

President's Message

Dam It!!

The Mulleperiyar issue has provoked enough and more passion throughout the state of Kerala. The media, the political parties and the civil society has been vociferous in voicing their opinion.

The media sensationalized the issue causing panic in the community. Even little children started asking their parents questions on the safety of the dam. Some journalists went wild with their imagination and published articles without any scientific basis for their claims. The media is under pressure to keep the interest of their readers in the age of 24 x 7 news. Any sensational issue is highlighted without proper assessment. Politicians seek for front page photo ops and call for hartals districtwise, statewide and then nationwide.

When passions are aroused the truth becomes the first casualty. Reasons and logic are pushed under the carpet. Everybody wants to join the chorus of demand to fuel the emotions of people further.

The Mulleperiyar issue is a real cause for concern, no doubt. The matter demands a technical solution rather than an emotional reaction. It needs a dispassionate assessment of the ground realities. It calls for a dialogue setting aside the accusations and recriminations.

But do we behave like a mature democracy with a vibrant civic society. I doubt it. Both the states involved have not covered themselves with glory in addressing the issue. It will be a sad day, if our leaders don't show the sense of maturity to deal with issues of vital importance to our people instead beating of the drums and join the chorus.