"the truth of truth"
DARPAN OF INDIA

❖ QUOTES ❖

"materialism leads us to lose awareness of our inner life, which is bad enough; but to be hypnotized by our own feelings and sensations and forget about others and the world around us is worse."

—The Upanishads

Beyond Runways

India's aviation story is no longer being written only in the bustling terminals of Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, or Hyderabad. A quiet but transformative shift is taking place across the country's Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities, where expanding airports, improved regional connectivity, and rising passenger demand are reshaping the future of air travel. As the government pushes ahead with its vision of making aviation accessible to every citizen, smaller cities are emerging as the next frontier of economic growth, tourism, trade, and investment.For decades, India's aviation sector remained concentrated around a handful of metropolitan hubs, forcing millions of passengers from smaller towns to undertake long road or rail journeys before boarding a flight. That pattern is rapidly changing. Modern airport infrastructure, new regional routes, and increasing airline participation are bringing air travel closer to people living far beyond the country's biggest urban centres.The transformation is being driven by a combination of government initiatives, private investment, technological advancements, and changing travel habits. Regional airports that once handled only a handful of flights each week are now witnessing steady increases in passenger traffic. New terminals equipped with modern facilities are replacing outdated infrastructure, making air travel faster, safer, and more convenient for travellers across the country.One of the biggest factors behind this shift is India's expanding middle class. Rising disposable incomes, growing business opportunities, and increasing aspirations have encouraged first-time flyers from smaller towns to choose air travel over lengthy rail or road journeys. Affordable fares offered by domestic airlines have further accelerated this trend, making flying a realistic option for millions of families.The government's regional connectivity initiatives have also played a vital role in unlocking the aviation potential of underserved regions. By encouraging airlines to operate flights to smaller destinations and supporting airport development, authorities have opened new travel corridors that were once considered commercially unviable. As a result, cities that previously remained disconnected from the national aviation network are now becoming integral parts of India's transportation ecosystem.The benefits extend far beyond passenger convenience. Improved air connectivity is acting as a catalyst for local economic development. Businesses can now move executives, investors, and clients more efficiently, while manufacturers gain quicker access to domestic and international markets. Faster transportation is also attracting new industries, creating employment opportunities, and encouraging entrepreneurs to establish operations in emerging cities instead of relying solely on metropolitan centres.Tourism is another sector witnessing remarkable gains from enhanced regional aviation. Destinations rich in cultural heritage, wildlife, religious significance, and natural beauty are becoming more accessible than ever before. Domestic tourists can now reach these locations in hours instead of spending entire days travelling by road or train. This increased accessibility is generating new opportunities for hotels, restaurants, transport operators, handicraft businesses, and local communities that depend on tourism for their livelihoods.Healthcare connectivity has also improved significantly.

Religious scholars

Ram Temple Donation Row Sparks Political Storm as Alleged Fund Mismanagement Triggers Demands for Transparency

A fresh political controversy has erupted over allegations of financial mismanagement involving donations made by devotees to the Ram Temple, reigniting a national debate on accountability, transparency, and the politicisation of religious institutions. The issue has moved beyond questions of financial administration and evolved into a larger political confrontation, with opposition parties demanding an independent investigation while the ruling establishment dismisses the accusations as an attempt to tarnish one of India's most significant cultural and religious projects.

The controversy surfaced after reports and allegations claimed that certain donations and funds linked to temple-related activities may not have been managed with complete transparency. Critics have raised concerns over the handling of contributions made by millions of devotees from across India and abroad, arguing that every rupee donated in faith should be subject to the highest standards of financial accountability. While no conclusive evidence of wrongdoing has been established through an official investigation, the allegations have intensified calls for a detailed audit and public disclosure of financial records.

Political parties have quickly seized upon the issue, turning it into a major talking point. Opposition leaders have alleged that institutions associated with the temple should be open to greater public scrutiny, especially given the emotional and national significance attached to the Ram Temple. They argue that transparency would not only protect the sanctity of the institution but also strengthen public trust among devotees who contributed generously toward its construction.

