

Nandini

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Voice For The Deprived

Dedicated to the cause of marginalised and downtrodden

VOL XVI

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RS.10/-

**So called VIPs
in Thirupathi Temple
Standing between the Lord
and other devotees**

SWAMI VIVEKANANDA SPEAKS



Swamiji spoke no harsh words against anyone; on the other hand he did not refrain from criticism when it was necessary. For example, there was the pandit who asked him if there was any harm in giving up *sandhyavandana* (ritualistic prayers performed in the morning, noon and evening) because of lack of time. “What!” exclaimed the swami, almost ferociously, “those giants of old, the ancient rishis, who never walked but strode, of whom if you were to think but for a moment you would shrivel up into a moth, they, sir, had time – and you have no time!”

On that same occasion, when a Westernised Hindu spoke in a belittling manner of the “meaningless teachings” of the Vedic seers, the swami fell upon him with thunderbolt vehemence, crying out, “How dare you criticize your venerable forefathers in such a fashion! A little learning has muddled your brain. Have you tested the science of the rishis? Have you even as much as read the Vedas? There is the challenge thrown by the rishis! If you dare oppose them, take it up; put their teachings to the test.”

SAYINGS OF VEDADRI MAHARSHI GUIDELINES FOR FOSTERING RELATIONS

- * Whether at home with family or in the office, avoid situations that would cause misunderstanding. Besides, do not magnify same, if any
- * I am big, I am virtuous - Abandon such an attitude
- * Try to handle nobly any theme, any issue
- * At times, do endure miseries
- * Do not argue what You say and do are correct
- * Abandon meanness
- * The belief that you are superior to anyone else is egoism and has to be nipped in its very bud
- * Never be greedy
- * Rake up any subject with another only if it is palatable
- * Unnecessarily do not aggravate small issues
- * Do not be obstinate. Be cooperative
- * Never mistake others without weighing their words and deeds in detail
- * Display humility, use nice words while talking
- * Behave smilingly with one and all
- * Be frank and transparent in talk
- * When problems arise, solve them then and there before any one else would step in.

Courtesy :- K.N. Narayana Pillai, Chennai

Desperate Calls

*You can enjoy your prosperity only if you share your income
with the deprived
and thus discover the satisfaction that it provides.*



Speech impaired person needs support for self employment

Mr.C.Bagyaraj is a poor hearing and speech impaired man. At present, he is working in a mutton shop.

Mr.C.Bagyaraj requests kind hearted persons for financial help to self employ himself.

Contact address:

Mr.C.Bagyaraj, S/o.Sri.Sivasamy
West Street,Edayar Post, Udayarpalayam Tk
Ariyaloor District, Tamil Nadu

Hearing impaired lady needs sewing machine

Ms S.Dhana Mary, age 21 years is a hearing impaired lady. She has undergone tailoring course.

Ms S.Dhana Mary requests kind hearted persons for donation of sewing machine for her self employment.

Contact address:

Ms S.Dhana Mary, D/o. Mr.Susaimuthu
North Street, Kallangarai,Susaiappar Patinam
Edayar Post,Udayarpalayam Tk
Ariyaloor District, Tamil Nadu ,Pin 621 804

Differently abled person needs support for self employment

Both Mr.S.Murugesan and his wife are physically disabled persons.

Mr.S.Murugesan requests kind hearted persons for financial help to set up petty shop to earn for their family.

Mr.S.Murugesan

S/o. Sri.Subramanian, Main
Road,Edayar Post,
Udayarpalayam TkAriyaloor District,
Tamil Nadu, Pin 621 804

Visually impaired persons need support

Blind People's Welfare Trust, managed by visually impaired persons, is rendering services to the poor visually impaired persons like providing food and shelter. At present, 30 inmates are staying in the premises.

Blind People's Welfare Trust requests financial help and support from kind hearted persons

Contact address

R.Rangasamy, President, Blind People Welfare Trust,
#1/19, Vandi Street,Vettaikarapalayam,
Vellannor Post, Kollumedu, Chennai-600 062
Cell:9381193543

Vanavil Blind Trust is rendering services to the visually impaired / handicapped persons .

The trust requests kind hearted persons to provide 15 school bags to the children of visually impaired persons

Contact address:

K.Kannan, Managing Trustee
Vanavil Blind Trust, 2/331, Keelathippampatti
Kasavanampatty (PO),Athoor (Tk)
Kannivadi (via),Dindigul-624 705, Phone:9344299301

Poor girl needs support for education

Ms.Hemalaxmi, age 12 years. is a poor girl studying 7th std in Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Sathyamangalam. She has passed Rashtrabhasha Visharad Poorvardh Examination (Hindi)

Her father is an unskilled worker.

Ms.Hemalaxmi requests kind hearted persons for financial help to continue her education.

