

# CRITIQUE

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We need to look at politics beyond caste, religion, language and other vested considerations, but look at the interests of the nation. The greater good of the greater number of people should become the deciding factor.

***“We are unorganized vast majority ruled by highly organized elite minority; let us organize ourselves and rule the nation”*** was the slogan with which civil societies started, in recent times, preparing the people for the forthcoming General elections.

This election is going to be yet another crucial in the sense it is going to decide the fate of the future of the nation especially in terms of saving the country from fundamental forces. What is happening around us in the social, political and religious arenas cause concerns and anxiety. Election campaign is no more an ordinary exercise by which people are taught about their responsibility cast their votes without any bias to those who can defend the constitutional, democratic and secular values. People are more divided and disintegrated in the name of political affiliations. People are not taught about their constitutional right, the power of their votes, their responsibility to defend and safeguard the constitution. Vast majority don't know the background of political parties; they don't know their ideologies; they don't know the impact of their rule in the states and the nation. They forget the many ills and blunders that they imposed upon the people. People tend to have short time memory loss which doesn't play back the troubles, struggles, losses they went through due to faulty decisions of the rulers. People tend to forget the long and scorching quest; Dalits and Adivasis forget their brethren were paraded naked, incarcerated and scourged, whipped and stripped of their bare minimum dress and thrown into frying furnace of heat to die. People tend to forget the millions of minorities, Dalit and tribal youths missing; people tend to forget the number of churches desecrated and vandalized, mosques demolished and other religious monuments built; people tend to forget scores of other anti-poor and anti-people atrocities that were let loose.

India is dearth of statesmen; India has lost the history of parliament debates based on ideology, based on principles, based on political decency. They have been replaced by political intimidation, political vendetta and pressure politics to cow down

unerring and adamant politicians; MLA and MP poaching has become order of the day. It has become that it is not necessary that you have to contest the election and win to form the government; even if one party has less elected candidates, but have money, media and muscle power, a political party can form government. In other words, our constitution, our democratic values, our fundamental principles of political honesty and uprightness are becoming the things of the past.

There seems to be only one way out to these failings, people's decision. People are the solution to the problems that our political democracy faces today. The voters are the most important category in the electoral politics who determine the fate of the nation for the next five years. Freebies, false promises and attractive sops are the electoral baits by which the voters are wooed without any concrete action plans for the progress of the people. Added to these money, gifts, alcohol and many such momentary throw outs by which voters are bought. Without realizing the damage, people are also hooked by these and end up choosing corrupt and criminal politicians who plunder the wealth of the country and betray the promises of true governance and progress. This has been the political culture that has come to stay in Indian polity.

We need to look at politics beyond caste, religion, language and other vested and petty considerations, but look at the interests of the nation. The greater good of the greater number of people should become the deciding factor to choose one's candidate. This will gradually put in the burner casteist, corrupt and criminal politicians and sectarian political parties. Only then will we be able to win elections to safeguard our democratic and constitutional governance system and bring change in the Indian political map.

***Dr. Selvaraj Arulnathan SJ***  
***Director***

## RECENT EVENT

### A course on Finance management: Basic and Advanced

**Indian Social Institute, Bangalore** organized a course on financial management both basic and advanced models. It was organized as a special program from the Finance Department of ISI B from September 12 till 16 for basic module and 18 till 22 September for advanced model. This course was devised and conducted by Fr. G. Alex of Jesuit Jamshedpur province who has a very rich experience working in houses of SA Conference.

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### State level Workshop on Fighting Caste Violence through Law: SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocity Act) 2015

I am a citizen of India. Do I know the Constitution? As a student I studied the Constitution of India for the sake of passing in the examination but now I realise that I am learning it as a responsible citizen.

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### A Two-Day National Level Consultation on Promoting Democratic Process

I am a citizen of India. Do I know the Constitution? As a student I studied the Constitution of India for the sake of passing in the examination but now I realise that I am learning it as a responsible citizen.

