

colours of  
**INDIA**



through the eyes of cartoonist **shekar**

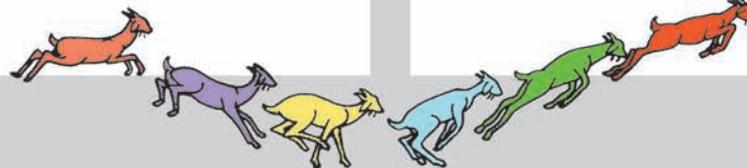
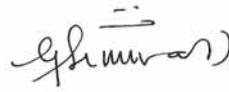


**G.SRINIVASA SUBRAHMANYAM**

Nimble and surefooted, that is Shekar's mind. His creative zeal does not blind him to his social responsibilities. He can pick humour out of almost nothing and yet skirt controversies. His lines give life to an idea and there is a painstaking attention to detail. Call it his training or an idiosyncrasy, Shekar pays attention to the minutest of details like the footwear of the character. Most essays of Shekar don't need a caption. The caption is often only a corroboration of the statement that the cartoon has made.

Universal in his message Shekar sincerely addresses the issue and uses easily understood symbolisms for greater impact. For instance talking about Pakistan elections where Asif Ali Zardari won, Shekar uses a garland on Benazir's portrait that extends to Zardari, making his point that Zardari won on a vote for Benazir Bhutto. In a powerful statement against gender discrimination a boy child in a womb tells a girl-child in another womb that he would celebrate children's day after he is born, the girl replies: I am doubtful whether I would be allowed to be born. The reader does not have to read the caption to see the lament of the girl child, she is a starved out puny creature in stark contrast to the bonny boy baby.

In all the essays Shekar makes it clear that his heart beats for the underdogs -- the have nots. There is a smile on the face of the poor in contrast with the worry-creased faces of the haves who even while partying cannot be happy.



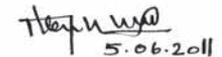
**MUKKAMULA VENKANNA**

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It was a chance meeting in 2006 that opened me to the world of Shekar. I was searching for some help in creating posters against Child Labour when I was suggested I talk to Shekar. I called him up and that was the beginning of a five-year association that has been richly rewarding. After seeing Shekar's work I realised why he was so appreciated and I believe he deserves every applause he gets. It was later on that I discovered our kinship and that we were from the same region. Shekar's posters against Child Labour were appreciated by one and all in the department. The posters were launched by the then Chief Minister Dr Y S Rajasekhara Reddy.

Since then Shekar has been drawing the cartoons for the annual calendar on industrial safety brought out by the National Safety Council. I believe it is Shekar's rich knowledge of the world around him that enables him to react sharply and draw such well-appreciated cartoons. His cartoons in daily Andhra Jyothi are a feast for the readers. Shekar reacts to every situation from the perspective of the common man and that has what has endeared him to his audience. His recent book "Gi-dee Telangana" was not only timely but also showcased the culture of the region very well. His cartoon on the new rupee symbol in the book was well appreciated by the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India Dr Duvvuri Subba Rao.

It is indeed a rare honour for a cartoonist to get an invite from the US Government to participate in the International Political Cartoonist Tour. I congratulate Shekar on the honour and also wish that he continues to provoke us with timely and insightful cartoons.

