

# DALIT VOICE

[The Voice of the Persecuted Minorities]

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EDITORIAL

## BID TO THROTTLE CHRISTIANS IN INDIA

A big controversy has been going on in the Bangalore Press involving Christian minorities particularly the Catholics. Even the Karnataka Government has tried to side with the communal Hindus to throttle minority rights. As the Bangalore move is part of the all-India game to systematically subdue and suppress the minorities, we thought it is time to present the case before the dalits and other persecuted minorities.

The controversy is about the country's most prestigious medical college St. John's Medical College, Bangalore, and the use of Kannada in church services. These simple non-issues are blown up and unnecessary heat is generated as part of the communal Hindu game of divide and rule. After the CPM-led Governments in West Bengal and Tripura tried to curb the Christian institutions working for the liberation of tribals in 1980, we now have the Karnataka effort to interfere in minority rights. While communally run, highly mismanaged, rag-tag medical colleges charging high capitation fees and admitting students from outside India with hardly any facilities, are given affiliation, the more than a decade-old St. John's Medical College, a showpiece of Bangalore is denied this right. The communal Hindus who control the State Government, the Bangalore University and also the Press are trying to give a bad name to the college. The only silver lining in the darkness created by these communal elements is the strong support the St. John's Medical College

received from the State's highest-circulated English daily, *Deccan Herald*, whose young, progressive editor, Hari Kumar, in an editorial fully upheld the College's case for affiliation. The power these communal Hindus wield is so much that they forced the Bangalore University Vice-Chancellor and also the Director of Medical Education, a scheduled caste, to join this howl. As the Press is in the hands of communal Hindus in Karnataka, they have seen to it that truth does not leak out to the public. The case of the St. John's Medical College is one such. What may come as a surprise is that even some "Leftists" joined hands with communal Hindus unable to get over their caste character. It is quite possible that the St. John's Medical College has some minus points but why select only this college for such a harsh treatment? Why national and international academic circles have praised it so much which the communal Hindus fail to appreciate? What is the motive behind all this noise? There is one short-range and another long-range

objective. The short-range aim of the communal Hindus, who are always an envious lot, is that they are very jealous that the Christians have managed to keep the St. John's Medical College so trim, so disciplined and achieved national and international distinction while similar institutions run by them are stinking with corruption and communalism. Turned into hotbed of politics. The communal Hindus in the State Government and University wanted their boys and girls to get seats in it. They also wanted to pack their agents on its teaching and non-teaching staff. And ultimately swallow the institution. The St. John's like all other institutions run by the Christians has been resisting these efforts at infiltration. And naturally, this has led to lot of heart-burning though ultimately the communalists are bound to lose and truth shall triumph. The one favourite charge of the communal Hindus is that the St. John's is getting "foreign money". The college authorities have themselves admitted this and said whatever they got came through the Reserve Bank and with the full knowledge of the Government. Here one point. Christians, Muslims and Buddhists belong to international religions unlike Hindus whose religion is confined to only a major part of India. Christians, Muslims and Buddhists living in different parts of the world would like to help their less fortunate comrades living in India which is deliberately kept poor by the communal Hindus. Their international co-religionists have every right to sympathise with their suffering counterparts and help them in every possible way. The communal Hindus have also collected funds from US and elsewhere. Hare Krishna, Rajneesh, Mahesh Yogi joints are bringing millions of dollars to save the dying Hinduism. Why not a word of complaint against such flow of foreign money? The Constitution specifically provides for protection of minority rights and Christians,

Muslims and Buddhists need not bother about the communal Hindu complaint of foreign money. The long-range objective behind the pinpricks to St. John's is to cut the minorities to size. What they feel is if they succeed at one place they can gradually extend it to other areas. The communal Hindus tried to throttle the Christians during the KSS-controlled Janata party regime through the mischievous Freedom of Religion Bill. But national sanity asserted itself and the Bill fell and with it the Janata crashed under the weight of the KSS.

