

The Liberal Position

Newsletter of the INDIAN LIBERAL GROUP

(For Private Circulation only)



The Indian Liberal Group (ILG) is an organisation founded in 1964, by the late Minoos Masani, author and parliamentarian, to promote the Liberal point of view on issues of the day. The ILG aims not only to present the Liberal point of view, but to educate the public about the concept of Liberalism so that it is understood and accepted not merely as a method of economic engineering, but also as a philosophy of governance that promotes a civil society. The ILG seeks to emphasise the fact that a market economy by itself does not ensure an open society; that a free economy and a free society are two sides of the same coin; and that, a free and democratic society alone will ensure a satisfying standard of life for the people. For a more detailed profile of the ILG please visit our website www.liberalsindia.com.

Number 7 - May 2004

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This issue is for the period September 2003 to May 2004.

NEWS FROM LOCAL CHAPTERS

Chennai

Energising Youth Power

The Chennai Chapter of the ILG organised two seminars on Vocational Education entitled "Energising Youth Power – Education and Training for Enterprise skills" on December 12 and 13. The Chapter networked with the following organisations in organising these seminars: MGR Janaki College for Women, MOP Vaishnav College for Women, the Catalyst Trust and the Project for Economic Education. The purpose of these seminars was to provide information to the youth regarding education and training for enterprise skills and choice of career courses, particularly for those who are unable to pursue higher studies; and to impress on youth the ILG's concerns, particularly the fact that Liberals give equal importance to education for employment as much as education for citizenship.

Education in schools and colleges is mainly geared towards obtaining degrees and learning by rote. This leaves little space for those who are unable to pursue higher studies. Vocational training can fill this gap. However, schools and colleges do not impart knowledge about vocational training and the youth feel disappointed and frustrated, drifting aimlessly with a few even taking recourse to crime.

Mr. Krishan Khanna, ILG member from Mumbai who is actively involved in imparting knowledge on vocational training and career courses was invited to speak to the students of three colleges on vocational guidance and enterprise skills.

The programmes were attended by about 700 participants – students, teachers, professors, principals and directors of polytechnics, engineering colleges and technical institutes.

A Meeting of Students and Young Members

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Mr. S. V. Raju (national) president of the ILG president met student members of the ILG in Chennai on November 19, 2003. He discussed with them ways and means to involve youth in the activities of the ILG. The participants were enthusiastic and offered their full support to ILG programmes in 2004.

Youth Clubs and Surveys

Two Liberal Youth Clubs were formed in Sri Sankara Vidyaashraman Matriculation Higher Secondary School and Sri Sankara Senior Secondary School, both in Chennai with 23 and 30 students respectively. Prof. Radhakrishnan addressed the two clubs and explained the values of tolerance, respect for human dignity and self esteem.

The Chapter organised a survey with data collected by the students from local citizens on the government's decision to install CAS (Conditional Access System). It was found that in general consumers in their neighbourhood, whom they met (some 1000 families) were not enthusiastic about installing set top boxes. It may be recalled that earlier the students had conducted a survey on Investors' Choice.

News of both these surveys were reported in the press and also printed as booklets for the benefit of the general public. The Chennai Chapter circulated copies to all the ILG Chapters for distribution to their members.

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Guntur

Meeting to condemn Terrorist Strikes in Mumbai

The day after the terrorist bombings in Mumbai the Guntur Chapter convened an emergency meeting to condemn the outrage. Dr. Sivaji who was present at the meeting called for the unity of all communities to fight terrorism. The meeting was of the view that too much time is taken in apprehending these terrorists and punishing them. Swift trial and punishment would act as a deterrent.

Reports of Monthly Meetings

At its monthly meeting on September 5, the Guntur Chapter decided to participate actively in the Lok Satta One Crore signature campaign to bring pressure on the AP State Government to transfer powers to the local bodies as required under the Indian Constitution. This was revealed by Ms. M. Suguna the

Secretary of ILG's Guntur Chapter, in a statement to the press.

