

Nandini

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Voice For The Deprived

Dedicated to the cause of marginalised and downtrodden

VOL XI

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ELITE SCHOOLS

Temples of learning – IN THE PAST

AND

**Symbols of degenerated values
– IN THE PRESENT**

Desperate Calls

It is not in the nature's scheme of things for one to be indifferent to the plight of his suffering fellowmen and women. The well being of all members of the society in which an individual lives should be equally important, if not more important, as the welfare of one's own kith and kin and near and dear. HENCE let the eternal self seeker understand that to help those in distress is a glorious opportunity to make his or her existence meaningful.

BOY SUFFERING FROM CANCER

Master Dikshit Majumder, age 4 years is suffering from acute lymphatic leukemia, a type of blood cancer. The estimated cost of the treatment is around Rs.1,50,000/- towards chemotherapy, medicines and supportive treatment.

The child's father Mr.Soumen Majumder is running his family by taking private music tuitions.

The cheque may be drawn in favour of Himadri Memorial Cancer Welfare Trust, Kolkata and sent to the following address:

Master Dikshit Majumder,
S/o.Mr.Soumen Majumder,
Village & Post Labpur,
P.S.Labpur,
Dist.Birbhum, West Bengal 731 303



DISABLED QUALIFIED ARTIST NEEDS JOB

Sri.M.Srinivasan, age 25 years is a 50% disabled person. He has obtained Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) degree and also completed teacher training course (TTC). He also received best artist awards from artist's association and newspapers

Sri.Srinivasan requests for a suitable job.

Contact address:
Sri.M.Srinivasan,
12/19, Erthangal Colony & Post,
Gudiyattam Tk
Vellore Dt, Pin:632 602



DISABLED PERSONS NEED JOB

Mr.U.Rajesh, age 22 years is a disabled man. He has completed the Fitter course training at Government I.T.I Cuddalore .

Mr.Rajesh requests for a suitable job.

Contact address:
Sri.U.Rajesh,
S/o.Sri.G.Uthiran, Ariyoor (Vill),
Venganthur (Post)
Villupuram, Pin:605 402

Sri.L.Raja is a poor disabled boy. He has passed 12th Std. and he also undergone computer training.

Sri.Raja requests for a job

Contact address:
Sri.L.Raja,
S/o.Sri.A.Lurthu Prakash,
Chemananthal Village, Parikal (Post),
Uloonthur Pet (Tk) Villupuram District,
Tamil Nadu, Pin:607 204



DISABLED STUDENTS NEED SUPPORT FOR EDUCATION

Ms.D.Krishnaveni is a disabled girl and she has passed +2 (Nursing group).

Ms.Krishnaveni desires to study Nursing course. Due to poverty she is unable to continue her higher studies.

Ms.Krishnaveni requests financial help to undergo Nursing course.

Contact address: Ms.D.Krishnaveni,
D/o.Sri.B.Dharmalingam,
Poondi, Vembi (Post), Villupuram (Tk), Tamil Nadu



Sri.S.Tamizh Arul Alzhagan, Sri.N.Kuppusami, Sri.M.Arasu Sri.V.Raja and Sri.P.Rajiv Gandhi are disabled boys and they have studied upto 12th std.

Their parents are unskilled labourers. Due to poverty their parents are unable to provide higher education to their sons

Sri.S.Tamizh Arul Alzhagan, Sri.N.Kuppusami, Sri.M.Arasu, Sri.V.Raja and Sri.P.Rajiv Gandhi requests kind hearted persons for financial help to continue their education.

Contact address:

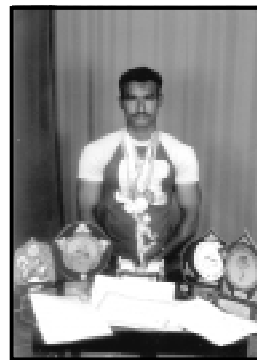
Help to Live has adopted the school and would provide necessary financial assistance and management support. The immediate fund requirement is around Rs.35,000/- towards purchasing library books, civil works etc. Please support the cause.

For further details, please contact:

Mr.C.Priyesh, Help to Live
EDS-India (Tidel Park), Chennai
Mobile:91-9884048010
e-mail:priyesh.cherurveetil@eds.com



DISABLED WEIGHT LIFTER NEEDS SUPPORT



Sri.S.Nooruddin, age 23 years is a severely disabled person and he moves only in sitting posture.

In spite of his physical disability and belonging to lower income group family Sri. Nooruddin has shown extraordinary quality and initiative to take part in several weight lifting competitions. He has won several prizes and awards in recent times in the competitions conducted by several agencies including Paralympic Committee of India.

Sri.Nooruddin is now competing to take part in international competition. He needs support and encouragement.

For further details, please contact:

Sri.S.Nooruddin,
2/124, 1st Street, Desia Nagar,
New Washermen Pet, Chennai-600 081



NEED HELP FOR DUMB AND DISABLED PERSON

Sri.D.Kumaravel, age 20 years has become dumb and hearing impaired due to brain fever. He has studied upto 3rd std.

Sri.D.Kumaravel requests help for some professional training to get a job

Contact address: Dri.D.Kumaravel,
S/o.Sri.Dhanavel,
Konga Devan Kuppam, Chembulipuram (Post)
Cheyur, Kancheepuram District, Tamil Nadu



DISABLED MAN NEEDS HELP FOR EDUCATION

Sri.B.Venkatesulu is a married, severely disabled man, who have successfully passed B.com degree and at present he is working in PCO paltry income.His daughter is studying 1st std.

Sri.Venkatesulu needs financial help for studying M.Com by correspondence course and also for his daughter's education.

Contact address
Sri.B.Venkatesulu,
19, Kalainger Nagar, 1st Street, Tiruttani-631 209



“HELP TO LIVE” ADOPTS A SCHOOL - NEEDS SUPPORT

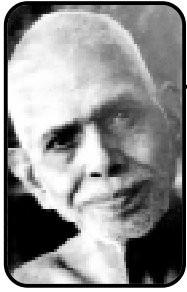
Help to Live, a Chennai based voluntary organisation run by a team of software professionals have adopted The Saivite Middle School, in North Chennai, that cater to students belonging to lower income group with classes upto 8th std.

The Saivite Middle School,
6/37, Vekier Street,
Kondithope, Chennai-600 079

The school is said to be nearly one hundred year old institution.