The other Bangalore bid to interfere with the Christians is the communal Hindus' demand to use Kannada in Catholic Church services. Kannada-speaking Catholics have been demanding Church services in the local tongue though Tamilians said to constitute about 80% of the Catholic population. The language controversy between Kannada and Tamil Catholics turned violent and the poor Tamil-speaking Archbishop, Dr. P. Arokiaswamy, was even beaten up. Kannada Christians have every right to fight for their rights. Therefore, we don't want to enter into this controversy. But what is intriguing is the big support they received from the press, public and even the government. Hindu high caste Kannada writers also entered the fray. They even offered to picket the churches. But these writers ought to know what language is used in Hindu temple services. Is it Kannada? Or Sanskrit which even Brahmins do not understand? These writers will do well to first set right their own house before preaching others. Kannada must be used in Hindu temples. If the majority community does this, then only it will get a right to advice the minorities.

The communal Hindus are out to finish the minorities. All sorts of efforts are being made to throttle them. They are

[Contd on Page 11]

## WHO SHOULD LEAD THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE ?

(A. S. Rajan, Reserve Bank, Bangalore)

The present all-round chaos in the country is the result of the misrule by the 15% population. This 15% deadly dominate the economic, social and political spheres. 15% people are the Brahmins, the Vysyas, Kahatriyas and a dominant minority section coming from the Shudra castes.

The political representatives of the oppressed and exploited people forming the majority, are stooging for the ruling alliance. Otherwise, how the 34-year "Independence" rule could have made the poor, the poorer and the rich, the richer?

The political parties and the various other related organisations broadly represent the interests of the capitalists, the feudal lords, the big business and the big contractors. On this basis, the political parties and the other related organisations can be broadly divided into two groups. As a result, the power struggle is primarily between two exploitative groups. These groups, in other words, can be called as exploitative castes and classes. One is in power and the other is in the Opposition conglomeration. By playing upon the ever-deepening economic and social contradictions the group in the Opposition-conglomeration struggles to replace the prevailing ruling group by fooling the hopeless and helpless masses. The masses, disenchanted with the prevailing ruling group for non-delivery of goods and services will, due to lack of the third alternative, vote the other group (in the Opposition conglomeration) to power. Thus the present group in the Opposition will become the ruling group. Then the same old story will be repeated-all sorts of excuses, old and new, will be listed for non-delivery of goods and services to the exploited society. Therefore, it has become a case of change of positions of the exploitative groups and parties on turn-basis. This appears to be an endless

process. The current struggle is essentially a power struggle between the two exploitative groups and parties. The mass of the people are constantly oscillated between the devil and the deep sea. Sometimes the masses think that the devil (Opposition group) is preferable to the deep sea (ruling group) and when the hopeless and helpless masses find the ruling group not delivering the goods, they are forced to vote the devil (Opposition-conglomeration) to power. This way, the masses have been caught in a seemingly endless vicious circle. In this context, the relevant question is : which is the potential force that can organise and lead the hopeless and helpless masses to achieve emancipation? According to my view, the newly-emerged educated class from among the most oppressed castes and classes, is the only potential force that can take Ambedkar's mission to its logical end, that is, the liberation of all the oppressed and exploited people from slavery and serfdom. But, has the new elitist class, the beneficiary of the Ambedkar's struggle awakened itself to its historic duty towards its oppressed and exploited brethren?

The country has to inevitably traverse from chaos to creation of a new social order so as to achieve the objective of rendering all-round justice to the mass of the people constituting 80% of the total population. The need of the hour is people's struggle for their own emancipation. Otherwise, India will continue to be the biggest slum in the world. □

## Letters to Editor :

**M. V. Ramana, Waltair, (AP),** Press is the need of the hour for dalits and we congratulate you for the task you have taken up through the Voice. The three or four journals we dalits have been somehow managing to publish are not travelling in one direction. Politically we are divided, socially also advocating different faiths. Our Press also follows suit. When different papers take different stand, how can the people get any guidance from the Press? People are waiting for guidance, not to be confused.

**Prof. Abul Qasem, Calcutta,** I am unable to bear the persecutions of dalits, Muslims and others. The majority of India consisting of dalits, Muslims, tribals and backward classes are ruled by a handful of Brahmins and Banias. I like your idea and believe that class war in India must be shown in the garb of caste contradictions. I am keen to spread our ideology in West Bengal. Your thoughts will be more quickly popular unlike all other isms. Even the CPM has now become a party of capitalists and the bourgeoisie. Dalit-Muslim unity zindabad.