For further details, please contact:

Ms.S.Hemalaxmi, D/o.M. Sundaravadivelu
61, Sri Annai Illam, Opposite to Dr. Narasimhan Hospital
Sathyamangalam-638 401,
Erode District
Tamil Nadu

Needs support for medical treatment

Ms. Akshatha, age 4 years is suffering from congenital heart disease. Cost of the open heart surgery at Wockhardt Hospital, Bangalore is Rs.1,27,500/-



Desperate Calls



Master Preetham , age 18 months is suffering from congenital heart disease. Cost of the open heart surgery at Wockhardt Hospital, Bangalore is Rs.1,25,000/-

Baby Manjula, age 24 days is suffering from congenital heart disease.

Cost of the open heart surgery at Wockhardt Hospital, Bangalore is Rs.1,50,000/-



Ms Tasnima Banu, age 13 years is suffering from RHD with severe PAH . Cost of the surgery at Mallya Hospitals, Bangalore is Rs.1,30,000/-



The cheque may be drawn in favour of concerned hospital and sent to the following address:

The Secretary, Save Poor Lives, No.22, Perumal Koil Street, Aminjikarai, Chennai-600 029

Kidney patient needs financial support

Mr.R.Balamurugan is suffering from kidney problem. The doctors advised him to undergo kidney transplantation. The cost of the surgery is Rs.3,00,000/-at PSG Hospital. Coimbatore



Mr.R.Balamurugan requests kind hearted persons for financial help for his surgery.

The cheque may be drawn in favour of PSG Hospital. Coimbatore and sent to the following address:

Mr.R.Balamurugan, 1/7, Mariamman Koil Veethi, Patanamputhoo
Coimbatore-641 016

Visually impaired person needs support

Mr. Balaraman is a poor visually impaired person. He is living with his mentally retarded son and wife in a small hut.

Mr. Balaraman requests kind hearted persons for financial help to repair his damaged hut .

Contact address: Mr. Balaraman, S/o.Sri.Munusami,
13, Sudukadu Street, Malangananthapuram
Zamin Pallavaram, Chennai-600 043

Speech impaired graduate needs job

Mr.K.Thirunavukarasu, age 25 years belongs to lower income group. He is a hearing and speech impaired person. He has passed B.Com . in the year 2009. He has also undergone computer operation course.

Mr.K.Thirunavukarasu requests for suitable job
Contact address:

Mr.K.Thirunavukarasu, Radhapuram (PO)
Karumarayapettai Street, Thirukanoor (Via)
Villupuram (Tk).Villupuram-605 501,Tamil Nadu

Children of visually impaired persons needs educational support

Voice Of The Visually Challenged Trust, is an organization run by visually impaired persons and seeks support for education of the children of visually impaired persons.

Support is required for purchase of note books and uniforms.

Name of the student	Class	Address for communication
M. Sarayaniyan	10 th std	No.20, Madurai Veeran Kovil Street, T.Nagar, Chennai-600 017
E. Kabilan	7 th std	3/454, Ambethkar Street,Sadhananthapuram, Thandalampost, Chennai
N. Akash	4 th std	48/A, 5 th Street, Kamarajnagar, Ennore, Chennai-600 059'
K. Divapriya	4 th std	3/341, Ambethkar Street, Sadhananthapuram, Thandalampost, Chennai
K. Ruth	6 th std	3/343, Ambethkar Street, Sadhananthapuram, Thandalampost, Chennai
J. Joyidiya	6 th std	3/16, China Mangadu Street, Mangadu, Chennai-600 056
G. Hemankumar	9 th std	12/37, 13 th Street, Bakthavatsalam NagarNanganallur, Chennai-600 114
G. Ramesh	4 th std	111/A, Blind Quarters, Swamiyar Gate. Maraimalai Nagar, Chennai
A. Isac	3 rd std	103, Karunanidhi Nagar, 3 rd Street, Anakaputhur,Chennai-600 070
U. Bharni Kumar	8 th std	40, Kasthuribai Street, Munjilleri Pammal, Chennai-600 075
A. Abinaya	1 st std	249, L.I.G, Tamilnadu Housing Board ,Sevvapet, Thiruvallore District, Tamil Nadu
P. Tamil Arazan	1 st Std	3/25 A, Ponniamman Koil Street, Pallavaram, Chennai-600 043
B. Pavithra	3 rd std	103, J.N.Road, Anakaputhoor, Chennai-600 070
A. Sakthidasan	7 th std	839, 'B' Block, Nagoror Thotam, Pudukottai, Chennai-600 081

For further details, please contact, The Secretary, Voice Of The Visually Challenged Trust, 3/454, Srinivasa Perumal Koil Street, Sathananthapuram, Thandalam Post, Chennai-602 101 Ph.: 93807 31624

Readers' forum

Readers' forum provides space for the enlightened readers 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.



Sir,

Impact of allowing more Autorickshaws in city

The government of Tamil Nadu is allowing more autorickshaws to run in Chennai city, with the expectation that more autorickshaws will provide competitiveness and reduce the demand for arbitrary charge by the autorickshaw drivers. But, this is unlikely to happen.

The autorickshaw drivers in Chennai city now run for three hours everyday and make money for nine hours running. With government allowing more autorickshaws in the city, the autorickshaw drivers will run for two hours everyday and make money for nine hours running.