Nandini Voice For the Deprived makes everyeffort to ensure the credibility of appeals to the best of its ability within its constraints and limitations, through supporting documents and physical verification where feasible. But, it would be open to those desirous of helping the less privileged ones to exercise their own judgment and check the veracity of the claims wherever possible.

EDITOR



Bhagavan Ramana Maharishi

Note by the Recorder

In a very critical and distressing period of his life, an humble devotee sought the Presence of Bhagavan Sri Ramana Maharshi, for his own peace of mind, and lived in the Asramam with the kind permission of the Sarvadhikari, Sri Niranjanananda Swami. The seeker took it upon himself to note down, as occasions arose, the sweet, refreshing and enlightening words of the Master. This self-imposed task was undertaken for the purification of his own mind and better understanding of the subtle and profound words of Sri Bhagavan. Shortly after, the Sarvadhikari officially took them over to the Asramam. These notes covering the period 1935-39 are included in the present volumes with the hope that some readers may find them interesting and helpful in their spiritual quest.

Recorder,
1st January, 1955

Sri Ramanasramam,

The dialogue with the Bhagavan continues

D.: If 'I' am always-here and now, why do I not feel so?

M.: That is it. Why says it is not felt? Does the real 'I' say it or the false 'I'? Examine it. You will find it as the wrong 'I'. The wrong 'I' is the obstruction. It has to be removed in order that the true 'I' may not be hidden. The feeling that I have not realised is the obstruction to realisation.

In fact it is already realised; there is nothing more to be realised. Otherwise, the realisation will be new; it has not existed so far, it must take place hereafter. What is born will also die. If realisation be not eternal it is not worth having. Therefore what we seek is not that which must happen afresh. It is only that which is eternal but not now known due to obstructions; it is that we seek. All that we need do is to remove the obstruction. That which is eternal is not known to be so because of ignorance. Ignorance is the obstruction. Get over this ignorance and all will be well.

The ignorance is identical with the 'I'-thought. Find its source and it will vanish.

The 'I'-thought is like a spirit which, although not palpable, rises up automatically with the body, flourishes and disappears with it. The body-consciousness is the wrong 'I'. Give up this body-consciousness. It is done by seeking the source 'I'. The body does not say 'I am'. It is you who say, 'I am the body!' Find out who this 'I' is. Seeking its source it will vanish.

D.: Then, will there be bliss?

M.: Bliss is coeval with Being-Consciousness. All the arguments relating to the eternal Being of that Bliss apply to Bliss also. Your nature is Bliss. Ignorance is not hiding that Bliss. Remove the ignorance for Bliss to be freed.

D.: Should we not find out the ultimate reality of the world, individual and God?

M.: These are all conceptions of the 'I'. They arise only after the advent of the 'I'-thought. Did you think of

them in your deep sleep? You existed in deep sleep and the same you are now speaking. If they be real should they not be in your sleep also? They are only dependent upon the 'I'-thought. Again does the world tell you 'I am the world'? Does the body say 'I am body'? You say, "This is the world", "this is body" and so on. So these are only your conceptions. Find out who you are and there will be an end of all your doubts.

D.: What becomes of the body after realisation? Does it exist or not? We see realised beings acting like others.

M.: This question need not arise now. Let it be asked after realisation, if need be. As for the realised beings let them take care of themselves. Why do you worry about them? In fact, after realisation the body and all else will not appear different from the Self.

D.: Being always Being-Consciousness-Bliss, why does God place us in difficulties? Why did He create us?

M.: Does God come and tell you that He has placed you in difficulties? It is you who say so. It is again the wrong 'I'. If that disappears there will be no one to say that God created this or that.

That which is does not even say 'I am'. For, does any doubt rise 'I am not'?

Only in such a case should one be reminding oneself 'I am a man'. One does not. On the other hand, if a doubt arises whether he is a cow or a buffalo he has to remind himself that he is not a cow, etc., but 'I am a man'. This would never happen. Similarly with one's own existence and realisation.

23rd January, 1937

347. The mind is a bundle of thoughts. The thoughts arise because there is the thinker. The thinker is the ego. The ego, if sought, will automatically vanish. The ego and the mind are the same. The ego is the root-thought from which all other thoughts arise.

24th January, 1939

615. Another from the group asked: How is the ego to be destroyed?

M.: Hold the ego first and then ask how it is to be destroyed. Who asks this question? It is the ego. Can the ego ever agree to kill itself? This question is a sure way to cherish the ego and not to kill it. If you seek the ego you will find it does not exist. That is the way to destroy it.

In this connection I am often reminded of a funny incident which took place when I was living in the West Chitrai Street in Madura. A neighbour in an adjoining house anticipated the visit of a thief to his house. He took precautions to catch him. He posted policemen in mufti to guard the two ends of the lane, the entrance and the back-door to his own house. The thief came as expected and the men rushed to catch him. He took in the situation at a glance and shouted "Hold him, hold him. There-he runs-there-there." Saying so he made good his escape.

So it is with the ego. Look for it and it will not be found. That is the way to get rid of it.

Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee— THE INDIAN GORBACHEV?

There has been no convincing explanation till date as to how Communism lost the battle in several countries of the world. Even China is no more viewed as a Communist country in the world but as a country of one party rule. It appears that the communist administrations have been virtually wiped out all over the world though the concept of communist philosophy, often confused with Marxist ideology will be talked about for all times to come.

What is not generally understood and even where it is understood, but only inaccurately is that Communism as propounded by leaders like Vladirmovich Lenin and Joseph Stalin and practiced in countries like the erstwhile Soviet Union is not the same as Marxism. The Communist system was an attempt by the Soviet Bolsheviks to give a practical shape to Marxism and it was more of an experiment to start with. That it became a convenient tool for the self seekers in the following years, provoking **Geroge Orwell to write the classic 'Animal Farm', is besides the point.**

In fact, it would be a total negation of the Marxian principle if it is assumed that the Communistic Governance would be there unaltered for all times to come. To that extent, while it could be said that the Communistic system as practiced in countries such as Soviet Union, Poland and other East European countries and still being practiced in Vietnam, Cuba and China has been a failed attempt by and large, it would be a total intellectual fallacy to consider this as a failure of the Marxian ideology. The problem is that the diehard communists do not admit this distinction and thereby **they are doing a positive disservice to the Marxist ideology.**

