

Nandini

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Voice For The Deprived

Dedicated to the cause of marginalised and downtrodden

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**Making quality education
beyond the reach of poor
is the worst crime
happening in India today**

SWAMI VIVEKANANDA SPEAKS

DO NOT DESTROY BUT BUILD

I have also my little plan. I do not know whether it will work or not and I want to present it to you for discussion.

What is my plan?

In the first place I would ask mankind to recognize this maxim – “Do not destroy.” Iconoclastic reformers do no good to the world. Break not, pull not anything down, but build. Help, if you can; if you cannot, fold your hands and stand by and see things go on.

Do not injure, if you cannot render help. Say not a word against any man’s convictions so far as they are sincere. Secondly, take man where he stands and from there give him a lift.

If it be true that God is the centre of all religions and that each of us is moving towards Him along one of these radii, then it is certain that all of us must reach that centre. And at the centre, where all the radii meet, all our differences will cease; but until we reach there, differences there must be.

All these radii converge to the same centre. One, according to his nature, travels along one of these lines and another, along another; and if we all push onward along our own lines, we shall surely come to the centre, because, “All roads lead to Rome.”

Each of us is naturally growing and developing according to his own nature; each will in time come to know the highest truth, for after all, men must teach themselves.

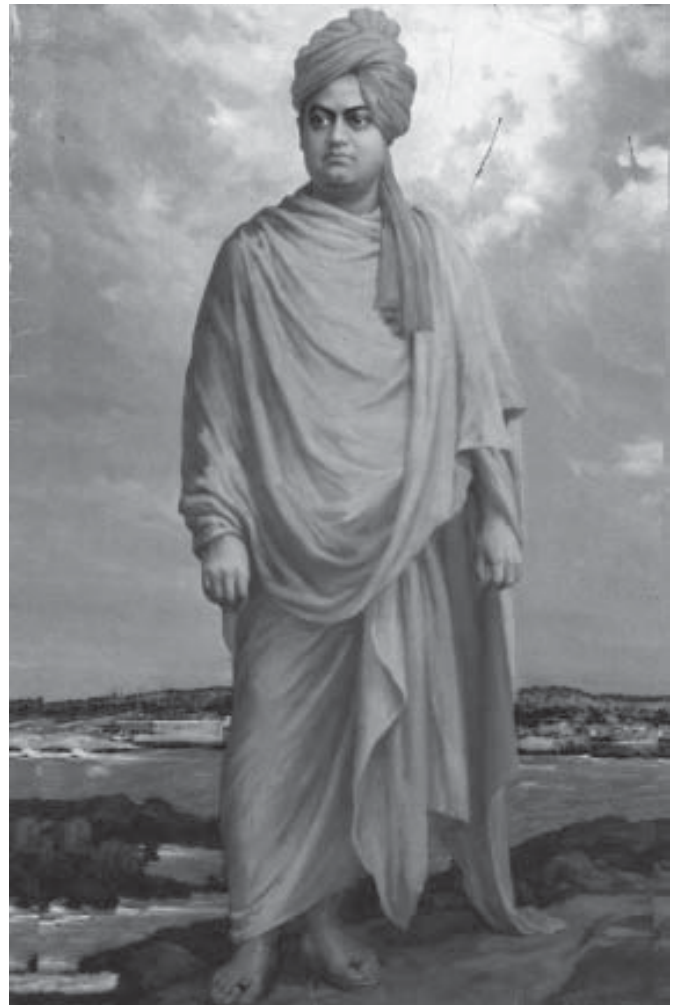
What can you and I do? Do you think you can teach even a child? You cannot. The child teaches himself. Your duty is to afford opportunities and to remove obstacles. A plant grows. Do you make the plant grow? Your duty is to put a hedge round it and see that no animal eats up the plant and there your duty ends. The plant grows of itself.

So is it in regard to the spiritual growth of every man. None can teach you; none can make a spiritual man of you. You have to teach yourself. Your growth must come from inside.

What can an external teacher do? He can remove the obstructions a little and there his duty ends. Therefore help, if you can; but do not destroy.

Give up all ideas that you can make men spiritual. It is impossible. There is no other teacher to you than your own soul. Recognize this.