Chennai

K.Suresh

Bhaja Govindam

Dear Sir,

The May issue of 'Nandini Voice For The Deprived' has excellently exposed the plight of the elderly people and this would awaken the younger generation. Translation of Bhaja Govindam also throws light on the principles to be adopted by everyone and would be read with interest.

Vridhachalam

T.S.Murugesan

Naxal menace

Dear Sir,

The nation has been confronting simultaneously on two fronts, against external militancy and internal insurgency.

The recent genocide of 76 CRPF Jawans in Chattisgarh by naxalites made the whole nation stunned. Naxalite have been playing havoc in several states and particularly in Chattisgarh and Jharkhand, Bihar, Orissa, West Bengal, Maharashtra and in Andhra.

The disaster in Chattisgarh could have been averted if there was adequate coordination between local police and CRPF. What was the reason for lack of coordination? Whose responsibility was it ?

As usual, the same tape record of routine (fixed) words such as condemnation, condolence, console, compensation have been uttered. People want to know how long such tape record would be played.

Union government can not escape from its responsibility by merely blaming the state governments.

Thane

Sridhar V Kulkarni

Dear Sir,

Death sentence for Kasab

It would have been better judgment to have allowed Kasab to live in solitary confinement in jail and suffer life long, instead of giving him relief by awarding death sentence.

Kolkata

P.A.Sen

The plight of T.Nagar residents

Dear Sir

I have been a resident of T Nagar in Chennai for the past 25 years. Living in T Nagar years ago was a boon in that residents had places to go, foot paths to walk on and parks to take rest. One could walk to places nearer to one's residence without much difficulty as traffic was slow. Even though T Nagar was the much preferred destination to buy textiles and jewels then, it was still not crowded.

But today, it is a different T Nagar. It has grown beyond its size – thanks to the mushrooming growth of jewel and textile showrooms. Since T Nagar is well connected by both rail and road, people throng the shopping hub, as T Nagar is now known, even from far off places. Taking advantage of the situation, large number of hawkers/vendors too have grown putting up tents all over the place, thus adding their humble 'mite' to the congestion. Mobile eateries and juice stalls have come up at public places obstructing traffic.

While I am not at all against growth of T Nagar, I am only worried about its growth which is unhealthy. Right from morning 9 a.m. till 11 p.m. shops are open which enables shoppers to visit even on normal days. During festival days, with human traffic reaching at its zenith, the enforcement authorities who make special arrangements to control traffic, literally sweat it out. If there is a Nobel prize for filth and dirt, T Nagar could easily grab with ease.

Chennai

V.S.Jayaraman

POPULATION DYNAMICS – Alarming Growth towards 2050

Contributed by K.V.S. Krishna
Email:- kvskrishna@yahoo.com

The world's population was 5 to 10 million people 7000 years ago and it reached 310 million by 1000AD and by the time the Industrial revolution started it reached 700 to 980 million.

The world's population in 1950 stood at 2519 million and this grew to 6056 million by 2000, an increase of 140%, whereas the projection to 2050 is at 9322 million people representing an increase of 54%.

Impact of population growth rate on availability of gross cropped area is considerable. In 1950/51, the per capita land was 0.365 or 2.77 persons per hectare. In 2000/01, it has come down to 0.18 or 5.55 persons per hectare and is projected for 2050/51 to 0.12 or 8.33 persons per hectare for India.

Already there is a food crisis in the world, driving 1 to 1.2 billion people to go to bed with hunger. The world needs to produce another 75% more food to sustain the growing population. Will the world succeed without bringing its population to sustainable levels of say 8.5 billion people?

India needs to emulate countries like Japan, whose population density at 339 (2003) and a population of 127.1million (2000) have been programmed to reduce it 109.2 million (2050), thereby reducing their density of population to 207. Similarly Taiwan, with a population of 22.9 million (2004) and a density of 636, second highest in the world, has programmed to decrease its population by 4 million by 2050, thereby decreasing its density to 525.

Global population is currently increasing at an annual rate of 76 million. Indian population alone increases at 25 million-more than the

population of Australia, annually. Half of present population is below the age of 30 years. The fertility rate in least developed countries is 4.6 births per woman, as opposed to 1.6 in more developed regions.

Rapid population growth, which correlates closely with young population, can undermine the country's stability, governance and economic developments.

In an address at the International Conference on Biodiversity on 15th February, 2010, Ambassador Kenneth M. Quinn, President, World Food Prize Foundation, pointed out how Dr. Norman Borlaug, in one of his last addresses in 2005 said "I am still afraid of the population monster". That fear still lingers as another 75% food and other resources will be needed to look after the growing population of 6 billion to 9.3 billion people that is projected for 2050.

China maintains its one child policy with the slogan "Lower birth rate equals faster prosperity" and their Prime Minister Wen Jiabao told the National People's Congress on March 5, 2010 "We will continue to reward and support eligible rural families that comply with family planning regulations A great commitment by a great Nation to mankind.