Unfortunately, numerous aspects of Marxist ideology are not known to the average man. For instance, while it is generally assumed that Marx was against religion and an atheist, such an assumption is without any basis. **The farthest Marx said on religion was that religion is the sigh of the oppressed, provides spirit for the spiritless and acts as the opium of the masses.** The soundness of the statement which is based upon psychological perspective cannot be disputed. Similarly Marx also said that for Marxism to succeed, capitalism has to attain its utmost potentials when it would crumble under its own weight. We are perhaps witnessing this happening right before our eyes in the United States, what with the decay in the society reaching mammoth proportions, citizens confused with the fact that peace still eludes him even though material gratification has reached its peak. It would not be wrong to argue that

Marxist ideals are basically utopian in nature and impossible to accomplish. But the morally superior nature of Marxist thought cannot be questioned. Can anybody find fault with the spirit behind the Marxian presumption that State will eventually wither away, and countries will be left with no borders and that there would be no place for the oppressive State organs such as military, police and the like. People would govern by themselves, do the work assigned to them and will be happy to take only what they would need. Well, in short, Marx visualizes the return of the **KRITHA YUGA** culture back on this planet. Marxism is **the most open and least dogmatic of various political ideologies** and this is amply demonstrated by the proposition of Marx that everything is subject to change except the concept of change.

The pity is that the comrades who were true passionate Marxists with the requisite intellectual calibre have always been a handful, either in the erstwhile Soviet Union or in the communist movements all over the world. Thus, when a true Marxist in the form of Michael Gorbachev came on to the scene and introduced the concepts of Glasnost and Perestroika meaning openness and reforms respectively with the sole intention of shepherding the party in the right direction, he inevitably faced strong opposition as he was stepping on the toes of well entrenched forces with their own personal agenda.

In the context of Indian political scenario, while personally there have been towering leaders of the stature of EMS Namboodripad, BT Ranadive and so on, the leaders of the Indian communist movement have been rather naively carried away by the concept of Communism having an international character. Hence, the Indian communists were always seen to be more loyal to the Communist movement and the international citadels of communism of yester year such as Moscow and Beijing and lost whatever appeal they had with the Indian masses and naturally so. The inspiration that they chose to derive from these communist countries were totally out of sync with the general line of thinking of the masses.

The international collapse of communist movements inevitably had an impact upon the Indian communist movement. With the communist pattern of governance coming a cropper in Soviet Union, and China becoming a reluctant adherent of the Communistic governing principle, Indian communists all of a sudden felt orphaned as they have nowhere to look forward to, for their inspiration. The communists in India are now merely looked upon as leftists. As a matter of fact, this movement itself has split several

times with Naxalites and Maoists and today one does not know as to what it really stands for . Several other political parties in India advocate the same economic, political and social philosophies as the communists do and the individual identity of the communists remains only in their name. And all this only because the communist (both international and domestic) over the years have miserably failed to project Marxism in the proper perspective. Marxism is more of a political philosophy than a mechanism for administering any nation. For example, Marxism talks about the possibility of STATE withering away eventually and nowhere has he advocated political engineering for the state to artificially wither away, but that is precisely what the communists not only of the Indian variety but also Euro communist, French communist and others have tried to do by nationalizing everything and **frowning upon the success of enterprises run by individual entrepreneurs.**

In such a confusing scenario, a man like Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee emerges like a whiff of fresh air to every section of society except those belonging to his own party. An individual who could be described as a rightist amongst the leftists and perhaps, could be considered as an anachronism in the context of original undiluted Marxist ideology. Though he presides over a so called communist government in West Bengal, he is doing everything that the other pragmatic governments all over the world, do. He advocates privatization, welcomes private capital and perhaps thinks like a professional administrator not burdened or shackled by distorted ideological nonsense. He is different from the image of communists that world knew, all because he seems to have imbibed the REAL Marxian spirit.

He certainly resembles someone like Gorbachav of Russia who, unwittingly, presided over the liquidation of the

communist government and initiated the chain of collapse of communist governments in eastern Europe, in his attempts to correct the system at a measured pace, but underestimating the power of the forces that he had unleashed.

There is obviously considerable unrest and disquiet amongst the "loyal members of communist movement in India" about Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee's approach, outlook and methods. They are in no position to take him head on, placed as they are with a dearth of charismatic leaders.

Unfortunately, there is nobody in Indian communist movement today with the strength of conviction and understanding of the Marxist ideology like EMS Namboodripad . But even whether EMS would have challenged Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee, is a mootpoint as there is a possibility of EMS being able to see the merits of Buddhadeb's approach.

All the members of the communist movement in India today are silent about Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee, since he has won the election in West Bengal with his open policy with enormous mandate of the people. If he had lost the recent elections, perhaps, the "loyal adherents of the communist practices" would have had their knives out against Buddhadeb for his nonconformist approach. But, they cannot do so now since he seems to have been able to capture the imagination of the people.

It appears that Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee has set out on the path of Gorbachev in attempting to do to the Indian communist movement what the much admired but also much reviled Russian leader attempted to do to the CPSU and Soviet Union. But the essential prerequisite to understand the personality of somebody like Buddhadeb is to understand the true spirit of Marxism and not of the communist movements that have sprung up all over the world religiously following the Stalinist pattern of governance.

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Corrupt doctors Ordered to pay back Bribes

There are many things that are common between India and China apart from their Asian origin. But in recent times, China has been forging ahead of India in several front, which is generally attributed to the single party government in China.

Whatever it may be, it appears that corruption index in China and India are not much different. However, unlike India the Chinese Government appears to have taken earnest steps to put down the corruption, realising the fact that corrupt conditions would weaken the fabric and fibre of the country before long.

Read the story given below:

Chinese Government have called upon corrupt doctors and other medical staff to hand over bribes taken from

patients or drug companies and have been asked to open a bank account to deposit the cash, state media said.

The account would be open for public scrutiny, the Beijing News said and medical workers who had received bribes since 2001 were urged to hand over the cash.

Regardless of whether they are common doctors, nurses or hospital administrators, all who have received discounts or commissions for medicine, equipment or other sources of inappropriate income, must hand them in to their hospital's bribery administration office, the Beijing News quoted the municipal health bureau as saying.

FARMERS CONTINUE TO COMMIT SUICIDE IN MOTHER INDIA

Those who proclaim from the roof top that the Indian economy is growing and the nation is advancing should also take some time to investigate as to why the farmers **continue to commit suicide in this "prospering India"**.

Obviously, the growth in the country is lopsided benefiting only a very small segment of the society. The gap between the rich and the poor is widening and the gulf between various segments of the population is expanding at alarming rate.