**Prof. M D Kaleemur Rahman, T. N. Agri. Varsity, Coimbatore,** I am very much impressed by the Voice and happy to learn that in the midst of the present bureaucratic press which spreads false propaganda there is someone to raise the voice of minorities.

**P.S.F. Ascervadam, Headmaster, Salem School, Giddalur, A P.** Till my grandfather embraced Christianity, we belonged to the weaving caste, Mala. But economic and social status has not improved by embracing Christianity. The life of the dalits living in villages is miserable. Though the Christian missionaries helped these dalits through their educational and medical institutions, they are now in a state of depre-

ssion. The Government has also failed to help us.

**N. A. Sulaiman, Kasargod,** After reading your editorial on the Jamshedpur riot, we wondered if any magazine in this nation can write with such courage and boldness. While the dominant part of our press is always after dividing the Muslims and dalits, the birth of the Voice is a great boon.

**P. Jayagopal, BEL Rationalist Assn. Bangalore,** Voice is the only magazine which reveals the social inequalities practised by the communal fanatics in our country. Your services are appreciated by one and all. Hope the Voice will reach from Kanyakumari to Kashmir.

**R. L. Mauryan, Delhi,** Among the several magazines on the dalits, yours is unique. We liked its language and way of projecting views. Recently there was a meeting of 53 Govt. of India Secretaries with PM where they expressed dissatisfaction over the reservation policy which bred "inefficiency", and led to "lowering of standards". This shows how our bureaucracy is biased against SC/ST reservation policy. We request you to raise this issue in D.V.

**S. Abdul Wahab Sufi, Madras,** Your editorials are most revealing. Awakening among the educated SC/STs to the realities is most encouraging. A separate all-India political organisation of their own is imperative.

**Mohd. Sami, Research Scholar, Pantnagar,** The Voice is a right step in the right direction at the right time for the benefit of the dalits and persecuted minorities.

**Dr. A R. Desai, (Social Scientist), Bombay,** I have taken note of some of the points discussed in the Voice in my weekly column in a Gujarati paper. I am also frequently writing on this problem. I am in close touch with the dalit comrades in Gujarat and we are organising various move-

ments against different kinds of oppressions and exploitations in Gujarat.

**M. I. H. Quareshi, Lucknow,** Accept my most sincere congratulations for your efforts to expose the real problems facing the people. This is a very crucial moment in the history of India. The real glory of the future of India depends upon the correct approach and smooth working of the present leadership of which the Voice is the torchbearer.

**K. S. Bhagawan, Mysore,** Our crusade against casteism should not stop at writing articles, books, and appreciating them. Our thoughts must be translated into action. Then only we can bring about a change. An organisation firmly founded on principles and constructive programmes is badly needed and we must think of it immediately.

**Ram Lal, Bishop's College, Calcutta** We are glad that there are still some people left to fight inequality and injustice. All of us liked the Voice very much and praying for its welfare. May God guide you and help you.

**P. P. Ambikapathy, Bangalore,** Even though I read daily papers, I could not get a real picture of Meenakshipuram as well as the Hyderabad communal riots until I read the Voice which is like the butter that we get from the milk. So thought - provoking.

**M. Viswanathan, Ambedkar Association, Chembur, Bombay,** Every word published in Voice is like a sword to dalits. From Haryana to Meenakshipuram in every incident, the background to police action is the political force enjoyed by the upper castes. The dalits are in a two-way slavery, one in social and other in political. Dalits must get rid of this twin slavery and form their own force in social and political fronts. The Marathwada University renaming issue is delayed due to lack of political power. If we put up a united fight we will be able to shake the govt. We have nu-

merous organisations and parties which only split the dalits and help the ruling upper caste Hindus. So, dalit leaders and organisers should realise the urgent need and unite themselves first and then ask our dalits to unite immediately.

**V. Vijayakumar, ITC, Bangalore,** Not even 500 people in Karnataka can understand the "holy language" of Sanskrit which is supposed to be the only media that god can understand. The priests who chant these mantras in temples are unaware of its meaning. The prime object of offering worship in temples is either to thank god or to communicate our problems to him. Hence it is imperative that Kannada, the language of the State - the language of the majority - the language of the Hindus living in the state - should, necessarily be the worshipping language in temples.