The ruling side, however, has strongly rejected the allegations, describing them as politically motivated attempts to undermine a landmark project that symbolizes the faith of millions of Hindus. Leaders supporting the temple administration have maintained that all donations are managed through established procedures and are subject to internal oversight. They have accused critics of exploiting unverified claims for political gain, particularly as political competition intensifies ahead of future elections.

The Ram Temple has remained one of the most influential political and cultural symbols in contemporary India. Since the Supreme Court's historic verdict clearing the way for the temple's construction, the project has represented not only a religious aspiration but also a significant political milestone. Consequently, any controversy surrounding the temple inevitably attracts nationwide attention and carries implications far beyond administrative concerns.

Legal experts note that allegations involving charitable or religious trusts must be examined through established legal mechanisms rather than political rhetoric. They emphasize that financial irregularities, if proven, should be addressed according to the law, while unfounded accusations should also be avoided to preserve public confidence in important institutions. Transparency, they argue, remains the strongest safeguard against both corruption and misinformation.

Religious scholars and civil society representatives have echoed similar sentiments, stressing that institutions built on public faith carry an exceptional responsibility. They believe that voluntarily publishing audited financial statements and maintaining open channels of communication with devotees could help prevent speculation and reinforce credibility. Many observers argue that greater transparency would ultimately strengthen, rather than weaken, the temple's standing.

The controversy has also triggered intense debate across television channels and social media platforms, where competing narratives continue to dominate public discourse. Supporters of the temple administration have defended its integrity, while critics insist that independent verification is necessary to eliminate doubts. The polarized reactions reflect how issues involving religion and politics often become deeply intertwined in India's democratic landscape.

Analysts believe the episode illustrates the growing challenge of separating genuine demands for accountability from political confrontation. As religious institutions increasingly occupy the center of public and political attention, expectations regarding governance, financial disclosure, and institutional integrity have also risen. Public confidence, experts suggest, depends not only on legal compliance but also on the willingness of institutions to embrace transparency proactively.

A controversy surrounding the alleged theft of donations collected at the Ram Temple has taken a sharp political turn, triggering heated exchanges between political parties and raising fresh questions over transparency, accountability, and the management of religious institutions. What initially appeared to be a case of financial irregularities has now evolved into a wider political debate, with leaders across the spectrum accusing one another of attempting to exploit the issue for electoral and ideological gains.

The alleged incident came to light after reports suggested that a portion of the donations offered by devotees at the temple had gone missing under suspicious circumstances. The revelation prompted immediate concern among devotees, many of whom contribute to the temple out of deep faith and religious devotion. Authorities launched a preliminary inquiry to determine whether the missing funds were the result of theft, procedural lapses, or administrative negligence.

Officials associated with the temple administration have maintained that the matter is being investigated thoroughly and that every aspect of the donation management system is under scrutiny. They assured devotees that the sanctity of the temple and the trust of millions of worshippers remain their highest priorities. Internal audits and reviews of security measures, including CCTV footage and cash-handling procedures, have reportedly been initiated to establish the exact sequence of events.

As news of the alleged theft spread, political reactions quickly followed. Opposition parties questioned whether sufficient safeguards had been put in place to protect donations collected from millions of pilgrims visiting the temple. They demanded greater transparency in the administration of temple finances and called for an independent investigation to ensure that the truth is established without political interference.

Leaders from the ruling establishment, however, accused the opposition of attempting to politicize a sensitive religious matter before the investigation had reached any conclusion. They argued that isolated incidents, if proven, should not be used to cast doubts on the overall functioning of one of the country's most revered religious institutions. According to them, law enforcement agencies should be allowed to complete their investigation without pressure or speculation.

The controversy has reignited a broader discussion on the governance of major religious institutions across India. Experts on temple administration have pointed out that temples receiving large volumes of donations require advanced financial monitoring systems, digital accounting mechanisms, and independent auditing processes to ensure complete transparency. They argue that modern technology, including automated counting machines, digital tracking of donations, and continuous surveillance, can significantly reduce the possibility of financial irregularities.

Legal experts have also emphasized that if criminal wrongdoing is established, those responsible should face strict legal action irrespective of their position or affiliation. They noted that public confidence in religious institutions depends not only on spiritual values but also on strong administrative integrity and financial accountability.