The economic growth in the country will be meaningful only if it would benefit all sections. If it would not do so, it would only lead to greater exploitation and unrest. This is what is happening today in the country.

The unfortunate fact in India is that several of those who claim that they help poor and downtrodden particularly in the political outfits are themselves double speakers and exploiters. This makes, the situation in the country more dreadful.

Suicide in Kerala

One more farmer ended his life in Wayanad District in Kerala, the third to commit suicide due to debts in the last few days, as the Central fact finding team on a visit there to study the situation continued parleys with various farmers associations on 8th June.

After he was reported missing since last night, 54 year old Damodaran's body was recovered from near his house on 8th June morning at Kalluvadi and he ended his life allegedly due to mounting debt that included over Rs. two lakh availed as loan from four banks, police said.

One farmer each ended their lives in Kozhikode and Thiruvananthapuram on 7th June allegedly owing to debts.

The Central team, led by Planning Commission member, held wide-ranging talks with various farmers groups, including the Farmers Relief Forum. The team is on a three day visit to the state to analyse the reasons that forced the farmers to end their lives.

OXFORD OBJECTS, BUT NO OBJECTION IN INDIA

Coming down to breakfast in your nightie shows you really feel at home. But, it can also show a little more flesh than others might feel comfortable seeing.

Which is why students of St.Hilda's college at Oxford in UK have been ordered to dress properly in breakfast. Some were arriving for their morning tea wearing the night gowns or pyjamas that left little to the imagination.

They claimed that with no men in the all female halls of residence, there was no need for decorum. But the

kitchen staff particularly the handful of men among them hardly knew where to look.

Revealing night wear dress has now been banned. The order to cover up has not gone down well with students, however, who claim breakfasting in their night clothes is one of privileges of an all-girls college. A 20 year old student got a warning for wearing a lacy nightie and skimpy dressing gown after the ban was imposed.

Essay competition on the Reservation for the OBCs.

As part of its continuing attempt to provoke discussions on issues of contemporary importance, Nandini Voice for the Deprived invited college students from all over India to submit written papers on the topic titled **'Government's proposal to implement Mandal Commission for Reservation – A step forward or backward?'**

As we have invariably discovered from our experience in holding such contests, the difficult part is not so much in preparing grounds for such contests and extending the invitation, but in coming to a conclusion about the relative merits of these submissions and selecting three out of them. Any natural bias and incompetent judgement would inevitably be unfair to all the unsuccessful participants. In the process of conducting these contests, we have been repeatedly and pleasantly surprised about the generally high standard of the submissions in terms of originality, constructive suggestions offered and the demonstration of maturity beyond the age of the participants as seen from the perspective adopted and the manner in which issues are analysed.

Well, our present experience was no exception and with great difficulty and after much deliberation, we selected three entries out of the numerous entries that we received from all over India and in picking up the selected entries, have tried to be as unbiased as humanly possible. It is our great pleasure to be awarding a nominal cash award to each of the successful participants in recognition of their commendable efforts. At the same time, we would like to assure the unsuccessful ones, that their not being successful is in no way a reflection on the quality of their work and our hearty congratulations to them as well for coming out with some wonderfully original and thought provoking ideas.

Excerpts from essays submitted by the three successful participants are reproduced below.

Priyanjali Kharbas, a student of management studies from the Symbiosis Centre for Management studies, Pune-411014.

What needs to be taken into account is that like most political agendas, many of the recommendations of the Mandal Commission were largely misinterpreted or ignored. The increased reservation for OBCs was just one of the recommendations of the Commission. Others included special educational facilities to upgrade the cultural environment of the students, with special training on vocational training, separate coaching facilities for students, the setting up of special bodies for training the OBC entrepreneurs. None of these recommendations were even casually examined by the Government.

The Government should provide strong incentive to those students from the backward sections of the society to participate at the elementary and secondary level – efforts should be made to draw every child into the realm of mainstream educational process to level the playing field.

What can inarguably be the downside to the Government's proposal to implement the Mandal Commission formula for reservations would be the inevitable Braindrain. With increased difficulty in procuring admissions in the Indian colleges, there will be migration of students towards foreign sands with many of them choosing to settle down there. This will be detrimental to the overall larger objective of development of India as a whole.

The solution lies somewhere in the middle. There should be reevaluation of the whole criteria for what constitutes a 'backward class'. The short term myopic approach to social upliftment has posed serious problems to the beneficiaries of reservation and hence should be avoided. It is seen that today the Government is making the same mistake that it made a decade ago. It has taken a facile and populist route, which will eventually show results not greatly varied from those achieved in the last 57 years. Thus the Government's decision to implement the Mandal Commission formula for reservations is a backward step; for the simple reason that they are adopting only part of the recommendations.

The result of this is student's alienation from each other and how could anything resulting in this be a forward step?

G.Krishnamurthy, a fourth year engineering student of Veltech engineering College, Chennai.

Will the quota help the OBCs significantly? No. Of the 10 million odd OBC children who reach college admission stage each year, this scheme will help barely 10000, a mere 0.1%. Further the present quota system benefits only those who have already tasted its fruit and belong to upper class. Some glaring examples of misuse are when even the daughter/son of senior ministers, senior bureaucrats and the like use Quota to get at the right place.

While reservations to IITs, IIMs and AIIMS enabled SC, ST and OBC students to leapfrog their way into prestigious institutions, no attention was paid to the fact that this goal was reached only after 12 to 15 years of hard, foundational work in schools and colleges by those students belonging to other communities. And unless this foundation was adequately strengthened by building a sound coaching infrastructure for the students from

the reserved categories, they will find themselves all at sea in professional colleges.

The guiding principle for the upliftment of students from the disadvantaged sections of the society is to integrate them quickly, but right now, there are political stakes in keeping them separate, weaker and backward and hence the policy of perpetuating the Quota system would only help this process.

ABHIRUP SAHA, a student of MA Economics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

Equality of opportunity is a bedrock of our democracy and we must collectively create a level playing field for all.

Basically it is the reservation aspect of the commission's recommendation which is being criticized. So we come to the question: are reservation necessary? In this context, one should understand what affirmative action is. It broadly means positive steps taken to increase the representation of women and minorities in areas of employment, education and business from which they have been historically excluded.

