why B.J.P. do not give them ticket from Hindu Majority areas and get them elected? Because B.J.P. knows that they will lose even their security because Hindus will never vote for them. But Hindus standing from Muslim majority areas such as Jama Masjid of Delhi are elected even against Muslim candidates. Still Muslims are communal. Similarly take the case of Smajwadi Party if they sponsor a Hindu/Yadav candidate even in Muslim dominated area, Muslim support and vote. But if Smajwadi Party gives ticket to a Muslim from the same constituency, Yadavs/Hindus do not vote to them instead vote to other party's candidate which sponsor a Hindu. Same case with BSP also. Still it is the Muslims who are accused as communal and not the other way round. Is this the definition of "Secularism" and "Nationalism" ?

Hindustan Times- New Delhi which started the tirade against the Muslims of Azamgarh, on 8<sup>th</sup>.November, 1998 with the write-up, "MY LAND MY PEOPLE", must be satisfied with its achievements 'Karnama' hence in its issue dated 19<sup>th</sup>. September, 2009 i.e. eleven years after 8<sup>th</sup>.November, 1998, wrote, " A HOME TOWN THEY NOW SHY AWAY FROM". This headline they gave on the article of Ms. Ritika Chopra at page 8 of the paper. The paper of Birla claiming to be supporter of Congress must be fully satisfied that it has achieved its sinister object not only to defame the Muslims of Azamgarh but, as claimed, made them 'to shy away of their home town'? You are very much mistaken Hindustan Times. the Muslims belonging to Azamgarh, are and will remain, **"PROUD OF BELONGING TO AZAMGARH WHICH IS APART FROM BEING INTEGRAL PART OF INDIA HAS BEEN AND IS THEIR SACRED KARM BOOMI"** which has always been secular and nationalist since they put their foot in the area and will continue to remain so irrespective of provocations by the communal forces.

Azamgarh is the Dharti where Rishi Balmiki had his hermitage at the bank of River Tamsa (Tauns). (Ref: P. L. Bhargave's "Founders of India"). Consequently Azamgarh is the Dharti which gave shelter to Devi Sita, when she was discarded by King Ram in spite Agni Priksha.

Azamgarh is the Dharti where Lov and Kush were born. Azamgarh is the Dharti which took Devi Sita in her lap when she refused to see King Ram. Azamgarh is the Dharti which gave Lov and Kush the courage, to challenge King Ram by capturing his Ashwamegh Yagya Horse. Azamgarh is the Dkharti which gave strength to Azmat Shah who challenged even Aurangzeb and his subsequent heirs as against the Rajput rulers of Raputana who were competing to each other to offer their daughters in the marriage to Moghal Rulers. Azamgarh is the Dharti where a Muslim the grand father of Iqbal Khan Suhail Vakeel of Badhadia Village gave shelter to Babu Kunwar Singh and the entire Muslim Population of the area gave unconditional help and protection to Babu Kunwar Singh in 1857-1858 against the British. Azamgarh is the Dharti from where Shahzada Firoz Shah the Grand son of Moghal King Farrukh-Shair, made declaration called "Azamgarh Proclamation" against British in 1857 which is hailed as the most secular Proclamation issued during the 1857 war of independence. Azamgarh is the Dharti whose son Rajab Ali of Bamhur village, sacrificed his life to save a Hindu Zameendar Jag Bandhan Singh of village Mohabbatpur near Mobarakpur, on the call of Jag Bandhan Singh,s daughter. Rajab Ali group consisted among others, Husain Baksh and Barkat Ali of Sarai Mobarak, Bheem Singh of Sonabar village, Sheikh Fateh Qalandar and Baqar Ali of Mustafabad and hundreds of people from Villages Bamhur, Sikhthi Shah Mohammadpur and other adjoining Muslim villages. The village Sikhthi was extensively looted and burnt by the British due to this reason. The British cut of the head of Rajab Ali from his boday and as the report says, they sent it to London as a token of a brave man.( Ref. Naya Daur Journal of U.P. Government issue April 2007.