A CLARION CALL FOR ACTION TO CONTAIN CORRUPTION

Contributed by: S.Sanjivi, Chennai

Hard working people sow and grow the seeds

Hardly working people enjoy the proceeds!

Guileless and gullible people produce wealth

Political pirates and pontiffs plunder the wealth!

Crooked and cunning people corner the cream

While lazy lords are in blissful dream!

A pity! Common man is left in the lurch

Caught in the dark groping for a perch!

Voice of the virtuous vanish in the void

No force on earth is able to avoid!

This is not conducive to a Nation's health

Some way has to be found to sop this stealth!

SO CALLED VIPs IN TIRUPATHI TEMPLE

Standing between the Lord and other devotees

Reliance Group's Chairman Mukesh Ambani's wife, mother and cricketer Tendulkar's wife broke the convention to enter Tirupathi temple after closing time, to pray for the success of Mukesh Ambani's Mumbai Indian's team in the IPL Final.

This news was dutifully reported by The New Indian Express dated 26.4.2010

Lord Venkatachalapathy obviously disapproved the methods of these so called VIPs and their team was defeated.

It remains to be seen how the Lord would deal with the TTDC chairman who opened the gates for these so called VIPs breaking the convention.

Nandini Voice For the Deprived is concerned about such happenings in Tirupathi temple and may be some other temples in India. The above message was circulated and large section of the concerned people responded with their views from all over India and abroad.

Highlights of some of the views are provided in this article

Yes, unfortunately that is the way of the world today. I'm sure some day ordinary mortals like us will also receive VIP treatment from the Lord.

Sashi Nair

* * * *

I have Lord Venkateswara's name installed by my parents in my second initial of my name. So, every time I sign my name, His blessings are there. I have not been to the Tirupati or any temples for over 20 years, as I feel it is the conscience that rules my world.

K.V.S.Krishna

* * * *

There is absolute absence of modesty in the public lives of the powerful politicians and the group of Forbes' billionaires. For after all, rules exist, for them to break them. How much more uplifting would it have been, if these spouses of today's all-powerful had quietly walked away when they learnt that it was beyond hours of the deadline for having a *darshan*?

D. V. Rajan

* * * *

Hindu agama sastras indicate that after the Arthajama Pooja, the temple shall be closed and opened only next morning for Subrapatha Darshan.

Lord Venkatachalapathy is called Sreevari - husband of Lakshmi Devi who is in charge of wealth.

Our Indian wealthy people have started breaking the agama sastras.

This shows the country is going to ruins

Lord Venkatachalapathy will give the punishment to all the concerned.

There is a saying that Raja will punish immediately but God will wait and give punishment.

Let us wait and see.

One thing is certain, our country is being ruled by only rich people. Allowing VIPs for darshan ignoring common devotees happen in almost all temples including Sabari Mala, the abode of Dharma Sastha.

S. Krishnamurthy

* * * *

It is the money power, political power and high positions in society that make people to feel they are VIPs and avail the privileges even when they come to pray in places like Tirupati, which has become notorious with the TTD extending such glaring favors to the rich people from corporate and cine sectors besides politicians. The mindset of the so called VIPs have to change at least when they visit temples as all are equal for the Almighty

V.Rajagopal

* * * *

The VIP darshan is a prerogative of rich and people in power. They misuse their privileges for wrong things

Sarma Y.R.

SO CALLED VIPs IN TIRUPATHI TEMPLE Standing between the Lord and other devotees

I totally disapprove of such an action.

Not only this.

I do not approve of the special fees or short cut entrances in any temple.

It should be a free for all (dharma darshan) or a nominal fee and same queue for everyone.

I do not approve that the God punished Mumbai team because of these individuals. The team members were the people who worked hard and do they deserve this?

Srikala badri

* * * *

Mukesh Ambani is the 'raja' of the current times. The 'poojaris' have always abided by and abetted the powers of the rajas and I think it is fine if they did the same to him, his wife, driver or servant.

The Lord must be perfectly jobless and unimaginative if he is wasting time on watching the adherence or non-adherence of such man made protocols and determining the results of cricket matches.

Ramasubramanian

* * * *

It is only unfortunate that Mukesh Ambani and his entourage chose to jump the queue and forced an entry into the Sanctum Sanctorum by pulling all the relevant strings, as if the Lord resides there alone!

But actually He is omnipresent, all pervading, omniscient and what not, and He really cares a damn about who is coming and who is going in and out of the Temple Premises and seldom logs their presence.

N Ramesh

* * * *

The so called VIPs in India do not learn anything.

JB Goradia

* * * *

I totally agree. First of all, it is totally unethical. Secondly, it looks like a bargain game. I am shocked that men of standing stoop to this level.

S.Sankaran

* * * *

Well then, that's India, isn't it ?

R. Viswanathan

* * * *

While the matter involves violation of certain age old convention, I feel that we need not break our heads on this issue as there are more serious and relevant issues concerning the country and the society to worry about. (Apparently you are seized of these matters as well)

S M Arasu

* * * *

I am puzzled at the way things are taking shape in the country, where only money matters.