Now, if preferential selection, or quotas, which are but a form of it, is to be implemented, many disagreements arise about how to shape it. The most common argument is that socio economic rather than caste should be the criteria for reservations. This argument misconstrues the objective of Affirmative Action. Affirmative action is not about reducing socio-economic inequalities. It is about reducing inequalities between various groups in society.

Merit has become an alibi for preserving the Brahminical status quo where access to and control over knowledge and institutions is restricted to a elite minority.

Reservations will promote a richer education and greater social cohesion. As to reservations promoting fault lines in the society based on caste, the fact is that the public (read the general category masses) needs to be sensitised in the right manner.

There is some discomfort in extending the quotas to the whole of OBCs. The exclusion of 'creamy layer' is very important. But these are implementation issues in general. The recommendations of the Mandal Commission can be unambiguously declared as a 'forward looking' move both for the society and for the backward classes.

If this process is blocked, caste antagonism will only flare up. Change is inevitable and essential, and can and should be facilitated harmoniously.

YET ANOTHER PRICE INCREASE FOR PETROL AND DIESEL

The recent price increase of petrol and diesel is one more indication that the country is left unprepared to face the energy crisis, inspite of adequate warnings. Obviously, the country's planners and administrators lack forward planning and innovative approach. If this issue would continue to remain unchallenged, then several economic achievements and progress made by the country in the recent past could be wiped out to substantial extent.

The Government of India is certainly guilty of not organising its thoughts and strategies and providing the necessary direction and guidelines to the country and industries in particular in facing the crisis. While the problem of fuel crisis is the same for several countries all over the world, meaningful initiatives and steps are being taken in Europe and USA to overcome the problem. With no feasibility of stepping up the crude oil production in the immediate future and expectations of the gas exploration in the country not meeting the claims, one would not know now as to where the required energy would come from in the future.

Energy crisis is not a matter of simply raising the prices of Natural gas and liquid fuels at periodical intervals. It is much more serious issue and the country has to come to term with it, particularly since it is believed that the price of crude oil is likely to remain nearly at above 70US\$ for long time to come and may even go up in future.

One meaningful solution that has been suggested is the rapid promotion of biofuel projects based on Jatropha. Elaborate discussions have already taken place at various

forums. It is the responsibility of the Government of India to lay down policy for biofuel, which the government has failed to do so far. It is amazing that the Government is unwilling to take a firm policy decision with regard to pricing structure for the jatropha based biofuel and encourage and facilitate the necessary development work in the field. Jatropha biofuel has caught the imagination of the nation, with huge enthusiasm generated. But the government remains lethargic and clueless.

Obviously, the development of jatropha based biofuel project requires the introduction of strong incentive schemes from the government including tax concession and subsidies. This is necessary and such incentives have been provided by European countries and USA to the biofuel project. The Government appears to be uncertain and does not seem to be clear about the subsidy policy.

Scope exists to technologically optimize several process parameters in biofuel production and develop methods for more profitable utilization of by products such as glycerine, waste residue etc. But this calls for substantial research and development efforts on a massive level on priority.

Nations are not built and economies do not grow based on vision of politicians, economists and tax planners alone. Technologists and engineering personnel have a vital role to play. In the case of jatropha biofuel, the government is yet to carry out any full fledged technology dialogue with the industry and it is losing time and is wasting opportunities

GLABENATOR - A HELPFUL TOOL FOR THE DISABLED

Glabenator, which costs less than Rs.1,500, is a gadget some what like a simple computer that enables the people having disabled hands, legs and mouth to express their feelings without much movement from their seats.

The Glabenator displays several choices like food, clothing etc. that a patient needs in his day-to-day life. And what the patient has to do is to get attached with two sensor rods on the muscles above his eyebrows. By raising his eyebrows, the patient can scroll the different options available on the screen of the Glabenator and by contracting his eyebrows, he can select the option. The machine then speaks out in a human voice what the patient wants. The inventor of this ingenious tool is 16-year old young scientist from Orissa, Apurv Mishra,

He looks for sponsors to get the US patent to hone his talents. American patient will ensure him copyright

protection and pave the way for handsome amount of sponsorship for his further research work, explains the budding scientist.

The components required for the Glabenator are not manufactured in India. They have to be imported to develop the machine.

Glabenator also provide another limb to those healthy persons whose hands and legs are engaged with different activities.

Apurv Mishra has bagged the third prize for this project in the engineering category at the International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) held in USA. ISEF is considered to be the world's largest pre-college scientific research based competition which draws 1,500 participants across the globe from 47 member countries.

He has also been awarded by the US Army for this unique machine.

Is there a case for the President to quit ?

These are not very encouraging times for the country, from whatever angle one looks at. It is so because, the country does not seem to be taking the direction which would see the emancipation of the masses in the near future. There is a lot of talk going on about the great economic growth taking place in the country and the promising portents for the future. Well, the masses in no way seem to be 'affected' by such predictions. On the one hand, our impoverished masses are made to feel that whatever travails that they are subjected to in their day to day lives for their bare existence is all irredeemable and something that they have no alternative but to confront and put up with. The Indian masses being what they are, **intelligent but gullible, courageous but tolerant, well informed but philosophical and sacrificing** are ever loath to blame the politicians and the scheming rulers for their misery. Perhaps the Hindu Philosophy which preaches wisdom, detachment, spirit of sacrifice and the like values etc. is to be blamed for the manner in which it has apparently succeeded in shaping the attitudes and personalities of the typical Indian into being less materialistic and more philosophical. The truth is that the Hindu or (is it?) Indian Philosophy is quite complex and the potential for misunderstanding the essence of it is enormous. For example, when detachment is advocated, by no stretch of imagination could it be taken to mean that the individual should refrain from aspiring. Well, be that as it may.

While observing the abominable conditions of the poor Indian citizen, one really feels disgusted about the manner in which certain well entrenched sections of the society flaunt their wealth, power and status which unfortunately in the majority of cases is totally undeserving of them. In such a scenario, it is perhaps inevitable that crooks thrive simply because the better informed and the more learned decide to abdicate their responsibility. **Could there be a better illustration of the ganging up of such self seekers under the aegis of one forum, nothing other than or less glorious than the Indian Parliament itself, combining forces,**

sinking with alacrity, the irreconcilable differences among themselves, to pass a legislation which fortunately for us has not seen the light of the day as yet, only due to the alertness of the President, emerging as a significant conscience keeper and one who makes earnest efforts to take his role as the custodian of the constitution seriously in letter and spirit. It is a paradox that the ascendance of Dr. Kalam to the august office was done in the most casual manner by the ruling party men of the day succumbing to the viles and pressures of an idiosyncratic ally by name Chandrababu Naidu. Well, that is no disrespect to Dr. Kalam himself.