**Rameshchandra Paramar, president, Dalit Panthers, Gujarat, Ahmedabad,** Communal Hindus have killed three young men in Gujarat during these three months. One in Mehsana district and two in Surendranagar dt. You are aware of the Jetalpur incident wherein a young man named Shakarabhai was burnt alive in the office of the panchayat on last Dec. 25. The court has given the judgment. Three Hindus are sentenced to life imprisonment. The judgment has shaken the entire communal-minded Hindu society.

**N. Elangovan, Cuddalore, T.N.,** Because of the sporadic conversions among our society, it will reduce the dalit population. Quitting Hinduism should be at only one time and that too should be spontaneous. It should be an all-India movement.

**J. R. Antwal, chairman, Federation of All-India P&T SC/ST Employees Unions, New Delhi,** Your article, "Why Caste War Should be Welcomed?" (Voice, Sept. 15) has captivated us. Please Keep it up. □

## A BLACK AMERICAN GREETES DALITS

A Black American has written a letter congratulating Dr Rudriah, retired Director of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services, Karnataka Government and a respected dalit official, who along with six other retired dalit officials had hailed the recent mass conversion of dalits to Islam.

As the letter is of great significance in view of the sympathy expressed by the American Blacks to the struggle of their Indian counterparts, we reproduce the letter with the fond hope of linking the struggle of the Blacks of the two great countries and also with a view to learning from their heroic lessons:-

"Let me congratulate you for issuing such a courageous and truthful statement (Dalit Voice : Sept. 15) about the oppressed and downtrodden Harijans of India. It is true that there is no such place or example in the whole world where the people are treated like animals by the fellow human beings as the Harijans are treated in India. I congratulate the Harijans of India for taking such a wise step of embracing Islam, which alone can give equality and justice to man. Because of this reason the oppressed Blacks of America are accepting Islam. They too were treated just like the Harijans by their co-religionists (the white Christians) who felt that they were a superior race because of their skin colour. After embracing Islam, the Black Americans feel free. They are also respected. And as a matter of fact many of them have become the leaders of Muslims and lead the prayers in the mosques where the Arabs, Indians and Iranians and many other peoples follow them. And the same thing could not have been imagined in the White-dominated Churches. They couldn't even enter the Whites' Churches even for the prayers. That is why one of the leaders of Black American Muslim brothers, Wailac Mohammed, declared in the mosque that the Christianity failed to give the equality to the Blacks ! And for the same reasons the world boxing champion

Mohammad Ali (Cassius Clay) also has embraced Islam and the conversions are increasing at the rate of 400% a year. The Harijans of India have been persecuted, discriminated and suppressed since thousands of years. They should not suffer any more and your leaders should not let them suffer any more. But as far as they remain in the net of Hindu religion they would not get equal social status, freedom and justice in the Hindu society. No matter how well educated and learned they will be, no matter how rich they become, they will be still considered low and dirty in the Hindu society. This is really a shame. The one billion Muslims of the world are ready to embrace the Harijans with joy and respect. O! Harijans we welcome you. We are waiting for you, come and join the universal brotherhood. You will get justice, equality, tranquility, fraternity, brotherhood and freedom. O! leaders of the oppressed, I personally invite you and call upon you to embrace Islam so that your oppressed people can follow your footsteps. Please do not consider the invitation a formal one. It is a serious call. Your right move may change the condition and lives of millions of oppressed, for you and the other oppressed.

Sd. M. MAZHARUDDIN, Illinois, U.S.A.

Dr. B. R. AMBEDKAR:

For annihilating castes & untouchability from among the untouchables; change of religion is the only antidote.

