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NGO findings back Banerjee report

[Monday, January 17, 2005 11:09:39 pm TIMES NEWS NETWORK]

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NEW DELHI: Delhi-based NGO Hazards Centre has corroborated the findings of the Justice Banerjee Committee report that the fire in the Sabarmati Express coach at Godhra in 2002 began from inside.

A report, prepared by Dinesh Mohan and Sunil Kale, both of IIT-Delhi, A K Roy of Hazards Centre and S N Chakravarty, an expert in coaching section of Indian Railways for 10 years, says: "It is most probable that the fire originated in the region between the last two cabins and started by burning the lower berth first."

The report clearly states that it is highly unlikely that the fire was started by an inflammable fluid.

The timing of this report - on the same day as the



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Justice Banerjee report - is bound to raise eyebrows. The BJP has already described the Banerjee report as being politically-motivated.

The Hazards Centre team did not base its study merely on the Sabarmati Express coach. It inspected burnt coaches lying in Gandhinagar and Jagdhari (Delhi).

On how the fire could have been detected by the passengers, the report says it could not have been done until the dense asphyxiating smoke emerged from the burning latex foam.

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