Nature has its own ways of throwing up surprises and thus we have a President upon whom we could rest assured that there is no danger to the 'India at large'. It is our good fortune that President Abdul Kalam combines the laudable qualities of scientific outlook, patriotic fervour and compassion for the deprived. It is indeed true that many well meaning people have been feeling frustrated that an eminent personality such as Mr. Kalam have not been seen to be asserting himself enough, so as to put fears in the minds of the errant politician who conveniently at his will, bend the law to serve his own interests. But the proponents of such ideas seem to have been disproved by the latest action of the President who seem to believe in acting effectively as and when he should.

The Honourable President's reaction to the 'Office of Profit' legislation was the least expected by the politicians of all hues and shades. It is a credit to the Indian democratic spirit that even the politician most contemptuous of the values advocated and cherished by the Indian democracy does not feel emboldened enough to talk his mind or have the gumption to disregard openly the views of the President or the Judiciary. While the judiciary atleast have the power of judicial authority to declare something as contemptuous, the moral authority by which the President drives home the point is a tribute to the lawmakers of the country. Well, such authority has been effectively demonstrated more than once by President Mr. Kalam, who is fast emerging as one of the most

illustrious Presidents the country has ever seen with the display of sterling character that he has demonstrated from time to time.

Of course, we all know that the President does have his limitations and cannot decline to sign on the dotted lines if the bill is sent back by the Govt. after what they could claim as reconsideration, but the fact remains that the President has effectively made his point and leave the rest for the people to judge.

In comparison to the President, the illustrious economist Prime Minister fares very poorly. That he has chosen to sail with the wind on more than one occasion more than amply demonstrating a willingness to swallow any insult and make any number of compromises, obviously for the sake of his survival is quite sickening to any self respecting individual. The crass initiative taken by the Government headed by him to bring about a legislation known as 'Office of Profit legislation' just to protect wholesale the wholly unjustified cause of a substantial number of Indian Parliamentarian does no credit to his carefully cultivated image over several decades.

By returning the Office of Profit Bill, the President has clearly demonstrated as to what his priorities are and has chosen to stand by the nation, so to say. It now appears that the politician would not be averse to defy the President openly and so would be sending back the bill, after which the President would have no option but to sign.

In such an event, If the President decides to put in his papers in order to show his dissent to the manner in which politics is conducted in this country and for refusing to go along with the move of the Government and Parliament with questionable motives, his stature would be enhanced manifold. Well, even a threat such as this one from the President would surely bring the politician to his knees, concerned as he is all the time about his public image and acceptability. In such an improbable scenario, the President would be the moral victor which will also prove a point for his successors that the ceremonial head need not perennially remain so.

Safeguarding the lives of women from lower income group – Proceedings of the meeting demanding imposition of Prohibition in T.N.



Nandini voice for the Deprived , organized a meeting of women from lower income group, to demand imposition of prohibition in Tamil Nadu to safeguard women's lives.

The meeting was attended by around 250 persons from all over Tamil Nadu including from far off places such as Dindigul, Perambalur, Villupuram,

Tiruchi, Madurai and Chennai.

The meeting took place at P.S.High School Mylapore Chennai from 10 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. on 28.5.2006 (Sunday).

The findings of the study conducted by Nandini Voice For The Deprived on the hardships suffered by women in lower income group due to liquor habit amongst men folk was presented during the meeting.

Sri. N.S. Venkataraman, Trustee presented the findings of the study and explained the details with a number of case studies.

More than twenty affected women from lower income group spoke about their problems due to the liquor habit of the menfolk in their families. The frequent physical beating suffered by them, frittering away all their earnings on liquor by men and denying money for running the family have made the lives of womenfolk hellish, said several women with tears in their eyes.

Sri. A. K. Venkatasubramaniam IAS (Retd.) and founder, Catalyst Trust spoke on the occasion . He said that out of Rs.6000 crores spent by the liquor addicts in the lower income group who purchase from TASMAC, around Rs.5000 crores is by way of taxes. He said that the Government is indirectly taxing the poor by selling liquor to them and in the process causing havoc in the poor families. He also pointed out that it is unconstitutional to permit liquor sales and it is violative of article 47 of the Indian Constitution. He also drew the attention to the recent Supreme Court judgement, disapproving the liquor policy of the government.

Sri. Venkatasubramaniam said that the women should organize themselves and protest strongly and demand imposition of prohibition to protect their lives.

Dr. Rama Kashyap, a social activist said that the women should organize themselves effectively through the Self Help Groups and effectively intervene in the case of physical abuse by drunken men and put fear in the minds of the men, who seem to think that the women can be harassed at will, particularly when they are drunk.

Sri. D.K Oza IAS Retd. , former Vice Chancellor of Gandhigram University said Mahatma Gandhi would not have tolerated the present conditions in the country due to the liquor policies of the Governments. He would have worked out a strong and appropriate strategy and built public opinion by making personal sacrifices , if necessary.

At the end of the meeting, the following conclusions were arrived at with spontaneous unanimity and appropriate resolutions were passed

1. The poor families are economically and socially getting uprooted in large number due to the rapidly expanding liquor practices amongst men folk.

2. As the Tamil Nadu government is itself selling liquor, the liquor habit has the sanction of law and approval of the government. This is one dominant reason for the rapid spread of liquor habit in the state. The government has gone to the extent of providing incentives to the TASMAC employees for boosting the sale of liquor through the shops.

3. Apart from the suffering of the women, the other serious issue is that the liquor habit is rapidly spreading amongst the younger generation and the students in the formative age group. This will have disastrous consequences for the future of the country.

4. Considering the sufferings of the women and several other adverse consequences, the meeting demanded enforcement of total prohibition in the Tamil Nadu state as early as possible.

5. Until total prohibition is imposed and enforced, the sale of liquor should be restricted by restricting the hours of sale in the liquor shops and shifting the liquor shops to locations in the outskirts of the city and at places atleast 500 metres away from educational institutions, temples, churches and mosques.

6. Those who beat women in drunken state and cause public nuisance should be arrested under Goondas Act.

7. The meeting expressed horror that the government still appears to be unconcerned about the plight of women due to its liquor policy and is extending freebies to the poor while taking away all their money by way of liquor sales.