The incident which you have elaborated clearly proves that in Tirupati money alone is the criteria.

If the Lord who is being worshipped by millions of poor people is so powerful, He will definitely give befitting treatment to the Chairman and those who have provided a safe passage to the so called VIPs beyond the hours of worship. We can definitely bank upon God.

V S Jayaraman

* * * *

This is a very unfair and unequal world. The only consolation is, God,... at times..., "Acts Fast".

D V Venkatagiri

* * * *

I do feel strongly about this. One thing we should not forget though is that in some degree or the other, even we common folk do try to bribe our way through to see God whether by way of a special darshan or otherwise. I think this can be resolved completely only through a universal change in mindset.

Venkatesh. P.

* * * *

Administrators of the temples always favour those who are at the helm of power, money and muscles and none else.

Samarpan Mukhopadhyay.

* * * *

This is not the first time and has happened in the past several times.

No one has the right to intervene in the system in the temple.

Jaypee

* * * *

SO CALLED VIPs IN TIRUPATHI TEMPLE Standing between the Lord and other devotees

I am a 68 year young man, a devotee of Shree Balaji. Glad that Mumbai Indians lost. That probably is God's wish.

P.S. Pawar

* * * *

Just goes to show what the high and mighty can do even to God in India.

Sathish

* * * *

I strongly feel that all this is happening because in our so called democracy, anybody with power can do anything and get away with it.

Punishment would be given to some administrative officer, as though he can and will dare to do this. However, on the positive side all this is happening for the good. The Lord Almighty knows when, where and how to deliver justice.

May the Lord Almighty give you lots of courage and good health to inspire and lead us all - may be in a small way.

Mahadevan. H.

* * * *

If political VIP's could have privileges in the temples, be it Tirupati or any other temple, there is no harm in Sachin and Mukesh's family enjoying certain privileges. Perhaps, Lord Venkatachalapathy did not approve of this. However, I do not think there is any linkage to the Mumbai's team's defeat.

More shocking is the Chief Priest of Tirumala calling on Mukesh Ambani at his cottage and honouring him with a Vastram which should be offered in the temple precincts and not outside. A show cause has been issued to the Chief Priest and the outcome of it only Lord Balaji knows.

If he is exonerated, the priest will claim that the Lord is aware of the services rendered by him to the Lord. If he is charge sheeted, the temple authorities will claim that it is the Will of the Lord that the priest deserves punishment.

M.S.Venkataraman

* * * *

The action on the part of the Chairman of the TTD is unwarranted and he has exceeded his limits.

S.V.Krishnan

* * * *

God is eternal and unchanging, Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow. But we human beings are changing

Any pooja or offerings can not change Him. He does not need money because he is the richest who created this world. What he wants is our Heart to be pure and Holy. We do not understand this simple truth and act according to our wish.

Once you surrender yourself to God, he takes care of everything in your life. This is the truth I learnt. I am 67 and I do not have any regret in my life as God the almighty takes care of everything in my life.

S.D.Joseph

* * * *

I am totally against such practices. No one should be given special treatment, /privileges not extended to ordinary citizens.

K .N .Venkatasubramanian

* * * *

It is stupid of Mukesh Ambani's wife & Tendulkar's wife to pray to Lord Venkateswara for silly things like winning cricket match. It is stupider to think that the God would not favour such wishes and to come to a conclusion that He is angry with the devotee for breaking rules and so He has punished them.

God has better things to do. Let us not waste our time deciding what He should do.

Dr P Vyasamoorthy

* * * *

Yes, I do. Of course you cannot expect the so called VIPs to stand in the general queue because their time is valuable. So, I am OK with their having special facilities but it has to be during the time that darshan is allowed and not when the temple is closed. That is not acceptable. Temple timings and puja timings cannot be tampered with, to suit the so called VIPs.

Malini Ramakrishnan

* * * *

I am happy that Nandini Voice for the Deprived can also double up as Nandini Voice Against the Depraved , if required.

T.Chandrasekharan.

* * * *

God's abode should be treated equally for everybody. This is one of the reasons for our youngsters being disenchanted by our religion and visiting pilgrimage sites.

Shivendra Sinha

* * * *

SO CALLED VIPs IN TIRUPATHI TEMPLE Standing between the Lord and other devotees

The news you have sent is shocking. Only in our temples, such things happen and nobody is there to raise a voice .i am really proud Nandini Voice has voiced it to public.

Prof. C.D.Gopalarathnam

* * * *

I am sorry to say that I do not agree with your sentiments. Everyone can pray to Lord from his heart Some of us have the sentiments that praying at a particular temple will give them personal hearing, when in fact He listens to every one who remembers Him from anywhere.

The result is that the trustees of such renowned temples have started selling God’s dharshan at a price.

G.B. Luthria

* * * *

The same Ambani has given several crores of rupees to the same temple. All such, so called devotees expect something back from the GOD and also from the Devasthanam. No surprises in this.