ILG member Mr. Ahmed Hussain who participated in a training programme on the Market Economy conducted by the Friedrich Naumann Foundation in Kathmandu shared with members his impressions of the programme.

At its meeting on October 4 the Guntur Chapter condemned the Naxals' attack on the A.P. Chief Minister; felicitated Dr. A. Rajasekhar, Vice-President of the Guntur Chapter on being awarded the 'Best Teacher award for 2003 by the state government and wished the Secretary of the ILG's A.P. State Executive Dr. L. S. N. Prasad bon voyage on his taking up a teaching assignment in Ethiopia.

State Level Meeting

Guntur was the venue of a meeting of members of the ILG in Andhra Pradesh held on February 21, 2004. 38 members were present. Dr. Y. Sivaji, (national) vice-president of the ILG and president of the Andhra Pradesh State Executive chaired the meeting. Mr. S. V. Raju (national) president participated in the deliberations. The presidents of the Guntur, Hyderabad and Tirupati Chapters reported on the activities of their Chapters. The members present discussed in some detail the current socio-economic situation in the state on the eve of the polls to the State Assembly.

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Hyderabad

The ILG Chapter in Hyderabad in association with the daily newspaper *Vaaritha*, organised a Public Awareness Meeting on July 23, 2003 on the "Mysterious Disease and Infant Deaths" in several districts in the State. The leading speakers were Dr. C. N. K. Reddy, Superintendent of the Fever Hospital, Hyderabad and Dr. Bhaskar Rao a well known physician. Prof. Ramesh Babu, the Chapter's president, chaired the meeting and Mr. V. Hanumantha Rao the Chapter's PRO proposed a vote of thanks.

Hyderabad was also the venue of a National Seminar and a public meeting organised by ILG-NHQ with the active support and cooperation of the Hyderabad Chapter. A report of this programme is published elsewhere in this Newsletter.

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Kerala

The president of the ILG's Kerala State Executive, Professor Babu Joseph organised two programmes in association with the Project for Economic Education in Trivandrum and Kottayam on December 16 and 17, 2003

Development Crisis and Economic Reforms in Kerala – A Seminar

The objective of the seminar was to support the present government in Kerala in its efforts to promote economic reforms; to promote an awareness of Liberal values in general and the ILG in particular in Trivandrum especially the ILG's perception of economic liberalisation.

The seminar was inaugurated by Mr. A. K. Antony, Chief Minister of Kerala. The participants – over a 100 – included academicians, administrators and students. Dr. B. Alwin Prakash, member, ILG, delivered the keynote address on "Developmental Crisis and Economic Reforms of U.D.F. Government in Kerala". His paper in Malayalam was circulated to those present. This was followed by a panel discussion led by the Secretary of the Modernising Government Programme, one current and one former Member - State Planning Board, former Professor of the Agricultural University and former President, Cochin Stock Exchange. Dr. V. Ramachandran, Vice Chairman, State Planning Board spoke on "Kerala and Globalisation".

Women's Leaders' Conference

The objective of the Conference which was organised in association with the Mount Carmel Training College, Kottayam to make women realise their potential and role in the development of a free society in a liberal democracy.

The Conference held in Kottayam consisted of teachers, professors, doctors, small entrepreneurs and administrators. The topics discussed were the role of women in panchayats; the rural poor – their problems and solutions.

Seminars on Police Reforms in Kerala

As many as 12 seminars on Police Reforms in Kerala were held between November 27 and December 18, 2003 in the following districts of Kerala: 27/11 Kannur; 28/11 Kasargod; 6/12 Wyanad; 7/12 Calicut; 8/12 Malappuram; 9/12 Palakkad; 11/12 Kottayam; 12/12 Idukki; 13/12 Ernakulam; 15/12 Pathanamthitta; 17/12 Trivandrum; 18/12 Kollam.

The objective of these seminars which was organised by the ILG in association with NOCER-India,

Kerala, was to make the people in Kerala aware of the reforms introduced in the Police Department so that it can effectively carry out its duty; to gauge the public's response and their reaction to the Police Reforms; and to provide a feedback to the State government and to the police department. The rule of law is a cardinal liberal principle and economic growth requires the impartial enforcement of law and order.

