



AFTER HRS.

**Akshay attends a fundraiser in city**

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# DNA

DAILY NEWS & ANALYSIS

Ahmedabad, Wednesday, November 25, 2009

PUBLISHED FROM AHMEDABAD, SURAT, MUMBAI, PUNE, JAIPUR & BANGALORE

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## morning briefing



In the aftermath of 26/11, the public wrath was manifested through thousands of letters to DNA. Mumbaiers also gathered at the Gateway of India to participate in a candlelight vigil

### Where has all the anger gone?

The citizens' revulsion in the aftermath of 26/11 terror attack towards the powers-that-be — the political class in particular — seemed to have climaxed. But has the city, and indeed India, forgotten the tragedy? **Special coverage p6**

### New governor to take oath on Friday

The new Gujarat governor, Kamla Beniwal, will take oath on Friday, November 27. The Chief Justice of Gujarat High Court will administer the oath of office to the new governor. Beniwal, 83, a veteran Congress leader from Rajasthan, was appointed governor of Gujarat on November 21.

### city weather

A'bad	31°C	16°C	GENERALLY CLEAR SKY
Surat	33°C	22°C	

# Liberhan bark worse than bite

■ HOLDS VAJPAYEE, ADVANI & JOSHI GUILTY ■ PROPOSES NO ACTION ■ REPORT WILL BE BURIED

Arati R Jerath & Javed M Ansari, NEW DELHI

After making the nation wait for 17 years for the real story of the December 6 demolition that shook India in 1992, the Liberhan Ayodhya Commission of Inquiry produced a damp squib of a report that shied away from demanding punitive action against those it held culpable for the events of that fateful day. There seemed to be a disconnect between the commission's conclusions and its recommendations. It pointed a finger at former prime minister Atal Behari Vajpayee, LK Advani and Murli Manohar Joshi (and a host of 65 other RSS, VHP and BJP leaders) for the destruction of the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid structure and yet let them all off the hook by not following through with an action plan for the government to bring them to book.

"(It) cannot be assumed even for a moment that LK Advani, Atal Behari Vajpayee and Murli Manohar Joshi did not know the designs of the Sangh parivar... The commission has no hesitation in condemning these pseudo-moderates for their sins of omission," the report said. But, a few paragraphs later, it admits that "the evidence... before the commission does not show that the pseudo-moderates were in charge of the situation, much less change the course that the (Ayodhya) campaign was taking."

## LIBERHAN'S VERDICT

### On Vajpayee, Advani and Joshi



It cannot be assumed... that Advani, Vajpayee or Joshi did not know the designs of the parivar... These leaders cannot be given the benefit of doubt and exonerated of culpability

### On the parivar's culpability

The inner core of the Sangh parivar, the top leadership of the RSS, VHP, Shiv Sena, Bajrang Dal and the BJP must bear primary responsibility (for the demolition)

### On Kalyan Singh's guilt



His ministers and hand-picked bureaucrats created manmade and cataclysmic circumstances which could result in no consequences other than the demolition of the disputed structure



Karsevaks demolish the Babri Masjid on Dec 6, 1992 — FILE/AFP

### On Muslim organisations' role

The Babri Masjid Action Committee (BMAC) and the All India BMAC never presented any claim to the disputed structure... their stand was merely simplicitor denial of the claims of the Sangh parivar

### On UP bureaucrats, police officers

The administrative officers, the police and selective sections of the bureaucracy... were the executors of the designs of RSS, VHP, BJP, Bajrang Dal and Shiv Sena

### Atal indictment blessing in disguise for BJP

Unsparring in its attack on the top BJP leadership, the commission said there was no doubt about the culpability and responsibility of the then

### Amar fights Sikh MP for 'Muslim votes'

Uttar Pradesh chief minister (Kalyan Singh), his ministers and Sangh parivar leaders like Ashok Singhal, KS Sudarshan and Vinay Katiyar, who

formed a "complete cartel" supported by the icons of the movement like Advani, Joshi and Vajpayee. Kalyan Singh and his trusted lieu-

## ATR CALLS FOR LAW TO CURB COMMUNAL TENSION

The Centre's action-taken report (ATR) tabled in Parliament on Tuesday does not recommend any punitive action against any of the 68 persons held culpable by Justice MS Liberhan in the Babri Masjid demolition case.

The 13-page ATR is benign in nature and talks of the government's intention to bring legislation, the Communal Violence (Prevention, Control, and Rehabilitation of Victims) Bill to curb communal discord and violence.

tenants "spared no lie" before the highest authorities of the land to befool them and to tie their hands with the niceties of constitutional democracy, the commission said. It is, therefore, softer on former prime minister Narasimha Rao, and says the centre could have done little to avoid the destruction of the structure given these constitutional niceties.

The harsh language of the commission's findings found no reflection in the recommendations which were general in nature and read like a liberal political philosophy document that warned against mixing religion with politics, suggested more powers for the riot police and called for stricter monitoring of the media on communally sensitive issues.

Most of Liberhan's recommendations are unlikely to pass muster in the current political climate, where state-level parties are calling the shots. Among other things, the commission calls for giving the centre the right to deploy forces in states without the sanction of the state government, setting up a commission to decide whether there was a temple or a mosque at the disputed site in Ayodhya, legislating laws to punish misuse of religion and caste for political purposes, banning parties which bring religion into their manifestoes, and requiring the mediapersons to obtain licences (like lawyers and CAS) so that undesirable practices are kept out.

# A'bad can't win heritage-city race!

..because it's not running! Nobody has entered it on Unesco's list of World Heritage City contenders

Priya Adhyaru-Majithia, AHMEDABAD

World Heritage Week celebrations will come to an end in Ahmedabad, as in other cities of the country, on Wednesday, November 25. But is the Gujarat city anywhere near becoming a World Heritage City? The answer to that question, unfortunately, is, no.