8. The meeting resolved that the battle against liquor policy of the government would continue, deriving inspiration from Gandhian philosophy.

9. The meeting also resolved to send these resolutions to Tamil Nadu Government and expressed the hope that the Tamil Nadu Government would be sensitive to the opinions of the suffering women and respect their views and act immediately.

10. The meeting also requested the press and TV media to publicise the proceedings of the meeting and support the cause.



Thirukkural

Practical difficulties in winning an argument

Thirukkural written by the sage poet Thiruvalluvar consists of 1330 poems and are divided into 133 chapters.

Sri.N.S.Sankararaman writes series of articles on the essence of Thirukkural, which commenced from Feb., 2003 issue.

He can be contacted at paramhams03@.vsnl.net.

A wise man once said in exasperation that it is never possible to win an argument. It is a fact that truth lies somewhere between two extreme positions on any given issue. In fact, no argument could be won on the basis of the intellectual content of the different positions alone. An individual could be persuaded to do what is required to be done.

But, to bring about a change of heart in an individual, on issues, relying upon one's argument for its intellectually accurate content is almost an impossible task. The person attempting to persuade may delude himself under the assumption that he has been able to drive home his point effectively and convincingly. But, this kind of delusion would be only due to the exaggerated notions about himself. Various factors such as formal power, indirect power, influencing power, coercive power etc. not to speak of certain inherent advantages a person has over others, leads the subject individual to allow himself to be persuaded to another's viewpoint. But, no legitimate and absolute change of heart takes place.

It is said that man forms his opinion based upon the limited facts in his possession and the biases that he has. The majority of people are generally not aware of his or her own prejudices which would have the effect of colouring one's judgement. Man's EGO effectively prevents him to engage in meaningful and true introspection free from attachment to his own self and hence the individual is absolutely convinced about the correctness of his viewpoint. Any change that is to be brought about should be done so at the unconscious level, in order that the individual is veered round to the right position from the bottom of the heart. One sure proof of such conviction is a reflection of the individual's belief in his natural day to day conduct. This is the basic reason behind establishing an institutional mechanism for arbitration of disputes where the authority of the arbitrator is absolute. **It is said experience is the mother of knowledge and knowledge, the mother of wisdom.** Varied experiences in a man's life over a period of time enables him to acquire accumulated

wisdom, so to say, and such individuals by instinct could distinguish between right and wrong postulates. Open mindedness and objectivity are all nice to talk about, but it is just not possible for a man with an exaggerated sense of importance about himself to practice these higher ideals.

Difficult though it may be, to argue one's case successfully to win over an individual, Tiruvalluvar says that the power to argue one's case effectively is a great strength, a man could possess, and this strength, unique in nature cannot be categorized under any other strength a man would possess.

Tiruvalluvar says the root cause of every negative or positive fall out has its origins in the words expressed by men. Hence, people should realize the significantly important need to watch the choice of one's words.

Winning an argument according to Tiruvalluvar is not about just presenting the case and leave the rest to take its natural course. The manner in which the case is presented is as important if not more important than the case itself. The protagonist of a particular viewpoint should understand the nature and power of the words used in a given situation. The word chosen to convey a particular idea should be the most powerful one available. Powerful enough, to serve the purpose in the given context. Word in the given context could be taken to mean a particular expression resorted to. For instance, when Churchill said **'I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat'**, it had great impact upon the listeners and served the intended purpose which was to inspire and convince people about the earnestness of the speaker. Similarly, Jawaharlal's 'freedom at midnight' speech in which he says **'When the whole world sleeps, India awakes to a new dawn'**. No other expression could have driven home the point, so powerfully, which Jawaharlal Nehru effectively did in one sentence, which has become immortal

Valluvar further stresses the importance of knowing the mind of the listener in deciding about the suitability of the words used and acceptability of the same to a particular set of audience. Words should be palatable to the audience.

The manner in which expressions and arguments are advanced would go a long way in making one's argument effective and the man invincible. The passion with which one talks, the personal conviction and positive energy with which one presents his case has a sweeping effect upon the listener, according to Valluvar, and it is not possible for his adversary to conquer him.

Valluvar further advises on the importance of presenting a cogent argument in a coherent manner. The presentation of a particular viewpoint would be least effective, if one is not able to present it in a logical sequence so as to appeal positively to the listener. The manner of presentation should be able **to create a positive vibe in the minds of the listener, so that he**

becomes receptive to the idea. Here, Valluvar possibly suggests that if a man is not able to succeed in his mission to win over another by his argument, the fault lies more in his shortcomings than with the listening subject.

Effective presentation of an argument also involves an ability to say in a few words what could be presented in the form of a lengthy passage, says Valluvar. According to Valluvar, a scholar who is not able to express himself on his subject in such a manner that it is easily comprehensible to the listener, could be equated to a bunch of flowers without fragrance.

Well, lastly, the inference is that a mere presentation of one's viewpoint is not just about any one particular aspect such as the choice of words, consideration of the audience profile or such other. It has to be essentially a tactful approach which would take into account the various intrinsic elements in a given situation and devise the most appropriate approach **to make the argument EFFECTIVE.**

Need for 'unlearning' in schools

As the new academic year has begun, dishonesty, corruption and exploitation by the schools and colleges are becoming too evident. As the business men have taken effective control of educational institutions, money is all that matters for them. The worst sufferers are the poor people.

With quality education not being extended by most of the government run schools particularly at Panchayat and Municipal levels, the poor families think that their children would have better future only if they would be admitted in private schools.

While a few of the schools are aided by the government, a number of others are run on self financing basis. There are no norms for fixation of fees and other charges by these institutions.

Many of them demand fees under various pretext including computer fees for a first standard student, uniform fee, building construction fee etc. Many insist on cash payment and do not accept cheques or

demand drafts. Many do not provide receipts for the money taken.

It is tragic that the young students are exposed to such corrupt and exploitative conditions, even as they begin their lives in the schools. Many of the young boys and girls from the poor families see the plight of their parents helplessly running from pillar to post to collect the money to pay for the education of their children.

A thoughtful and responsible government can certainly put down such objectionable practices on the part of many of the schools. While some rules do exist, they are never implemented. The school managements can always manage the government machinery by bribing them, in the event of their being caught for malpractices.

What can the poor do when the government would not govern? Today, the young students have a lot to unlearn in the schools.

Readers' forum



Readers' forum provides space for the enlightened readers and well wishers of NANDINI VOICE FOR THE DEPRIVED to give expression to their views on a variety of socio economic issues that is of relevance to the society.