The chairman will not get into any trouble. Only the poor chief priest who appears to have broken the convention by going to the guest house will get into trouble. Will the Lord save him for his dedicated service to the Lord all these years and pardon him for this minor lapse on his part? Well. we have to wait and see.

N.Chandrasekaran

* * * *

You have asked a question which we lesser mortals cannot fathom to answer.

Some twenty - thirty years back - I tried to reach the temple in Tirupathy - many many times (say ten times) and failed miserably every time to even board the train, plane, bus. Only the LORD could stop me and has never given me the DARSHAN (every time the reason was - Hartal, Nature calamity, Typhoon etc.)

If the Lord never wanted these VIP’s, then even they could never reach - yet they reached and prayed - so you have no right to question the permission of the Lord.

Mani Chaturvedi

* * * *

What temple authorities have done is not correct. We have to wait and see what punishment

is going to be given by Balaji of seven hills to the chairman of the temple.God is great.

Dr.C.Rajagopal

* * * *

In TTD the VIPs are given preference by the officers to gain help from the VIPs. It is the convention of the TTD authorities.They neglect poor because they would not get any help/cash from them. Might is right as old saying.

R.Gangi Reddy

For our people, God is a life insurance policy which they can encash whenever they feel like it.

In a country with the prevailing values of the Haves being what they are, It is no wonder that they can do as they please. Such things do not happen in the Vatican or in Mecca. We could learn something from them!

Dr. K. Prasad

* * * *

I do understand your agony. However, the same Lord accepted the Kreetam given by Reddy brothers who loot the country. It is not disapproval of Lord as he cannot disapprove or approve anything. It is a myth. Just do your service to humanity You will achieve greatest fulfillment. This is my opinion.

Prof. K.P. Prabhakar

* * * *

You know well about Lord Venkataeshwara. He is rich God. Always His blessings to rich people like Ambanis and Tendulkars. Hence it is not surprising that God’s door open to Reliance Walls. Please do not get excited over a non issue.

S.Balamurugan

* * * *

In democracy, all are said to be equal. Secondly democracy & rule of Law go together. There cannot be any deviation from these basic rules.I hope you have got my views on the subject.

T.S.Krishna Murthy

* * * *

This is an insult to all devout devotees, who brave all the difficulties to have a few seconds glimpse of Lord Balaji. The officials and the archakas concerned should be taken to severe task .

Srinivasan

* * * *

SO CALLED VIPs IN TIRUPATHI TEMPLE Standing between the Lord and other devotees

Time has come to start a movement like Gandhiji or JP to clean our public as well as private life. Please continue your campaign.

S. Ilanahai

* * * *

I think it is a matter for the local Devasthanam Trustees to decide what is and what is not the appropriate policy for dealing with special requests from VIPs.

Dr. Nochur Ramanathan,

* * * *

It all depends on one's own faith. Having said that, I can honestly say from personal experience that He will take care of His true devotees!

Srinivasan

* * * *

It is indeed a sad situation in India, especially the temple you mention, that VIPs, moneyed businessmen and other influential people get priority over thousands of poor people who come with so much hope to see the Lord, but have to wait for hours or even days sometimes. I think India is the only country where we allow such things to happen.

As long as people believe that darshan of God in one place has more efficacy than the local temple or village deity, such things are bound to occur.

Each of us can do our bit by resolving not to visit such holy places where devotion and faith have the last priority.

Janaki Rao

* * * *

That chairman of TTD should really be made to creep the rest of his life, Balaji willing!

Ravindran Major

* * * *

I fully endorse your opinion about VIPs who have soft corner with the TTD Chairman and other officials connected to it. Let us hope, the Almighty will bring an end to this kind of irregularities at the earliest.

K Ramadoss

* * * *

I am for allotting time every week for the so called VIPs both political, commercial and other category of people who are ready to cough up the money and pay crores of rupees of their untaxed income to the God ,so

that after some percentage of siphoning by the corrupt officials of TTD, finally would trickle down for the service of the society at large.

Thirumalai. K.

* * * *

Of course, there is no 'First Among Equals' when it comes to kneeling before the Lord to seek His blessings. The fault lies entirely with the administration which fawns over so called VIPs and their entourage.

Saraswathy. S.

* * * *

All educated people are not united together to fight for eradication of corruption.

Dr.N.Satchidhanandam

* * * *

Men in power want to entice the LORD too. DHARMA SAMSTHAPANARTHAYA SAMBAVAME YUGE YUGE. Let us wait and pray.

Sundararajan

* * * *

These are greedy people who would do anything to be around with monetarily powerful people.

K Ramesh Shankar

* * * *

First I am amused by such events. In an otherwise humourless existence, such events provide a welcome change.!!!

Next, Ambanis must have made a substantial donation. I think Amitabh had given a diamond necklace

Tendulkar is now shaky about his cricket and he wants some spiritual support !!!

If these three had real devotion, the doors would have opened automatically, as they did (according to popular stories) for Nandanar and some other saints !!!