Azamgarh is the Dharti whose son Maulvi Peer Ali Khan of village Mohammadpur, led the rebellion at Patna against the British and attained the martyrdom on 7<sup>th</sup>.July 1857. Azamgarh is the Dharti whose son Asad Ali Khan of village Mohammadpur provided safe passage to Nehru and company and saved them from British police consequently lost his job as Rly. track inspector. Azamgarh is the Dharti whose son Maulvi Mohammad Naeem Khan of Village Mohammadpur, raised the banner of revolt against British on 3<sup>rd</sup>. June 1857. Azamgarh is the Dharti whose sons Raja Iradat Jahan, and his son Mozaffar Jahan, continued to fight against the British right from 1856 to 1860. Azamgarh is the Dharti whose brave son Brigadier Usman and Havaldar Abdul Hameed attained martyrdom fighting Pakistan on Kashmir front in 1948 and 1965, and so on. The list is unending one has to just look for it. You Hindustan Times and all

other Print Media as well as electronic Media and persons like Mahant Yogi Nath, Togadia and likes, to note that we the Muslims of India, particularly of Azamgarh are not Terrorist, or criminals, nor anti-national neither the Dharti of Azamgarh is Criminal Garh nor Atank Garh. YOU all should be ASHAMED of your misdeeds to brand the Nationalists as Atanki or Criminals.

Such a Pavitra Dharti was and is being attempted to be made Aa-Pavitra by the communal forces and the persons like Mahant Yoginath, who calls his supporters to play Gujrat in U.P. and begin from, Azamgarh, (U.P. Ko Gujrat Banana Hai Aarambh Azamgarh se Karna Hai is the slogan of Mahant Yogi Nath).

But do not forget Mahant Yogi Nath, that you will not succeed nor your sinister designs.

For the people of Azamgarh Allama Iqbal's following Sher is befitting;\_:

**“Kuch Baat Hai Ki Hasti Mit-tee Naheen Hamari,  
Sadiyun Raha Hai Dushman Daure Zaman Hamara”**

Janab Iqbal Khan Suhail a worthy son of Azamgarh also said for the people of Azamgarh, :-

**“Iss Khit-ta-e Azamgarh pe yeh magar faizane tajalli hai yeksar”  
“Jo Zar-ra Yehan se Uth-ta hai who khaire-Taban Hota Hai”**

It will not be out of place to advise Maulana Rushadi, and his supporters. To register the protest of the Muslim population of Azamgarh for the innocent young boys Atif's and Sajid's merciless killing in the drama played by the Police at L-18 Batla House, organized the march from Azamgarh to Delhi with full load of a special train with the Muslims of the District where they behaved in most organized and disciplined manner. You did a great job which once again raised the prestige of the people of Azamgarh and gave big slap on the face of communal forces of the country.

Your movement was praise-worthy and challenged the communal forces. The situation is well described by Waseem Barielvi : -

**“Aa dekh mera (Hamra) josh-e-junoo kam to nahi hai  
Sar khon mein dooba hai per kham to naheen hai”**

However, I am equally sad to say that your acts, after the said march to Parliament, to en-cash on the sentiments of the people for personal gains; and swindling the peoples' contribution, which they contributed to effectively contest and defend the innocent and bright students of Azamgarh charged and implicated in false and concocted cases, was an act of treachery and against the interest of the MUSLIMS of Azamgarh. You stooped down so much that you become instrumental in the victory of Rama Kant Yadav, who munched into you just few months later. Those who try to en-cash on the sentiments of the people, as you and your likes did and played the game on the so called encounter of L-18, Batla House, will be punished by Al-mighty sooner or later. The momentary gain and cheep popularity which you have achieved on the dead bodies of Atif and Sajid is short lived Allah will punish those who behaved like "Munafiq". Allah always helped the people of Azamgarh and will help them even in future, INSHA-ALLAH. (AAMEEN):

To-day the 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2009 full one year has passed but it appears that things happened only yesterday. More than a dozen young, promising with bright future Muslim boys of Azamgarh are languishing in custody and facing the torture. On this 1<sup>st</sup>. anniversary of the tragedy which took place at L-18, Batla House, may Allah give strength (sabr) to the family of Atif and Sajid and most favored space in heaven to these innocent boys killed, and peace to the soul of those killed in the blast of Delhi on 13<sup>th</sup>.September 2008 by enemy of humanity and the country. Let-us pray, that all the young boys arrested on false charges for the crime they did not commit be released soon. IINSHA-ALLAH. (AMEEN) and all those who are involved in the nefarious and sinister activities of planting and/or blasting bombs, disguised as Muslims where by innocent people are killed, be punished by Al-mighty 'Ameen'.

19<sup>th</sup> September 2009.