Further enrichment of the journal with your thoughtful inputs would certainly go a long way in promoting the cause that the journal seeks to espouse.

Meeting for the underprivileged women

Sir,

It was wonderful to attend your meeting of women from the lower strata of society last Sunday (28th May). I applaud your ability to organize rural women from the under privileged background. I also greatly appreciate the fact that you give a special helping hand to persons with disability.

D.K.Oza IAS (Retd.)

Chennai



Sir,

A really worthwhile effort. Unfortunately, the Government is totally impervious to any reasoned pleading. It is stone-deaf and can be stirred into some sort of response only by mass movements. (See what is happening on the reservation issue: The protesters by their numbers and agitational tactics have made even PM and highest functionaries come to them with folded hands) So, you must think of a mass mobilisation of about 500,000 women for this cause. Otherwise yours will be a cry in the wilderness and a meeting for meeting's sake.

Secondly, one of the reasons the poor — largely day-labourers — adduce for drinking is that they are thereby able to get over the fatigue and pain. Many of them have told me that it is unfair for us to deny them what relieves them of their depression, while we are afraid of striking at the rich and the well-to-do who spend crores every year on drinks in bars and hotels. At one of the rallies a suggestion made was that groups such as yours should prevail upon hotels and bars to stop selling drinks and the drinking middle class and above, to give up drinking. Their question is: Why do we pressure the illiterate and the poor to give up drinking and tolerate the educated and the intelligent to persist with this obnoxious habit? They want us to hold dharnas before hotels and campaign among the educated drinkers, before we take the easy path of preaching to the poor, forwarding resolutions to the Government and thinking that our duty is done.

BSRaghavan IAS (Retd.)

Chennai

Sir,

You have made bold to take up the noble cause of Prohibition that has been shamelessly abandoned by the *soi disant* followers of Mahatma Gandhi. All social revolutions commence in a small way only but substantially worthy causes have the element of success built into them.

A.E.Housman says in one of his poems 'What God abandoned, these defended'. You should be proud to be in that group.

I wish your endeavour all victory.

T.G.Narayanaswamy

TGN Foundation

Chennai



Sir,

Thank you very much for your kind letter. Unfortunately I will be away in New Delhi on 28th May. Hence I will miss the very important meeting you are organizing on that day. I wish the programmes of Nandini Voice for the Deprived great success.

Dr. M S Swaminathan

M S Swaminathan Research Foundation

Chennai



Sir,

I appreciate the sincere efforts of Nandini Voice For The Deprived in demanding position of prohibition to safeguard women's life in lower income group and I hope you will get a positive response in this regard from the Government of Tamil Nadu.

**Sivasankari
(Tamil Writer)**

Chennai-600020



SCHOOL FEES HIKE

Sir,

The private school owners have hiked the school fees in schools owned by them, thus causing much hardship to the parents in general and the middle class parents in particular.

All parents want to educate their wards in a better way. It is their prime duty too. But education has been made a product for sale and, indeed very costly.

But the school owners justify the hike of school fees on the plea that 95% of the school fees collections go for the salary payments of teaching and non-teaching staff. They compare the cost of cinema ticket and pizza with the cost of the school fees.

The claims of spending 95% of school income to teachers is not at all true. Most of the school owners live in posh bungalows with luxurious car etc. Most of the schools do not have play grounds and adequate laboratory facilities. Even the toilets are sticky and not maintained properly..

Government should not ignore such problems and should ensure fair deal in the education system.

D.Vedamuthu, **Chennai-20**



Sir,

We welcome your fight against alcoholism and we pray for the re-introduction of prohibition in Tamil Nadu.

S.Ramakrishnan,
President,
Amar Seva Sangam,
Tirunelveli Dist.

THE MOST AFFECTED VICTIM OF LIQUOR & TOBACCO -OUR CHILDREN

Sir

We are facing an epidemic because of liquor and tobacco use. Nandini Voice For The Deprived is working to caution the next generation against liquor and tobacco. Let children grow healthy, disease free. All children have the right to a liquor and tobacco free world.

M.Chidambaranathan

Chennai



SECULAR BRAND OF POLITICS

Sir,

No sooner DMK led Government assumed office of Tamil Nadu, the first thing they did with fanfare was to issue Hindu Management order on the recruitment of archakas without any caste consideration for performing oblation in the temple.

By another executive order, the state government prohibits the temple authorities to receive dignitaries/VIPS from being honoured by Purna Kumbham as per existing temple practice.

S.Sivaraman,

Chennai-18

Need for Press and Media Reforms

It is sad that the press and the media in the country have also now gone into the hands of business houses, totally devoid of any ideals or values and whose only objective appears to be to earn money and multiply their income. They want to expand circulation at any cost and increase advertisement revenues to the maximum possible level. In such circumstances, the focus of the press and media is to produce sensational stories whether it is true or false and publish sex oriented photographs and articles that could attract the readers, even as they would corrupt their minds and attitude.

There are many things that deserve to be written for the sake of national progress and to highlight the plight of the suffering people. But, the press would be interested in such writings, only if they would be "good enough" to attract the readers and increase circulation.

As the press largely caters to the middle and upper income group, they are interested in the problems of the poor only to the extent that it would interest the rich and the affluent.

The widespread liquor drinking practices amongst the poor is a very serious social issue all over India and

particularly in states like Tamil Nadu. Thousands of poor families are being uprooted and poor women are being beaten and abused by the drunken men around them. When such issues are highlighted by the NGOs and socially conscious organizations, most sections of the media ignore such social issues, even though they are the ground realities.

There is a crying need to wage a struggle to get the media and the press out of the control of the business houses and restore its pride and glory. Again, like several other serious problems confronting the nation, one is at a loss to know as to how to ensure this.

The country needs committed social activists willing to take up such causes and make personal sacrifices in fighting for the issues. But, we have large percentage of armchair critics in the country who would support the cause in private and would also support the cause in public if they would be safe. There is tremendous sense of fear and self protective tendencies which makes the public opinion in this country impotent.



Medical Practitioners, asking for a cure — Are they all unscrupulous ?

PLEASE SUPPORT NANDINI VOICE FOR THE DEPRIVED

Many well meaning people do not lack the desire to help fellow citizens who suffer from poverty and hunger. But they really do little, perhaps not knowing how to.

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N.S. VENKATARAMAN
Chief Editor

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