Meanwhile, devotees visiting the temple expressed mixed emotions. While many said their faith remains unshaken, they also stressed that every donation represents the sincere offerings of believers and therefore deserves the highest level of protection. Several pilgrims stated that they expect authorities to conduct a transparent investigation and publicly disclose its findings so that any lingering doubts can be addressed.

Political analysts believe the timing of the controversy has amplified its significance, with both ruling and opposition parties seeking to shape public perception. Some observers argue that religious issues often become politically sensitive because they touch upon both emotional and ideological sentiments, making even administrative controversies highly charged in the public sphere. Others caution against drawing conclusions before the investigation is completed, warning that premature political narratives could overshadow the facts.

Security arrangements at the temple are also expected to come under renewed review. Officials are reportedly considering stronger safeguards for the handling of cash donations, stricter verification protocols, enhanced surveillance systems, and periodic independent audits to strengthen public confidence and prevent similar incidents in the future.

As investigations continue, the focus remains on establishing whether the missing donations were the result of organized theft, internal negligence, or procedural shortcomings. The findings of the inquiry are likely to play a crucial role not only in determining legal responsibility but also in shaping the political discourse surrounding one of India's most significant religious landmarks.

For millions of devotees, the issue extends far beyond financial loss. It touches upon the trust placed in the institutions responsible for safeguarding sacred offerings made in faith. With political rhetoric continuing to intensify, the outcome of the investigation will be closely watched by religious leaders, policymakers, legal authorities, and the public alike, as they await clear answers on both accountability and transparency.

Hasina Signals Return to Bangladesh, Setting Stage for a High-Stakes Political Showdown