Police administration is in dire need of reforms. It is essential to keep the police department efficient and effective by keeping it free of interference from the government and political parties. The Chief Minister of Kerala, Mr. A. K. Antony had announced his intention to enforce police reforms and had taken steps in this direction. However, the people were not fully aware of the reforms. Also, political parties were not in favour of these reforms as it was against their interests. NOCER, the local voluntary organisation and the Indian Liberal Group felt that an awareness campaign on Police Reforms was necessary.

In most districts, the seminar was held in collaboration with a voluntary organisation working at the grassroots level in order to ensure a wider participation. Over one hundred people attended each seminar.

Subjects covered at these seminars during the forenoon sessions included "Democracy and the Police", "Police and the People", "Rule of Law" by various resource persons. The afternoon sessions were interactive involving group discussions. The suggestions put forth by the working groups were recorded.

Dr. Mary Thomas, Vice President-ILG, participated in six of these seminars. She spoke on the Rule of Law and how it would ensure the citizen's freedom and security to life and property. She stressed the need for citizens to be vigilant during election time.

The Report of these seminars was printed and distributed to the Chief Minister and his cabinet ministers, the heads of the Police Department (DGP and IGP), the Human Rights Commission, and voluntary organisations in Kerala and other states, and to all political parties.

The credit for conceiving, organising and implementing this programme goes to Mr. M. V. Mathew, president, NOCER-INDIA. Mr. Mathew is also an active member of the ILG.

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Mangalore

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The ILG's Mangalore Chapter had its first public discussion meet on the subject "Current Issues in Professional & High Education on July 19, 2003. President of the Chapter Dr. S. L. Shanbhogue was in the Chair. The discussions were initiated by Mr. Girdhar Prabhu, president of the Karnataka Executive of the ILG and (national) Secretary of the ILG. Various suggestions were made among which was the suggestion that ILG should take the initiative in organising Career Guidance Programmes and aptitude tests to help children make the right choice.

The Chapter participated in a three day – October 7 to 9 – cultural festival organised by the Tibetan Students' Association, Mangalore and Friends of Tibet, India. Mr. Giridhar Prabhu, took part in a press conference and expressed strong support of the Liberals for the Tibetan struggle for freedom.

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Mumbai

Citizens' Security in the Presence of Terrorism in Mumbai

On September 12, 2003, the Mumbai Chapter held a meeting of its members to discuss a spate of terrorist bombings in the city; offer support to the city police and the government in their effort to maintain law and order and campaign to demand expeditious disposal of cases involving terrorism. The bomb blasts had given rise to hostile reactions directed at the Muslim community, showing little understanding of the problem. The guest speaker was Mr. Satish Sahney, Retired Director General of Police, Maharashtra who had done tremendous work during his tenure as DGP in setting up Mohalla Committees comprising Muslim and Hindus to ensure communal harmony throughout Maharashtra. Mr. Sahney spoke on the duties of the police and the hurdles faced by them and how the common citizen can help the police in maintaining law and order, especially in times of crisis.

Mr. Ashok Karnik, member, ILG and former Deputy Director, Intelligence Bureau, Government of India, took a broader view of the problem. According to him, local elements should not be mistaken to be masterminding terrorism. Terrorism in India cannot be isolated from terrorism in other parts of the world. There is cause for concern and there is need to strengthen the people's will to fight terrorism and not panic or look for scapegoats. The meeting agreed that ILG should take the lead in approaching like-minded groups in educating the public and by being proactive in helping the law enforcing authorities to do their duty unhindered.

Accountability of Elected Representatives

To discuss the role the ILG in Mumbai should play in the forthcoming elections to the Lok Sabha particularly with reference to what we can, as Liberals, do in arresting the degeneration of representative government, the ILG Mumbai Chapter convened a meeting on February 13. Dr. Mary Thomas, (national) vice president, ILG and president of the Mumbai Chapter chaired the meeting which had the advantage of the presence of Mr. A. K. Venkat Subramanian, the Chennai-based retired civil servant and currently Trustee of The Catalyst Trust devoted to good governance.