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## "Empowering PARA: A Journey of Participation, Accountability, and Community Transformation in Andhra Pradesh"

The continuation phase 6 We had this awesome three-day training on 'Participation and Accountability, had a profound impact on 35 young trainers from 29th,30th November and 1st December 2023 in PARA, Ravulapalem, Andhra Pradesh. This training was held at PARA, Ravulapalem, Andhra Pradesh as part of the program of Social Inclusion and Democracy Unit of Indian Social Institute Bengaluru in collaboration with Peoples Action for Rural Awakening (PARA), Ravulapalem, and Women Association for Gender Equality (WAGE) Ravulapalem.

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## Respect Women & Mitigate The Abuse Of Renewable & Non Renewable Resources

The three-day training program was organized from 17th to 19th November 2023, by Social Inclusion & Democracy Unit of Indian Social Institute Bengaluru, in collaboration with KGF Catholic Union. 31 Youth participated (24 Boys & 7 Girls) for an in-depth knowledge on challenges faced by women in various set-ups to live a dignified life & the abilities to mitigate the abuse of renewable and non-renewable resources.



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## "Fisher-folk youth advocate Environmental Conservation for sustainable living"



Inspired to serve, 31 youth resolved to protect environment through beach clean-ups and safeguarding natural resources such as water conservation through daily practices.

The 3-day capacity building equipped the youth with knowledge on gender equality, environmental protection and sustainable future in Module V, 'Women and Mother Earth' training. Indian Social Institute Bengaluru in collaboration with Loyola Extension Service, Blue Point, Cherureshmi, and IRT Organization organised the programme at Loyola Extension Services, Sreekaryam, Trivandrum.

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## 'Gender Equality is a Human Right'

Moorthy, like many young boys, used to believe that men were superior to women, following the mindset of patriarchy. In the past, he disrespected women, as was unfortunately common. However, a series of ongoing youth capacity-building training sessions led to a significant change in Moorthy. These training programs aimed to empower young individuals and brought about a new perspective within him

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## Workshop on Legal Literacy for NGOs and CSOs Working with Migrants A Report

Inauguration: The day started with the timely arrival of all the participants at 10.00 a.m. in Satyodayam. The formal inauguration of the Legal Literacy program occurred in Loyola College campus, Alwal Secunderabad. The inaugural session was graced by Fr. L. Joji SJ, The Principal of the College, Fr. Amar Rao SJ the Rector and Correspondent of the college, Fr. Selvaraj SJ the Director of ISI Bangalore and Fr. Yesurethinam SJ the Director of CITRA. They all spoke about the importance of the workshop and their relevance today. Sri. B. Srinivas Rao, DSP, Anti-Human Trafficking, Women Safety Wing, Hyderabad, served as the chief guest and delivered an hour-and-a-half-long speech. His address explored critical topics such as the trafficking of women and children, the link between poverty and trafficking, and preventive measures. He emphasized the roles of community vigilance, education, and awareness.

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## Medical Services to the Migrants in Bangalore

The Indian Social Institute, (Labour Migration Unit) Bangalore in collaboration with St. Philomena's hospital organized a one-day medical camp for migrant workers on 26th Nov 2023 at L.B Shastri Nagar & Jyothi Nagar in Bangalore. The medical camp started at 9.30 am and ended at 2.00 pm. Around 120 persons including men, women and children from the localities had medical check-up.

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### PAXETHOS-NEWS LETTER

[PaxEthos - 1](#)

[PaxEthos - 2](#)

### Inauguration of Peace and Reconciliation Unit Report

Indian Social Institute, Bengaluru with its guiding vision 'to build an egalitarian and inclusive society by promoting socially conscious and empowered communities' has ventured yet another significant stage (millstone) by way of installing a functional Unit for Peace and Reconciliation Promotion. The broader aim of the unit is to foster 'Peace and Reconciliation Social Educational Endeavour in accordance with the guidelines of Universal Apostolic Preferences of the society of Jesus and the South Asian Jesuit Network for Peace and Reconciliation Initiatives.

A formal inauguration of the Peace and Reconciliation Unit was held on 2nd of October 2023.

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