Seminars and cultural programmes are all very well but they are useless in the absence of the paperwork that is required of a city which wants to be included in the prestigious list. Sources in the city said the authorities concerned were yet to begin work on filing a formal nomination.

There are around 890 sites on the Unesco list, of which 300 are cities. Strangely, there are 27 Indian sites on the list, too, but de-

## RICH LEGACY, POOR RECORD

- 890 sites figure on the Unesco list
- 300 of these sites are cities
- 27 Indian sites are on the list
- 0 number of Indian cities on the list



spite our rich and diverse cultural heritage, not a single Indian city figures on it.

Nicole Bolomey, programme specialist at Unesco's Delhi office, says that the UN body had officially invited cities to file nomination for the World Heritage City status.

"But, so far, we have not received a single nomination from any Indian city," she says. "There were some initiatives for Varanasi and New Delhi but nothing has been received on paper."

If Ahmedabad is serious about its claims to being a World Heritage City, it should first stake that claim on paper, says Bolomey.

Besides undertaking concrete pilot projects to demonstrate a genuine commitment to heritage preservation, Ahmedabad officials should start preparing for nomination by drafting heritage guidelines.

"These can later serve as the starting point for extensive heritage legislation," Bolomey says.

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## DNA take

### Moving beyond lip-service

As the lip-service to conservation of Gujarat's heritage ends today, with conclusion of the heritage week, DNA will bare a tale of monumental neglect. Behind the beautiful and romantic face of heritage monuments and their conservation, lies the ugly truth that everyone wants to conveniently ignore — the lack of a serious and sustained attempt to conserve them for posterity. Singing paeans to their beauty is not going to save 200-odd protected monuments in the state. With over 60 protected monuments, the entire city of Ahmedabad can be declared a 'heritage city' — like Kyoto in Japan, Paris in France and Rome in Italy. Be prepared to face the reality. It's shocking and bizarre, but it is the truth.

# I don't understand China's assertiveness, says PM

Uttara Choudhury, WASHINGTON

Prime minister Manmohan Singh on Monday red-flagged China's growing assertiveness and creeping propensity to flex its muscle at a talk in the Council of Foreign Relations which drew Washington diplomats and policy wonks. Singh also spoke of the different paths India and China had chosen to rise in economic terms, and said he would not adopt his Asian neighbour's route.

"We want the world to prepare for the peaceful rise of



nooba-mano IN AMERICA

China as a major power. So, engagement is the right strategy for India as well as for the United States. We have tried hard to engage China in the last five

years and today China is one of our major trading partners," Singh told the Council.

"We also recognise that we have a long-standing border problem with China; we are trying to resolve it through dialogue. Both our countries have agreed that pending the resolution of the border problem, peace should be maintained in the border line," he said.

Surat, Wednesday, November

## LANKA DAHAN Records tumble

India's first over 400-run score in one day

Previous best: 386/1 vs SA in '08

Fourth Test in a row in which Gambhir has scored a ton, only third Indian after Sunil Gavaskar and Rahul Dravid to do so

Best score on the first day of a Test is 484 for 6 by Australia against SA in 1910

Most runs scored by a team in any day of a Test is 509/9 by SL against Bangladesh, 2002, on the 2nd day



## Gold nears 18K mark

Yellow metal touched Rs17,925/10 gram level in A'bad, on Tuesday

DNA Correspondent, AHMEDABAD

There is no stopping gold prices, which moved closer to Rs18,000 per 10 gram in Gujarat on Tuesday.

"Gold prices in Ahmedabad closed at an all-time high of Rs17,925 per 10 gram on Tuesday, while it was quoted at Rs17,900 in Surat. The Rs18,000-mark can be

breached any time now," industry sources said.

The price of gold had crossed the Rs17,000 per 10 gram mark just over two weeks ago. It has risen again to within kissing distance of the Rs18,000-mark. Domestic gold prices have gone up by as much as 45% in the past one year and more than 20% since July. In international markets, gold was trading in the range of \$1165-\$1170 per ounce on Tuesday.

The weak dollar and the ongoing marriage season have resulted in increased demand for gold. Turn to p14

ABHINAV CHOKHAVATIA SPENT RS30 LAKH TO DEVELOP 'THE LEGEND OF VRAZ'

# City gamer's creation set for int'l debut

Misbah Nayeem Quadri, AHMEDABAD

Abhinav Chokhavatia, a 28-year-old software engineer from Ahmedabad, worked for one-and-a-half years and spent Rs30 lakh of his money to develop a 3D videogame. People who have seen the game say it will sweep gamers off their feet.

Called 'The Legend of Vraz', the videogame is scheduled for release on CDs and for download in December. Moreover, it is also the only game from Gujarat that is to be featured at the pres-



Chokhavatia, 28, (inset) and a screen-shot of his game that will be featured at a festival in US, in March 2010

BAF' games category of the festival.

The game revolves around the character of Vraz, a prince, who is in love with Princess Avi. But before he can marry the princess, Prince Vraz must complete five tasks set for him by Avi's father. And to complete the five tasks, the prince must battle the evil Vizier (who is also in love with the princess) and his cunning accomplices, in exotic but dangerous worlds.

Talking to DNA, Chokhavatia said he had created 'The Legend of Vraz' using

Microsoft XNA framework. "The game has exciting play content of 6 to 9 hours that will take gamers through fantasy worlds inhabited by mesmerising characters," he said. The three-dimensional fantasy worlds have been created with stunning, hand-painted 2D art.

"I got the idea for the game from miniature paintings which I happened to see sometime back," said Chokhavatia. "Their intricate art inspired me to design similar characters for 'The Legend of Vraz'."

Turn to p14

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