Mr. Venkat Subramanian said that it was important to educate the voter on the value of his vote and encourage him to participate in activities to ensure fair elections at all levels. Such activities include, *inter alia*, (a) ensuring that candidates declare their background, assets and liabilities; (b) keeping an eye on the Electoral Roll in their constituency; (c) making sitting MPs who are standing for re-election accountable for their performance. He also spoke about "The Protest Vote", i.e. Rule No. 49(O) in the Conduct of Elections Rules 1961 – and explained how it works. He stressed the importance of the ILG networking with other voluntary organisations engaged in similar work.

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Nasik

Inaugural Meeting

The Nasik Chapter held its first meeting on December 7, 2003. The meeting which was well attended heard Mr. Kumar Ketkar, editor of the well-known Marathi newspaper *Loksatta* deliver the keynote speech on the "Relevance of Liberalism in the Present Context in India". Mr. Sanjay Panse, ILG member from Mumbai gave a presentation on the "Dilemmas of Liberalisation". Mr. S. V. Raju, (national) president, ILG presided over the function and spoke on the Indian Liberal Group and its objectives. Dr. Girdhar Patil, president of the Chapter, welcomed the gathering.

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Tirupati

Workshop on Farmers' Problems

The Tirupati Chapter organised a workshop on Farmers' Problems at the Vadamalpet Market Yard a village near Tirupati on February 20, 2004. The object of this workshop was to bring together the farmers to enable them to share their problems and come up

with workable solutions based on a questionnaire circulated before the meeting to farmers in the area where the meeting was held; to educate the farmers on various issues like marketing their produce, water conservation, government subsidies and correct information on WTO; to prepare the ground for a farmers' movement and bring their plight to the notice of decision-makers in the government and working on agricultural policies particularly in the area of rural credit.

Mr. K. Narayana Reddy, President of the Tirupati Chapter who is himself a farmer is of the view that the government agricultural policies have not really helped farmers. The indifference of the State to the problems of the farming community, natural calamities

and being drowned in debt, farmers in large numbers have been committing suicide.

Along with three other members of the Tirupati Chapter, Mr. Narayana Reddy conducted a survey among 100 farmers in the Vadamalapet area, about 20 kms. from Tirupati. The survey was conducted ten days before the workshop. All those who participated in the survey and some more, including women farmers – around 120 in all – participated in the workshop which was conducted in Telugu.

Mr. Ajay Kallam, an IAS Officer and former Commissioner of Agriculture in the A.P. Government and currently CEO of the Tirumalai Devasthanam

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Trust was the Chief Guest.

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National Seminar and Public Meeting in Hyderabad

Seminar (October 17 & 18, 2004): A Liberal Roadmap for Indian Democracy

Public Meeting (October 18, 2004): A National Dialogue for Peace and Harmony

With a number states facing elections, anti-social elements would be tempted to fan the flames of communal passions. To counter their efforts to create an atmosphere of disharmony and hatred among communities, and help as best as one can to maintain peace, the ILG organized, in association with the Hyderabad Chapter of the ILG and three other voluntary organisations a public meeting to sound a note of warning at this crucial hour. A seminar organised simultaneously sought to spell out the values of liberalism, India's growth potential in the context of the market economy, and the requirements of good governance.

Prof. Amlan Datta, the noted economist, educationist, writer and former Vice Chancellor of Viswa Bharati University at Shantiniketan, Kolkata, delivered the keynote speech at the public meeting held on October 18. He said that man has many needs and these can only be satisfied in an atmosphere of peace and harmony. Earlier in his address to the seminar, Prof. Amlan Datta stressed people's participation in governance if it has to be effective. The Seminar adopted a detailed statement, which is available on our website, www.liberalsindia.com

Training Programme for NOCER-India Members

The purpose of this training programme which was held at the LSP Centre in Devlali was to train members of NOCER-India – two from each of the fourteen districts in Kerala on the philosophy and practice of Liberalism. These members are grassroot workers who needed exposure to liberal thinking, economic reforms and liberalisation and be able to take part in activities at the panchayat level. The participants were from all walks of life – journalists, teachers, lawyers, social workers, farmers and even businessmen and students.