J. D. SETHI : Corruption is the ideology of the ruling class of a decaying civilisation and the flattering magalomanics who believe that Mrs. Gandhi is above law, even the law of gravity. (Indian Express Oct.16)

# RSS GOING MAD OVER JAMSHEDPUR INQUIRY REPORT

( Our correspondent )

Bangalore : India's high caste Hindu fascist organisation, RSS, which has been boasting that no judicial inquiry commission has so far indicted it, is today reeling under the blow of the Jamshedpur communal riot inquiry commission. For the first time it is put on the defensive. Even the communal Hindu press, so sympathetic to RSS, could not save it this time. It was caught red-handed at a moment when it was actually riding the waves. That is why every "chaddi party" leader from top to bottom is put on a white-washing job trying to attribute motive to the commission, sidetrack the issue and drown the facts under mountains of lies—a game in which the RSS is an expert. The RSS chief Deoras is desperately going round the country explaining that his Hindu fundamentalist party has nothing to do with the Jamshedpur riots. Vajpayee, its blue-eyed boy being groomed to become the Prime Minister, is doing his best to regain the lost image. But any amount of window-dressing will not undo the damage done. The RSS resorted to this very same propoganda trick as soon as Gandhi was shot dead by Godse, including disowning him. In the case of Jamshedpur, RSS has quickly disowned Dinanath Pandey, indicted by the Commission as the arch-villain. But it was the very same Pandey, the local MLA, who has shouted "Godse zindabad" on the floor of the Bihar State Assembly. The BJP has suspended him but what we cannot understand is that if the RSS is so lily-white, pure as an angel, as it claims, why should it bother about any allegation? It is this spate of denials and unending white-washing efforts that make anybody suspect its claims for innocence. A strong proof of its guilt is available if we read the Oct. 4 issue of the RSS official mouthpiece, *Organiser*. The RSS is so much stung by this unexpected exposure by the inquiry commission that the *Organiser* brought out almost a special issue on Jamshedpur. On page 1, it carries an interview of Pandey disowning

any connection with the riots. If the RSS and the BJP had disowned him, why carry this picture and interview on page 1? Is it not a further proof that Pandey is indispensable to the RSS? The *Organiser* has an editorial headlined "RSS unperturbed", a careful reading of which also proves that RSS is indeed rattled by this unexpected exposure. Right now the RSS is on a big expansion drive. No doubt it has made tremendous progress even in Marxist strongholds like W. Bengal and Kerala. The conversion to Islam has been used to make inroads into TN which has been its weakest spot. When it is riding the waves, thanks to the all-out support it gets from the country's ruling class, winning victories after victories, the Jamshedpur report comes as a bolt from the blue. *Organiser* editorial amply indicates that it will take years of painstaking work to repair the damage it suffered by this verdict. The *Organiser* carries a third article by Thakur Prasad, the RSS advocate before the Commission, putting all the blame on the Muslims for the riots. Prasad gives a new twist which should be of interest to Muslims and particularly dalits, Prasad says that the Muslims engineered the riots to crush the dalits. Yet another article is about the speech said to have been made by Pilloo Modi in the Rajya Sabha criticising the commission. Then it has two separate items reproducing an article in the *Statesman* by its Delhi resident editor, S. Sahay. This article by the most prestigious English daily in India has certainly damaged its reputation. Because the *Statesman* is noted

for its impartial and progressive outlook. It is the only paper of India which is objective when it comes to the question of minorities. But unfortunately, Sahay has tarnished its fair image by writing this article a casual reading of which will convince anybody that it was written on behalf of the RSS. The very fact that the *Organiser* has cared to reproduce Sahay article is enough to prove this charge. Inquiries at Calcutta have revealed the Tatas, the owners of the *Statesman* who are said to have encouraged the RSS to curb the Leftist trade unions controlling the Tata industrial empire in Jamshedpur, have given the inspiration to this article. The *Statesman* has further shown its bias by publishing a report in its issue of Oct. 7. This long report from Jamshedpur is not from its own correspondent but from a mysterious "A correspondent". The report says that the inquiry commission verdict has only helped the RSS and the Hindu fundamentalists. The *Statesman* should not have so openly sided with the RSS, almost becoming its mouthpiece. The sixth piece in the *Organiser* is to defend the RSS, an anonymous letter by "five readers of Jamshedpur." The letter, which appears to have been manufactured by the *Organiser* office in Delhi, is a dire warning to the *Times of India* which in a surprise editorial (Sept. 15) on the Jamshedpur has strongly criticised the RSS for killing so many Muslims