In fact, the so called celebrities wanted NOT to mix with the crowd of devotees and by PREVIOUS ARRANGEMENT, they went deliberately late to be alone with God. Ekanta Sewa I believe is considered holy out there !!!

More seriously, I believe that a dalit cannot enter the sanctum sanctorum. If he were to try, he would do so at his own peril. I have personally seen a devotee in rags being handled very roughly by an archaka.

D.K.Oza

* * * *

PERFECTING FAMILY RULE TECHNIQUE IN DEMOCRACY

SRI LANKA AND INDIA SHOW THE WAY

The latest news from Sri Lanka is that President Rajapaksa would amend the constitution to remove the clause that a person should stay as President only for two terms. It is not clear whether he would have any upper limit at all for the number of terms that a person can hold the office of the President. This amendment would ensure that President Rajapaksa can remain as the President for long time to come, if he can manage to continue to win the elections.

This would also ensure that his family members will be part of the ruling class holding ministerial positions for long time to come. In other words, the Sri Lankan Government will continue to remain a family ruled government.

This trend is not different from India.

News have appeared that President Rajapaksa's son would be given more important positions.

President Rajapaksa, with such approach, will ensure that his family members including brothers, sisters, perhaps cousins, nephews, nieces etc. would also be given increasingly important positions in the government to perpetuate his family rule. Then, the situation would be that only the members of President Rajapaksa's family and those who are loyal to the family (the party members) will have any say in the functioning of the Sri Lankan government. The senior officers and employees in the government have to be necessarily loyalists of the ruling family to survive and prosper.

The unfortunate fact is that all these self interested family acts are being done in the name of democracy and where elections take place at periodical intervals as a matter of routine. One would not know as to whether such situation has arisen due to the quality and herd like mindset of the average voter or any skillful manipulation of the electoral process. In any case, the concept of democracy remains diluted and misdirected, when the whole government goes under the control of the family members.

What is striking is that there is enormous similarity between what is happening in Sri Lanka and what is happening in several states and the central government in India.

In India, in many states, sons, daughters, grand children and nephews /nieces are given important positions in the government by the leaders of the political parties. Most political parties have become family centred entities and those who are part of the

family and loyalists of the family can only be the active members of the party. The family members indulge in enormous corrupt activities in variety of ways and use the ill gotten money to keep the loyalists in the party fold well fed and for organizing the political meetings and for bribing the voters during the elections. They lead luxurious personal life style like the feudal Lords of the past.

Such manipulation of the democratic process by the coterie of family members who form different political parties has made the democratic process a farce.

The situation is that most sections of the country men are not part of the political parties or political families but remain as distant observers. They go during the polls to vote for whatever reasons and then they have no say in the happenings, though everything is done by the political families in the government in the name of the people. In India, they call them as aam aadmi (Common men).

In any case, it appears that the political families have taken strangle hold over the government and everything happens in the government, only if it would not come in conflict with the interests of the family members of the ruling political parties.

While there seem to be no immediate way out to restore the democracy to its intended glory, perhaps we can provide a new name for this family controlled government. Such new name would ensure that the true concept of democracy will retain its identity, that is different from the present form of democracy which has gone into the control of political families.

Can anyone suggest a suitable name? Perhaps, this decision can also be left to the political families.

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT IN CHENNAI CITY COLLAPSED

The traffic congestion on Chennai city roads often give an impression that the traffic management system has virtually collapsed. It is surprising that the accidents on Chennai roads are only so many, considering the chaotic way in which the traffic moves in the city roads. One wonders as to whether the Government of Tamil Nadu has given up the job of managing the traffic and is only managing it on “as is where is” basis.



It appears that the desperate traffic managers in Tamil Nadu government think that construction of fly overs is the be all and end all of all solutions for traffic problems in the city. They seem to think that the construction of fly overs would atleast give an impression to the public that the government is acting.

It is high time that a scientific investigation should be ordered to find out as to whether the crores of rupees that have been spent in constructing many fly overs in the city have provided the benefits commensurate with the efforts and investments made. Public think that in several places, the fly overs have made the situation worse than what it was before. The immediate example is the fly over in the L B Road in Adyar , where pedestrians have been left with no space to walk.

Due to the construction of the fly overs, valuable space below the fly overs have been lost and there have been really no additional road space creation in several places and with road space really becoming narrow and with the need of the pedestrians totally ignored. One can readily see the anxious pedestrians in such fly over areas running between the vehicles to cross the road , really running to save their lives.

As the fly overs have not improved the traffic congestion, the Government should immediately stop the construction of fly overs until a detailed investigation by technical experts (not by politicians and bureaucrats) would be made, so that more money would not be spent in this doubtful fly over projects, until the investigation would be complete and recommendations made.

The Tamil Nadu government should relate the road space available to the number of vehicles permitted on the road. Obviously, there is strong case to discourage setting up more car manufacturing units in the state, as the car manufacturing units are really becoming a threat to the road safety . This looks like a counter productive industrialisation activity .