Each session was conducted by a senior member of the Indian Liberal Group. The subjects included liberal philosophy and the role of liberalism in India (Dr. R. Srinivasan); Secularism, with special reference to the rise of religious fundamentalism, minority rights and reservations (Prof. V. K. Sinha); Mr. Yogesh Kamdar presented his views on civil liberties, human rights violations and explained the misuse of laws like POTA and other similar acts. Devolution of power with special reference to panchayats (Mr. M. V. Mathew); economic reforms and the impact of liberalisation and globalisation on agriculture, industry and employment (Mr. S. S. Bhandare); active citizenship (Dr. Mary Thomas) and about the Indian Liberal Group, its aims and objects (Mr. S. V. Raju)

A representative from each of the fourteen districts presented the political, economic and social profile of his/her district. The problems that the districts faced were debated by the participants and solutions suggested.

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What India Needs – A Seminar

On September 27, 2003, a seminar was held in Mumbai on the topic 'What India Needs'.

The aim of this seminar which was held in association with the Liberal Quarterly *Freedom First* was to analyse and comment on the current situation in the areas of governance and politics, economy and social justice with a view to suggest the kind of policies India needs. There have been debates on what is wrong with the system. This seminar sought to suggest some solutions, i.e. what needs to be done to try and improve governance. The seminar discussed the needs of the country from four perspectives: Governance Perspective; Economic Perspective; Political Perspective and from the Social Justice point of view.

The Proceedings have been published as a booklet.

The Second Mino Masani Memorial Lecture

The Second Mino Masani Memorial Lecture was held at the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan auditorium in Chennai on November 20, 2003. Mr. N. Vittal, former Chief Vigilance Commissioner delivered the Lecture on "Corruption Mocking at Liberalisation". Veteran Liberal and industrialist Mr. G. K. Sundaram chaired the meeting. The speeches of Mr. Vittal and Mr. Sundaram have been published. A question-answer session that followed Mr. Vittal Speech have also been separately published.

Teaching and Learning of History and Civics in Secondary Schools – A Workshop for Teachers

The workshop organised in association with Indian Secular Society and, Indian Education Society (Education Committee), was held at the LSP Centre in Devlali between the 28th and 30th of November. The objective of this workshop in which all the 20-plus participants were school teachers was to give them a broader perspective of some of the themes in History and Civics which they teach in their classes; to alert teachers to the dangers posed by recent attempts at saffronising education; to generate interest in the study of History and Civics which plays a vital role in school education.

In recent years, history books are being rewritten to reflect the views of a particular party which are not only incorrect, but result in giving the wrong kind of interpretations to favour a particular community.

Arising from the two day discussions the workshop suggested for the ILG's consideration that

it should seriously consider the preparation of model text books in History and Civics as an example to teachers and parents on how the subjects should be tackled without any preconceived prejudices.

ILG Strategy for 2004

We had, in the last issue of the Newsletter, stated that it would be our endeavour to publish *The Liberal Position - Newsletter of the Indian Liberal Group* in the first week of each month. Unfortunately this was not found possible for various reasons. It is not that there were no activities. The contents of this issue of the Newsletter prove that indeed there were activities. On the other hand, even while we continue to believe that the Local Chapter is the key to ILG's organisational effectiveness, we need to take into account ground level realities and lend a helping hand in strengthening the Local Chapters.

One way to do this if for the ILG-NHQ to identify activities, develop action oriented programmes, guide and assist Local Chapters in translating them into action. This was the objective behind a Strategy Workshop held at the LSP Devlali Centre in Devlali from the 5th to the 7th of March 2004. The Workshop reviewed the ILG's activities in 2003 and identified strengths and weaknesses. The workshop had the benefit of the administrative and managerial experience of Mr. A. D. Moddie who had been a civil servant and also headed Hindustan Lever for a number of years. Mr. Moddie is a member of the ILG. He guided the workshop throughout its deliberations.