The international community is also expected to closely monitor developments

Former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is preparing for what could become the most defining chapter of her political career, with reports indicating that she is planning to return to Bangladesh after nearly two years in exile. The possible comeback has already sparked intense political debate across the country, with supporters viewing it as a bold step toward reclaiming leadership, while critics argue that it could deepen the already fragile political climate.Hasina's anticipated return comes at a time when Bangladesh remains politically divided and socially polarized following a prolonged period of unrest, legal disputes, and changes in the country's political landscape. Her absence from the country transformed the balance of power, allowing rival political forces to strengthen their positions while her party continued to struggle with organizational challenges and legal scrutiny. Even from outside Bangladesh, however, Hasina remained one of the country's most influential political figures, frequently issuing statements to party workers and maintaining communication with senior leaders.Political analysts believe that returning to Bangladesh would represent far more than a personal decision. It would be a calculated political gamble with enormous consequences for both Hasina and the country's future. While the move could reinvigorate her supporters and restore confidence within her political organization, it could also expose her to immediate legal proceedings and renewed political confrontations. The risks are considerable, but so are the potential rewards if she succeeds in reconnecting with her grassroots base.The announcement has energized supporters of the Awami League, many of whom believe that Hasina's physical presence is essential for rebuilding the party after months of uncertainty. Local leaders have reportedly intensified internal meetings and organizational preparations, expressing confidence that her return could unite party workers who have remained scattered since the political upheaval. Many supporters describe her comeback as a symbol of resilience and determination, arguing that the party requires direct leadership during a critical phase in Bangladesh's political evolution.Opposition parties, however, have reacted cautiously, insisting that any return must take place within the framework of the country's legal and constitutional system. They argue that political stability should remain the priority and stress that no individual should be above the law. Several opposition leaders have also warned that emotional political mobilization should not overshadow institutional accountability or the need for democratic reforms.Security experts believe the government's response will be crucial in determining whether the situation remains peaceful. Authorities are expected to conduct detailed security assessments, anticipating large public gatherings and heightened political activity if Hasina arrives in the country. Law enforcement agencies may face the difficult task of balancing public order with democratic freedoms, particularly if rival political groups organize demonstrations simultaneously.The international community is also expected to closely monitor developments. Bangladesh occupies an increasingly important strategic position in South Asia, making its political stability significant for regional diplomacy, trade, and security. Foreign governments and international organizations have consistently emphasized the importance of democratic institutions, peaceful political participation, and respect for the rule of law. Hasina's return could therefore attract considerable global attention, especially regarding how state institutions manage the process.Economists note that prolonged political uncertainty often affects investor confidence and business sentiment. Bangladesh has made notable economic progress over the past decade despite facing global challenges, and maintaining stability remains critical for sustaining foreign investment, export growth, and employment opportunities. Any escalation of political tensions could create short-term uncertainty in financial markets, while a peaceful political process could reinforce confidence in the country's democratic institutions.Constitutional experts argue that the coming weeks could become one of the most important tests for Bangladesh's legal and political framework. Questions surrounding judicial proceedings, political rights, public demonstrations, and constitutional protections are expected to dominate national discourse. The manner in which institutions respond may shape public trust in governance for years to come.Observers also point out that Hasina's political legacy remains deeply influential regardless of current circumstances. During her years in office, Bangladesh witnessed major infrastructure expansion, improvements in connectivity, growth in exports, and increasing international engagement. At the same time, her tenure was accompanied by criticism from opposition groups and human rights organizations over issues relating to political freedoms, governance, and civil liberties. These contrasting narratives continue to define public opinion, making her proposed return one of the most consequential political developments in recent Bangladeshi history.Public reactions remain sharply divided. Supporters describe the move as an act of courage and commitment to democratic politics, while critics question whether the timing could further intensify polarization. Social media platforms have witnessed widespread discussion, with citizens debating the potential implications for national reconciliation, governance, and future elections.Whether Sheikh Hasina ultimately returns as planned or postpones her decision, the announcement has already reshaped Bangladesh's political conversation. The coming days are likely to determine whether the country enters a new phase of political dialogue or experiences another period of heightened confrontation. For Bangladesh, the stakes extend well beyond the future of a single political leader—they concern the resilience of democratic institutions, the rule of law, and the nation's ability to navigate one of its most closely watched political moments in recent history.Conservative America has woken up after a long sleep. They have proved their strong position by electing a twice-impeached and convicted person as US president, excluding the second female presidential candidate in US history. This base of conservatives includes not only Republicans, but also a large number of so-called independents. They have decided to elect an ego-stricken person who has not spared anyone in the last one year. He did not leave any comment, fair or unfair, to attack those whom he disliked or criticised. In his quest to return to the White House, Donald Trump has provoked, attacked and even intimidated his opponents. He used every means to attract millions of people to the party with his concocted claims about the dangers of the country, from illegal immigration, the crumbling economy and the breakdown of law and order. Accusations of criminal and civil cases against him and the portrayal of himself as a victim of witchcraft have generated more support from his loyal fans by the day. In fact, he used every federal charge against him as a medal of honor to attract the sympathy of the voters. Without a doubt, he succeeded. But is that why Donald Trump was elected? Not only did he win the Electoral College, but he also won the sympathy of the voters, winning 52 percent of the popular vote. The Republican Party has supported conservatism in political, economic, and social policy. And they've traditionally done that. A large proportion of white voters in the Republican Party are conservative. Trump's own conservative attitude resonated with those conservative voters. A stereotype of conservative American thought holds that women are weak and less able than men to manage state affairs.Has the riot he orchestrated to disrupt the official vote count at the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2020, been erased from voters' memories? Have the voters forgiven the criminal and civil cases filed in the last two years? He was convicted in one case. How, then, can we explain this unprecedented victory of a condemned man? There is a lot of negative talk about Donald Trump. Before we talk about those, let's take a look at how Trump expanded his electorate. That is, let's dig a little into the things that he proved to be positive for his own voters. In 2022, more than 8 out of 10 Republican voters (85%) were white. Sixty-four percent of Democratic voters were white. According to Pew Global Research, 56 percent of white voters supported the Republican Party. 41% were with the Democratic Party. A large proportion of white voters in the Republican Party are conservative. Not surprisingly, after Trump was officially nominated, he no longer had to work hard for support within the party. Trump's own conservative attitude resonated with those conservative voters. A lawsuit has been filed against Trump. The number of complaints against him is increasing day by day. But this did not affect Trump's reputation and candidacy.