There are countries like Singapore where the number of cars on the road have been restricted. When Singapore can do this , why not Tamil Nadu government ? In India , the life of the cars are several decades and as new vehicles pour on the road, old vehicles do not go away. Also, there is a strong case to prevent permission for big cars to ply within the city limits. With the road space already inadequate, several cars are parked on the road , further obstructing the traffic and completing the traffic chaos.

In India, our governments generally think that several problems can be solved by ignoring them or talking them out and announcing new schemes now and then however impracticable they may be. But, the traffic problem is one issue that can not be solved by such conventional thinking process of the government.

AWARD FOR SCHOOL STUDENTS FROM LOWER INCOME GROUP

Nandini Voice for The Deprived, would recognise and honour school students from lower income group , who have appeared for 10th standard and plus two examination , for their performance in the academic year 2009-10.

Objective

Students from lower income group face extremely difficult conditions due to poverty conditions in the family and often poor living conditions. In spite of such adverse circumstances, they go to schools , which is the only way for them to improve their prospects in life. It is necessary to appreciate the efforts of such students, encourage them and publicise their achievements. With this objective, Nandini Voice for the Deprived would recognise and honour school students from lower income group.

Eligibility for submitting application for the award

Students should have appeared for tenth standard or plus two examination conducted recently.

The family income should be less than Rs. 6000 per month (income of both father and mother put together).

The students should have studied in the schools located in Tamil Nadu

Criteria for selection

The students should produce a letter from the head of the institution recommending for the award along with mark sheet.

Ten students would be selected based on the marks obtained by them during the Board examination for the academic year 2009-10 and the recommendation letter from the head of the institution. Last date for submission of application is 5th June,2010 .The students can obtain the prescribed application form for the award from the following address in person or sending requisition by post.

Nandini Voice For the Deprived
54, First Main Road, Thirumalainagar Annexe, Perungudi, Chennai-600096.
Tel:- 24961792 / 24916037

APPEAL FOR SUPPORT FOR MARKETING THE PRODCUTS MADE BY DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS

Nandini Voice For the Deprived is providing support to the differently abled persons including orthopaedically disabled, hearing / speech / visually impaired and mentally ill persons in their self employment pursuits and is extending help to them in marketing their products.

A network of differently abled persons all over Tamil Nadu are being supported.

Nandini Voice For the Deprived appeals to the Welfare Associations in the housing / apartment complex, clubs , temple authorities and educational institutions and office complex to provide facility to exhibit and sell the products made by differently abled persons. One table with two chairs would be adequate and facility may be extended on any day convenient to the associations / institutions .

The products that would be exhibited include agarbathis, candles, plastic wire baskets, wooden decorative pieces, terracotta items, batik paintings, glass paintings etc. The entire proceeds of sale would go to the differently abled persons who have made the products.

This support would go a long way in helping the cause of the differently abled persons. There are reported to be around 17 lakhs differently abled persons in Tamil Nadu alone and around ten lakhs of them are visually impaired. More than 90% of the differently abled persons belong to lower income group. Support to them in their self employment pursuits is necessary to improve their morale and enable them to live with dignity.

For further details, please contact
Nandini Voice For the Deprived

30 YEARS ON, BLIND RAGE IN BHAGALPUR

Bone chilling ordeal took place in Bhagalpur between October 1979 and July 1980s when eyes were gouged out and acid poured into the sockets on 33 youths by policemen. This came to be known as Bhagalpur blinding incident.

The cops had called a doctor from the block hospital who would ask the victims whether they could see anything, even as the victims cried and writhed in pain every time the policemen dropped acid into their eyes.

The policemen pierced a takwa (a needle used for stitching gunny bags), a barber's nail cutter or a bicycle wheel spoke into the eyes and then poured acid into the mutilated sockets with a dropper or a syringe or directly from a bottle.

The victims were portrayed as anti-social elements. But who gave the cops the right to ruin their lives?

After the barbaric act, the victims were locked in Bhagalpur Central Jail. When the matter was taken to the Supreme Court amid a nationwide outcry, a bench headed by then Chief Justice Y V Chandrachud said: This court and the country awoke one day to the incredible fact that in Bhagalpur, undertrial prisoners

were subjected to the most inhuman torture imaginable. There is nothing the court can do to restore the physical damage, which seems irreparable. But the offenders must be brought to book, at least in the hope that such brutal atrocities will not be committed again.

Following a Supreme Court directive, each blinding victim was given a lump sum of Rs 30,000 and, then, a monthly pension of Rs 500, which was later enhanced to Rs 750.

No one knows where all the blinding victims are at present.

The victims have not seen their children, born as they were after their world was darkened.

Patel, who was one of the 33 unfortunate victims lives with his wife, three daughters and a son. For a living, he sells kerosene for which he has been given a licence as compensation.

Devraj, who is one of the victims, lives in a hut in Ishak Chak and is depressed. Unlike some other victims, who have been compensated with a kerosene dealership each, Devraj has been running from pillar to post for seven years to get similar compensation so as to earn a living. But in vain.

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