Participants who had indicated their chosen area of activity presented their plans of action, the short and long-term objective of the task undertaken and the infrastructural support required.

The following areas of activity were identified:

1. Youth Related Activities:
 - 1 Organising Youth Groups as a means to inculcate Liberal values
 - 1 Programmes on Education for Employment
 - 1 Secondary Education – Looking at text books particularly History and civics text books from the Liberal perspective and preparing model text books in these subjects – to begin with
2. Agrarian Related Activities
 - 1 Rural Poverty and Indebtedness
 - 1 Agriculture Marketing Reforms

3. Accountability of Elected Representatives
4. Local Self Government and Panchayat Raj – Strengthening these foundations of Indian Democracy
5. Judiciary and the Rule of Law
 1. Setting up a Legal Help Desk – awareness of citizens rights and remedies available to citizens on violation of constitutional human rights
 1. Prepare easy to read booklets on Terrorism, the Constitution of rights and duties of citizens, and organize discussion on public-police cooperation
6. Assisting the Patna Chapter in its effort to restore rule of law in Patna through the ILG sponsoring the 'Forum Freedom Movement'
6. A Think Tank on Government Administration Management

Model Liberal Budget

In August 2003 in association with the Project for Economic Education an exercise was undertaken to work out a Model Liberal Budget – the kind of Budget India's current economic situation needs. In other words a budget that is not only economic reforms friendly, but also truly reflects the liberal economic philosophy. The work is now complete and the Liberal Budget will be released in the second half of June. This will be a major event and we look forward to the active involvement of all our members in popularising it.

NETWORKING

Details will be communicated to all members soon.

The Drafting Group of the Budget consisted of Mr. S. S. Bhandare, Dr. Ajit Karnik, Dr. C. S. Deshpande, Mr. Sanjay Panse and Ms. Seetha Parthasarathy – all members of the Indian Liberal Group.

In issue number 6 of the Newsletter we had underlined our policy of networking with other organisations. We would like to reiterate our resolve that where an organisation is already performing a useful role, we shall not only not replicate the work being done by such an organisation, but shall do whatever we can, when approached, to support such organisations in their work. Such networking can be at the national level, state level or local level.

We are networking with the following organisations:

1. Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), Ahmedabad
1. Catalyst Trust and Citizens' Action Network, Chennai.
1. Friedrich Naumann Foundation, Asia Regional Office, New Delhi
1. Friends of Tibet, India, Mumbai
1. Institute of Economic Education (IEE), Chennai
1. Liberty Institute, New Delhi

1. Lok Satta, Hyderabad
1. National Organisation for Consumer Education & Research (NOCER), Kerala
1. Parivartan, Delhi
1. Public Expenditure Round Table (PERT), Chennai
1. Project for Economic Education, Mumbai
1. Rajaji Foundation, Mumbai
1. Vigil India Movement, Bangalore

Participating in programmes organised by Fraternal Organisations

One way of networking is to participate in programmes sponsored by fraternal organisations, representing the Indian Liberal Group at such conferences. ILG members who did so in the last one year are:

Dr. Amit Dholakia member from Baroda. He participated in a National Workshop workshop on "Electoral Reforms and Right to Information" in Ahmedabad in May 2003. The Workshop was sponsored by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR).

Mr. S. V. Raju and Mr. Sanjay Panse, members from Mumbai participated in a Conference convened by the Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats in Colombo in May 2003 on "Wealth Creation and Sustainable Development – A Liberal Democratic Agenda".

Mr. Ahmed Hussain ILG member from Guntur

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participated in a training programme on the Market Economy conducted by the Friedrich Naumann Foundation in Kathmandu in August 2003.

Ms. Falguni Desai ILG member from Mumbai participated in a conference convened by the Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats in Bangkok in December 2003. The Conference theme was 'Political Challenges for Economic Growth in Asia.'