*The Times of India* is a Jain-Marwari group and its editor himself is a Jain, Girilal Jain, who had written a front-page signed article openly criticising the Muslims for the Moradabad communal riots. The RSS is naturally surprised how such a sympathetic editor has so suddenly turned hostile to the RSS. It may be recalled that this very same Girilal Jain had supported Vikram Rao, its Lucknow correspondent, before the Press Council which had inquired into a complaint against Rao's dispatch published in

the *Times of India* [Aug. 20, 1980] under the headline : Factors behind Moradabad, holding Muslims responsible for the riots and also saying RSS had nothing to do with this. The Press Council verdict, however, also went in favour of Vikram Rao. The RSS is naturally perturbed how the *Times of India* and its editor, consistently siding with it, have suddenly turned against it. Therefore the *Organiser* has rightly asked for the apology from the *Times of India*. Not only that, the apology should be published prominently on its front page. This warning or rather an ultimatum coming from the RSS is understood to have shaken the Bori Bunder headoffice of the *Times of India* in Bombay and high-level consultations are going on to make amends. The owners are now in a fix. The warning has once for all proved that the RSS will not tolerate any newspaper in India writing anything against it, even if it is a court verdict. □

## T.N. Dalits Decide to Quit

### Hinduism

Madras : At a meeting held here recently all the representatives expressed their solidarity and assured co-operation in regard to the pending criminal case against Dr. Kuganandam, chairman, Scheduled Castes Students Federation, T. N. The pros and cons of the conversion was discussed and the participants were unanimous about quitting Hinduism. A writ challenging the suspension of Dr. Kuganandam, was filed in the Madras High Court. Advocates Fenn Walter and Kumaraswamy took up the case to rescue the dalit student leader and got the stay order in the High Court on Sept. 3. □

DALIT V.C. : Out of more than 150 universities in India and in the 125 years-old history of Madras University, a dalit scholar, Dr. Santappa, has got appointed as its vice-chancellor. Dalit teachers, workers & students felicitated him in Madras on Oct. 7, writes our Madras correspondent. □

## JAGJIVAN RAM DECLARES WAR AGAINST BRAHMINISM

Once in a way Jagjivan Ram, India's most famous leader of the Untouchables, gets angry. Described by Charan Singh as India's richest politician, Babuji, as he is called, is today a very frustrated man. No doubt a brilliant, well-read razor-sharp minded leader who had been occupying Central Ministership ever since the country became independent and

even before that. This is the first time in his life that he is without power. He would have been Janata party's first Prime Minister had there been an election for the office but the RSS with the help of JP and Kripalani sabotaged his chances and brought Morarji Desai, a Brahmin. The caste Hindus of India voted against the Janata in the last general elections fearing that Babuji would become the Prime Minister. The RSS itself worked for the Cong. I. All these things have made Babuji a bitter man against the high castes but those who have read his interview in the Calcutta weekly, *Sunday* (Oct. 4) will be disappointed that Babuji has not given up compromising with the high castes. Why is he willing to wound but afraid to strike? Because he has not lost hope of becoming the PM. It is indeed shocking that so knowledgeable and versatile a man like Babuji is still nourishing the hope that the high castes would tolerate an Untouchable to rule them. Recently he got locked in a big controversy that exploded even in Parliament where a member produced a poster announcing Babuji's conversion to Islam. Stung by the severity of the blow, Babuji quickly denied the charge. It is true that Babuji has the capacity to shake the country and teach a lesson to the high castes. But he is afraid lest he be exposed of his several weaknesses. That he could be intellectually dishonest could be made out while reading his latest book, "Caste Challenge in India." How can anybody write on caste challenge in India without mentioning

Dr. Ambedkar and Periyar? But there is no mention of both in his book. Not even a vague reference. To that extent he could deceive himself. How could such a person have the moral courage to face the high castes who could be really merciless with him? It is in this background that we have to read his interview in the *Sunday* in which he confesses that: "In fact the group I have helped most in my life is Brahmins." "A Sunday reporter who visited his mansion in Sasaram (Bihar) said that there was no admission to it to Untouchables (Chamaraas) but only Brahmins and other high castes. That does not mean that Babuji can be dismissed so easily. The high castes of India know it and that is why they always keep him in good humour. Babuji has his wealth but his name will not enter history like Ambedkar. If he wants to enter history he must give up his crores and do something before it is too late. Already he is ageing, health failing. Better late than never. We sincerely hope tha Babuji will not miss the bus. it is in the light of these things that we have to read his definition of Brahminism, the curse of India: "If you are happy, worship Brahmins; if you are sad, worship them; If you are employed worship them; if you are unemployed, then too worship them; that is barahminism". A very ingenious definition of barahminism from so experienced a leader of India and himself a victim of brahminism. We are watching with interest how Babuji will destroy brahminism and save India □