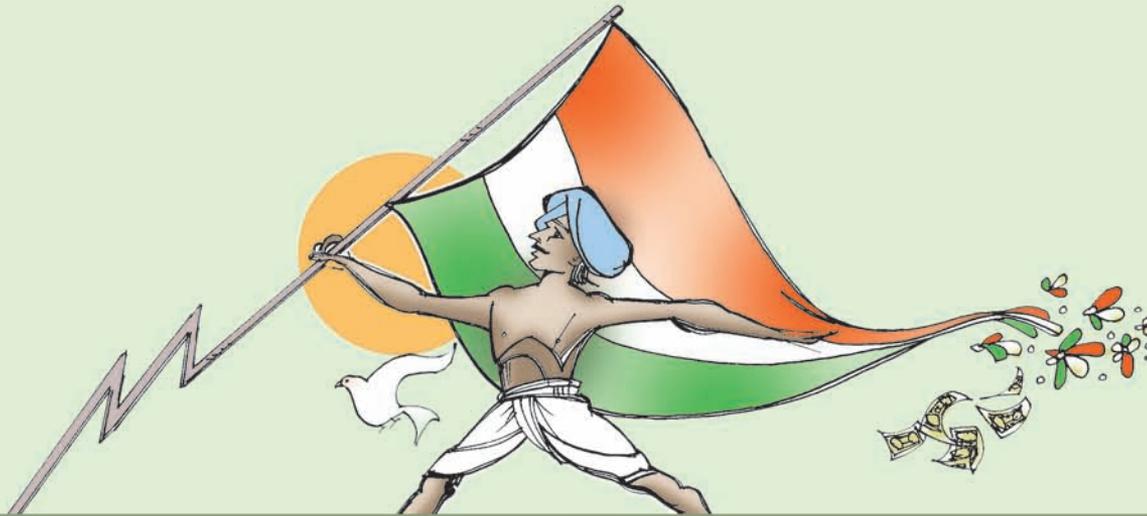


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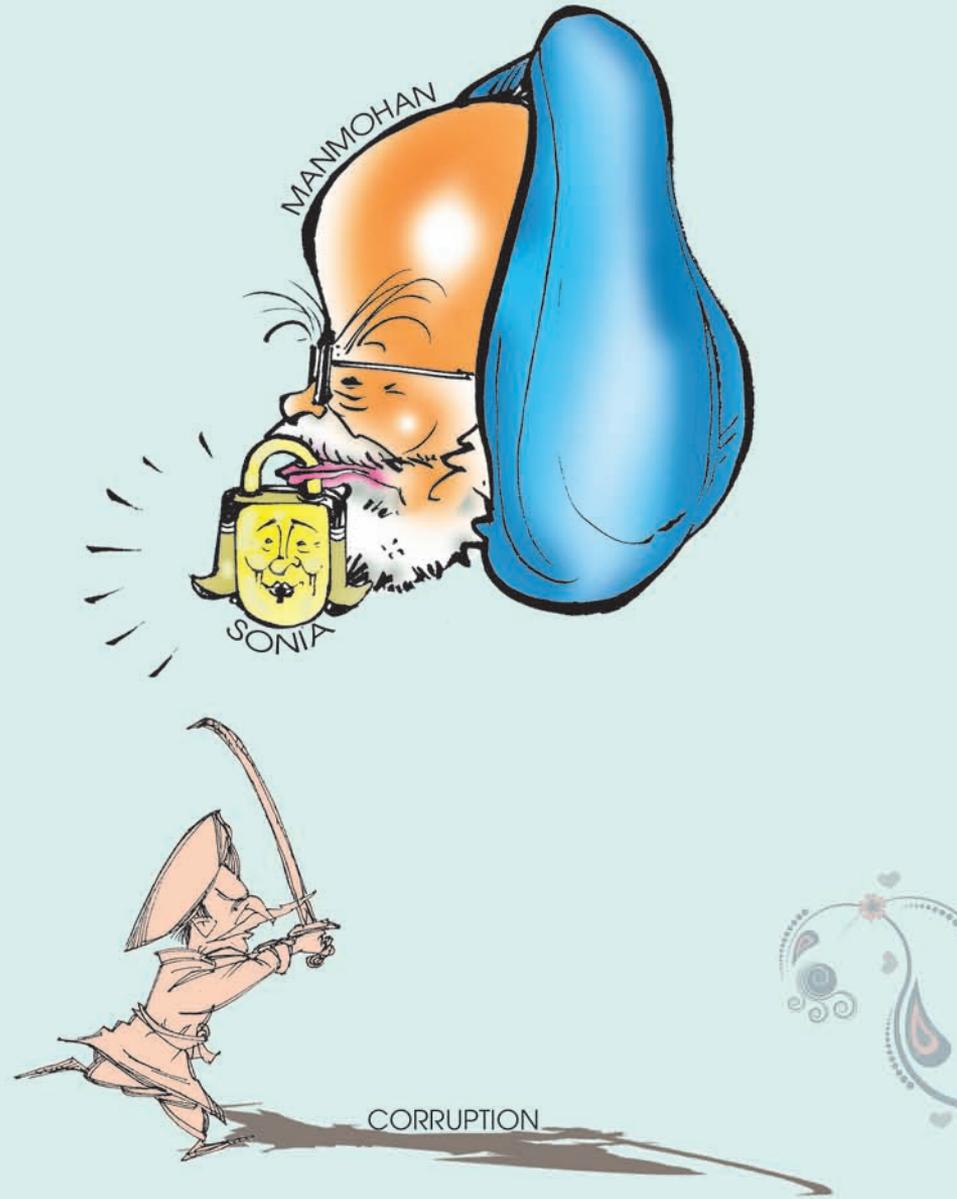
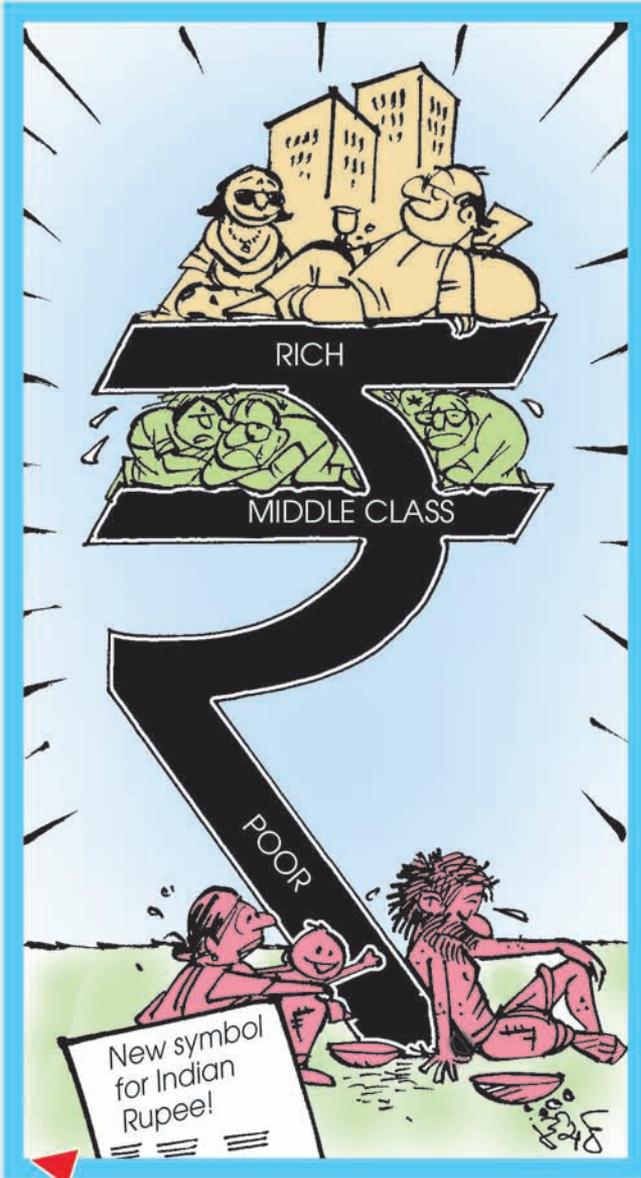
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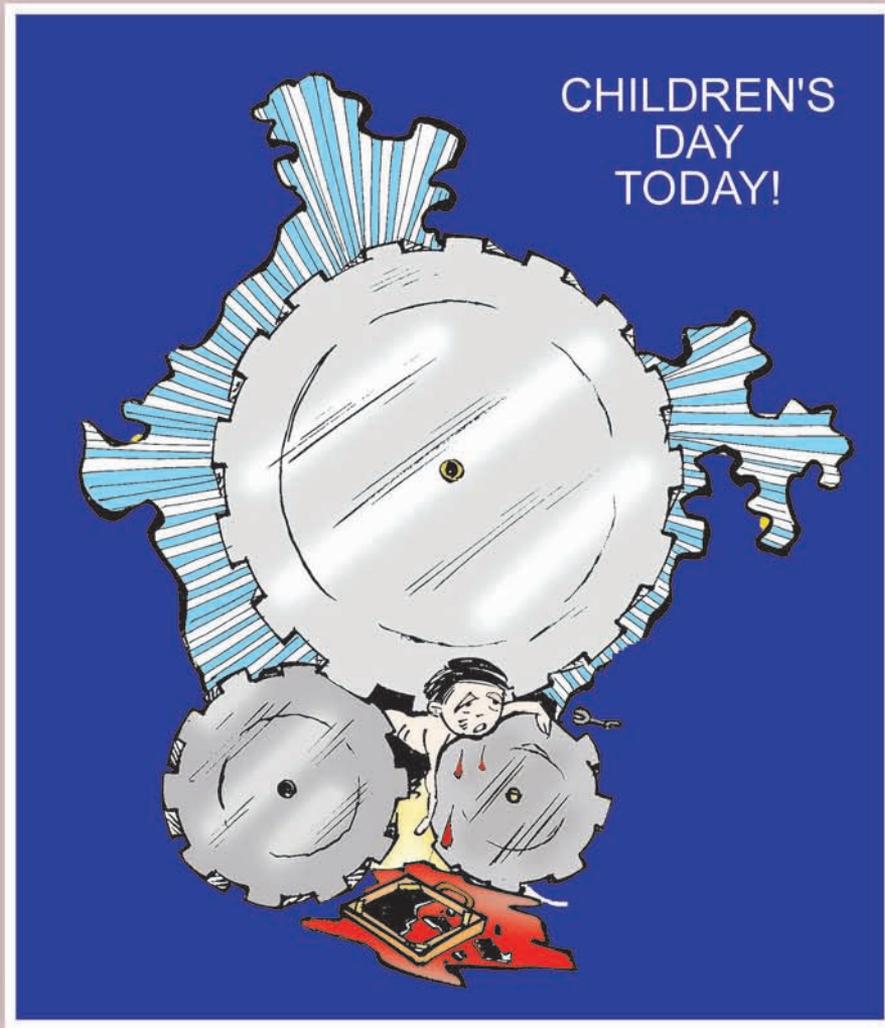
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The new symbol for Indian Rupee may look remarkable but it has not changed the reality. The opulent life of the haves and the cooped up life of the wannabees is so far and cut off from the drudgery of the have-nots. The gap is ever widening.



*It is a lament on the childhood that is crushed in the machines of life. The other image is a cry against the impunity of the law-enforcers who brazenly kill or maim ordinary citizens.*



**End of Preview.**

**Rest of the book can be read @  
<http://kinige.com/kbook.php?id=224>**