Ms. Anjali Patil Gaikwad member from Nagpur participated in a Mont Pelerin Society (MPS) Special Regional Meeting in Colombo in January 2004

Mr. S. S. Bhandare member from Mumbai participated as a member of the Faculty in a National Seminar on "FISC 2020:India's Long term Fiscal Outlook" organised by the Public Expenditure Round Table (PERT) in Chennai in March 2004. He chaired

the session "Impact of Macro Economic Factors" and also made his observations on the subject.

Mr. S. V. Raju, member from Mumbai and Justice K. S. Puttaswamy (retd.) member from Bangalore participated in a Workshop in Bangalore in April 2004 organised by Vigil India Movement. While Justice Puttaswamy addressed the Workshop on "Money Power in Elections", Mr. Raju initiated the discussion on "Criminalisation of Elections."

As the Indian Liberal Group develops itself organisationally and gets to be better known, we are likely to receive greater attention from fraternal organisations within the country and overseas. It is therefore necessary to keep our data bank updated. When members are enrolled they are sent a form to fill in with a few personal details as well as their areas of special interest. Unfortunately over 50% of our members do not return the form with the details asked for. All such members lose the opportunity of being nominated for the kind of programmes listed above.

SECOND NATIONAL CONVENTION

The Second National Convention of the Indian Liberal Group will be held in Mangalore on December 3, 4 and 5, 2004. The T. V. Raman Pai Convention Centre (a state-of-the-art Centre) has been booked for the open inaugural session on Friday December 3. The delegates sessions will be held in the Sahodaya campus.

The National Executive will soon decide on the Convention theme and the programme of the

Convention. The Mangalore Chapter is getting itself fully equipped to manage the Convention. It has the added advantage of the presence of the (national) secretary Mr. Giridhar Prabhu who is also the president of the Karnataka Executive. Not only will you get opportunities to be nominated and thus widen your horizons, the Indian Liberal Group will get better known and be able to play a more effective role in public affairs.

Meanwhile, please block the dates in your diary, to be in Mangalore on December 3, 4 and 5, 2004.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Membership of the ILG is based on the financial year i.e. April 1 to March 31. Renewal of membership subscription for the period April 2004-March 31, 2005 is now due. The renewal fee is Rs.200 for active members and Rs.100 for active student members. Please renew your subscription on or before June 30, 2004. Please note that Life Members and Active/Student members who have paid their dues for 2004-2005 will be eligible to participate as delegates in the Second National Convention scheduled for December 3, 4 and 5 in Mangalore.

The following Chapters have ILG bank accounts. Members belonging to these Chapters can remit their subscriptions to the following.

Bangalore

Pay to: Justice K. S. Puttaswamy (Retd.), President, ILG,

Bangalore Chapter

Address: No.6, Park Area, 9th Crossw, Wilson Gardens, Bangalore 560 027. Phone No.(080) 2224551

Payment by cheque drawn in favour of : Indian Liberal Group, Bangalore Chapter, or in cash if paid personally to the person mentioned above.

Chennai

Pay to: Professor S. Radhakrishnan, President, ILG, Chennai Chapter

Address: Old No.5, New No.7, Park View Street, Srinivasa Avenue, R. A. Puram, Chennai 600 028.

Phone: (044)24937046

Payment by cheque drawn in favour of : Indian Liberal Group, Chennai Chapter, or in cash if paid personally to the person mentioned above.

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Guntur

Pay to: Dr. C. Subba Reddy, Treasurer, Guntur Chapter

Address: House No.6-13-77, 13/3, Arundelpet, Guntur 522 002. Phone No.(0863) 234291

Payment by cheque drawn in favour of: Indian Liberal Group, Guntur, or in cash if paid personally to the person mentioned above.

Hyderabad:

Pay to: Professor M. L. Kantha Rao, Treasurer, Hyderabad Chapter

Address: 405, Kundanbagh Apartments, 6-3-1192 Greenlands, Hyderabad 500 016.

Phone No.(040) 3405860

Payment by cheque drawn in favour of: Indian Liberal Group – Hyderabad Chapter, Or in cash if paid personally to the person mentioned above.