## THE INAUGURAL ISSUE OF THE DALIT VOICE

*The Dalit Sahitya Akademy is proud to launch the first inaugural issue of the Dalit Voice, the voice of the persecuted minorities of India, which is now registered as a newspaper. A dream come true, the Voice has raised the hopes and aspirations of many conscious persons. And we are glad to inform that dalits, other persecuted minorities and their sympathisers in India & abroad have responded well to our call.*

*The yearly subscription is fixed at Rs 10 only considering the position of the revolutionary sections that patronise us. Single copy is priced at 50 paise.*

*Those who have not paid the subscription are requested to hurry up. If each reader introduces us to five more, it will only help reach the Voice to wider areas.*

*We pledge to serve the cause of the persecuted minorities and speak out the truth at any cost. We also pledge to keep out party politics and other groupism that is killing us; but at the same time fully subscribing to the revolutionary philosophy of Ambedkarism. We dedicate the journal to fight the "ruling class" of India. To us no single individual is our enemy. We are concerned with issues—primarily social, cultural and then economic—in that order. That is why the Voice shall prove to be an unique experiment in the high caste-class controlled Indian journalism.*

*We have a long way to go. Every new issue of the Voice shall help us learn from experience. Readers should feel free to criticise and correct us considering the Voice as their own journal.*

*We request readers and other well-wishers to help us get advertisement which alone can sustain a publication. Advt. tariff shall be published shortly. News agents may kindly place orders and usual commission shall be given.*

*We will do our best to propogate the philosophy of all those great revolutionaries who were responsible for India's social change— Mahatma Phule, Sri Narayana Guru, M. N. Roy, B. R. Ambedkar, Lohia, Periyar EVR and all other progressive thinkers. Rationalists & genuine Marxists and all those working for social change shall count on our support in their struggle. It is the Dalit Voice, the voice of the persecuted minorities yearning for revolution.*

**Publishers.**

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### Ambedkarite meet

Nagpur : Followers of Dr. Ambedkar will meet in Hyderabad for two days from Oct. 25 to discuss ways of revitalising the Buddhist movement in the country.

L. R. Balley, member of the central executive of the Indian Buddhist Council, told newsmen that the movement had become stagnant because of the stranglehold of people like R. S. Gavai, chairman of the Maharashtra Legislative Council, and others who, for their personal and political gains, were exploiting the Buddhist masses

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### WHY GO FOR CONVERSION ?

by Dr. B. R. Ambedkar

[ Pages 20 Price Re-1 ]

Excerpts from the historic speech delivered on May 30-31, 1936 while addressing a conference of Untouchables, making his stand clear on conversion. The document is topical in the context of the current controversy raised by the communal Hindus on the issue of conversion. It is the most authentic voice of Dr. Ambedkar on conversion.

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Orders awaited.

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interfering in the Aligarh Muslim University affairs as well. At Kanyakumari, the RSS-sponsored Vivekananda Rock Memorial has harmed the interests of local fishermen. The RSS and its agents have raised a demand to ban conversion while they are freely indulging in converting tribals, Christians and Muslims. There is also a move to stop flow of foreign money to Muslims and Christians. Political representation is denied to them.

St. John's Medical College is selected as a test case. The communal Hindus might have got the courage to interfere with Christians because a section of the Church has started compromising with Hindu values without understanding the Hindu mind. "Indianising" does not mean "Hinduising" but a section of the Church tried to Hinduise their rituals. And the communal Hindus took advantage of this goodness and tried to shake Christians as a whole. We would urge the Church authorities to stop appeasing the communal Hindus at least now after learning bitter lessons from the Freedom of Religion Bill and the St. John's affair. Christian authorities should also stop dealing at the State-level but take up the issue directly with the Prime Minister. The Pope himself should summon the Ambassador to Italy and administer a stern warning. Apart from this, Ambassadors in Delhi hailing from Christian countries should be briefed about the victimisation of minorities in India and they in turn should be asked to take up the matter at the appropriate level. The St. John's, which is an international institution, should be treated as an international issue and dealt appropriately. Then only the communal Hindus who depend so much upon Christian countries and their money will come to their senses. India does not belong to Hindus only.