Kottayam

Pay to: Prof. Babu Joseph, President, ILG, Kottayam Chapter.

Address: Kurumpanakal (Pushpakadu), Muttambalam P.O., Kottayam 686 004. Phone No.(0481) 2560754

Payment by cheque drawn in favour of : Indian Liberal Group, Kerala Chapter*, Or in cash if paid personally to person mentioned above.

(Kindly note that this facility is available only to members in Kottayam).

Mangalore

Pay to: Mr. M. N. Pai, Treasurer, ILG, Mangalore Chapter

Address: 4-3-406/21, Anjandri, Behind SDM Law College, Kodialbail, Mangalore 575 003.

Phone No.492800

Payment by cheque drawn in favour of : Indian Liberal Group, Kanara Chapter, Mangalore, Or in cash if paid personally to the person mentioned above.

Based on our experience so far we would like to emphasise that members who are not part of any of the Chapters listed above *must not hand over their subscriptions to any one else in the State but send their subscriptions directly to us at Mumbai. This is very important from the accounting point of view and is based on the advise of our auditors.*

Therefore all other members who are not part of any of the Chapters listed above are kindly requested to remit their subscription by DD or cheque drawn in favour of Indian Liberal Group or by money order directly to: Ms. Kashmira Rao, Executive Secretary, Indian Liberal Group, c/o Freedom First, 3rd floor Army and Navy Building, 148, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Mumbai 400001. Phone No. 22843416.

Life Membership

Active Members can now opt for Life Membership by paying the Life Membership fee of Rs.2,000 in two equal instalments. You can pay the first instalment before June 30 and the second instalment on or before March 31, 2005. Do please consider this option.

www.liberalsindia.com

Have you visited our website recently. It has been made more user friendly and relevant.

However we regret to inform you that the free email id. with password that was given to every member of the ILG is no longer available. This is because of a change in the Web Hosting company. The email facility is no longer being offered because it is no longer commercially viable to the web hosting companies.

We welcome your suggestions to make the site even better.

PUBLICATIONS

You can order any of the following publications from ILG- NHQ. Price (where stated) includes packing and postage:

| | | |
|---|-----------------|----------------------|
| Accelerating Disinvestment of State Enterprises | PEE | Available on request |
| The Swatantra Party – Victory in Defeat by H.R.Pasricha | RF | Rs.150 |
| Liberalisation:A Balance Sheet: by Seetha Parthasarathy | PEE | Available on request |
| V. B. Karnik – Views and Vision: Selected Writings | FFF | Rs.200 |
| Liberal Priorities for India in the 21st Century | PEE/FNSt | Available on request |
| The True Face of Socialism by Subhash Athale and Ajit Narde(in Marathi) | ILG-Maharashtra | Rs.5 |
| Constitution of the Indian Liberal Group | ILG | Available on request |
| Basic Principles – Guidelines for Action | ILG | Available on request |
| Liberalism – An Essay by Minoo Masani | ILG | Available on request |
| India’s Security Strategy | LSP | Available on request |
| Development and Human Rights | PEE | Rs.100/- |
| The Philosophy and Practice of Liberalism – Prof. Amlan Datta | ILG | Rs.5/- |
| Corruption Mocking at Liberalisation (The Second Minoo Masani Memorial Lecture) | N.Vittal | Rs.5/- |
| What Happens when Corruption Mocks at Liberalisation (Q & A at the Second Minoo Masani Memorial Lecture) | N. Vittal | Rs.5/- |
| Investors’Choice - A Survey by Student Members of the ILG | ILG-Chennai | Rs.5/- |
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| The Costs of Formal Schooling | | Rs.5/- |
| What India Needs - A New Path | PEE | Rs.50/- |

PEE : Project for Economic Education, RF : Rajaji Foundation, FFF : Freedom First Foundation, FNSt : Friedrich Naumann Stiftung, LSP : Leslie Sawhny Programme.

NOTE FOR THE ATTENTION OF ALL CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

If you do not have any of the publications listed above, please let us know immediately. We shall send you copies of the ones you do not have.