If the Christians yield they will have to

suffer many more cuts. And the communal Hindus can be really merciless. They are angry with the Christians because they fully realise the danger to Hinduism by the Christian help and support to the liberation struggle of untouchables and tribals. In the Eastern region of India, the tribals are fully liberated, almost 100% literate, economically sound and yet militant solely because of the work done by the Christian missionaries. The Jharkand demand for a tribal state is voiced by militant tribes who became Christians. The Christian service to untouchables and tribals is now part of Indian history. The communal Hindus who revel in Christian-baiting find it a status symbol to send their children to convents run by Christians. The very same people prefer to get admitted to Christian hospitals because they know the risk to their lives in hospitals run by the Government. During the Andhra cyclone when the communal Hindus refused to touch the bodies of the dead fearing that it may be that of untouchables, it was Mother Theresa who did the commendable job of relief. We can go on reeling out facts and figures to narrate the Christian service in literacy drive, preservation of tribal culture, historical research, and several other fields. What the Brahmins describe as their "sacred books" would have been lost but for Max Muller and other German and English Christian scholars who translated it and printed it and made it available to Brahmins themselves. The untouchables, tribals, OBCs, should take note of this. They have made use of the Hindu weaker sections to attack the minorities. In communal & caste riots it is the low castes who are used to kill dalits and Muslims. The OBCs in particular should stop playing into the hands of these communal Hindus. The conscious lot among dalits should educate other comrades and see that the communal Hindus do not set one against the other. Minorities are our best friends in distress. We will rather join them and identify our common enemy and fight it to bring a good name to the country. □

## TRIBALS SEEK U.N.O. HELP ?

(our correspondent)

PATNA : *The Statesman* has published an alarming and mischievous report (Sept 27) from its Patna correspondent saying that the tribals of the Chaibasa region have raised the demand for a separate nation for Kolhan and its representatives have left for the UNO to seek its intervention. The report adds that this Chaibasa-based "secessionist movement" is supported by foreign missionaries.

The report has neither given the name of the persons who reportedly left for the UNO nor the foreign missionaries. We tried to contact some tribal leaders in the Chaibasa area to verify the report but it was found to be totally false and baseless. The report says : The underground movement for an independent sovereign State for Kolhan took a new turn with two 'legal advisers' of the self-styled Kolhan Government reportedly leaving for the UN and the Commonwealth headquarters recently to place their case before the international authorities. The Kolhan area comprises the predominantly tribal regions of Bihar centreing round the old Chaibasa subdivision. The secessionists' case is that the Kolhan area had "never merged with the Indian Union during or after the transfer of power by the British Government". Official sources here confirmed that some anti-national elements had been engaged in subversive activities in some pockets of Chotanagpur. But they did not

confirm if the 'legal advisers' of the self-styled Kolhan Government had slipped out of the country. The sources said that some tribals, aided and abetted by a few foreign missionaries had been trying to build up a secessionist movement in and around Chaibasa, the report adds. However it is true that the Bihar tribals are more militant than the untouchables and the stunning progress achieved by their counterparts in North-Eastern India is held as a model to the rest of the tribals. No doubt missionaries are active in the area but there is no evidence to their encouraging secessionist activities. They are demanding only a separate Jharkhand State. Meanwhile, the Tripura tribals have stepped up their agitation for an autonomous district council for the tribal areas of the State under the 6th Schedule of the Constitution. They are not happy with the CPM-led Government's efforts at suppressing the tribal culture. □

### INDIA 11th POOREST

WASHINGTON: The World Bank, in its 1981 world development report, places India among the 11 poorest nations in the world. The rankings based on per capita

gross national product (GNP), put Bhutan as the poorest country with a GNP of 80 for each of its 1.3 million citizens. Bangladesh was second poorest, followed by Chad, Ethiopia, Nepal, Mali, Burma Upper Volta and India.

EDITOR : V T. Rajshekar

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