What comes of it? In society we see so many different natures. There are thousands and thousands of varieties



of minds and inclinations. A thorough generalization of them is impossible, but for our practical purpose, it is sufficient to have them characterized into four classes.

First, there is the active man, the worker; he wants to work and there is tremendous energy in his muscles and his nerves. His aim is to work; to build hospitals, do charitable deeds, make streets, to plan and to organize.

Then there is the emotional man, who loves the sublime and the beautiful to an excessive degree. He loves to think of the beautiful, to enjoy the aesthetic side of nature and adore Love and the God of Love. He loves with his whole heart the great souls of all times, the prophets of religions and the Incarnations of God on earth; he does

not care whether reason can or cannot prove that Christ or Buddha existed; he does not care for the exact date when the *Sermon on the Mount* was preached, or for the exact moment of Krishna's birth; what he cares for, is there personalities, their lovable figures. Such is his ideal. This is the nature of the lover, the emotional man.

Then, there is the mystic, whose mind wants to analyse its own self, to understand the workings of the human mind, what the forces are that are working inside and how to know, manipulate and obtain control over them. This is the mystical mind.

Then, there is the philosopher, who wants to weigh everything and use his intellect even beyond the possibilities of all human philosophy.

Now a religion, to satisfy the largest proportion of mankind, must be able to supply food for all these various types of minds; and where this capability is wanting, the existing sects all become one sided.

Suppose you go to a sect which preaches love and emotion. They sing and weep and preach love. But as soon as you say, "My friend, that is all right, but I want something stronger than this; a little reason and philosophy; I want to understand things step by step and more rationally." They would say Get out and they not only ask you to get out but would send you to the other place, if they could.

The result is that sect can only help people of an emotional turn of mind. They not only do not help others, but try to destroy them; and the most wicked part of the whole thing is, that they will not only *not help others*, but do not believe in their sincerity."

Again, there are philosophers, who talk of the wisdom of India and the East and use big psychological terms, fifty syllables long, but if an ordinary man like me goes to them and says, "Can you tell me anything to make me spiritual?" the first thing they would do would be to smile and say, "Oh, you are too far below us in your reason. What can you understand about spirituality?" These are high up philosophers. They simply show you the door.

Then there are the mystical sects, who speak all sorts of things about different planes of existence, different states of mind and what the power of the mind can do and so on; and if you are in ordinary man and say, "Show me anything good that I can do. I am not much given to speculation; can you give me anything that will suit me?" they will smile and say, "Listen to that fool; he knows nothing, his existence is for nothing."

And this is going on everywhere in the world. I would like to get extreme exponents of all these different sects and shut them up in a room and photograph their beautiful smiles.

HOOCH TRAGEDY IN GUJARAT

Around 138 persons are reported to have died in Gujarat in the month of July due to consumption of illicit liquor. While Gujarat is the only state where prohibition has been implemented in tune with the Gandhian philosophy, liquor traders and media are now questioning as to whether prohibition should be implemented at all.

It is not as if the deaths due to illicit liquor consumption have taken place for the first time in the country in Gujarat. Such deaths have taken place in several states like Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu where prohibition is not in force. In Tamil Nadu, Government itself is the distributor and marketeer for liquor. Obviously, the free liquor availability by official sanction has not prevented the brewing of illicit liquor in states like Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.

It is the duty of everyone who swear by Gandhian philosophy to support the Gujarat Government in its chosen policy of implementing prohibition in the state. When such deaths take place, it is all the more reason why prohibition should be implemented with greater regulations and control.

Most of the negative happenings in the country like corruption, rape of innocent women are all due to the fast spreading liquor habit amongst the youth. It is said now that even school students in the age group of fourteen are taking to liquor habit in a big way.

The politicians who observe the ritual of garlanding the statue of Mahatma Gandhi at every opportunity, do not want to follow his advocacy of total prohibition in the country. Obviously, they have no faith in the philosophy of Gandhiji and only pay lip service to him.

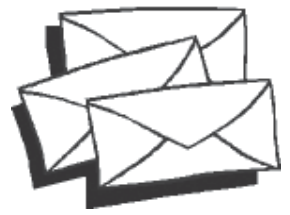
The Government of Gujarat should stand firmly and implement the prohibition policy in the state in steadfast manner, without bowing to the pressure of liquor traders and liquor addicts who want prohibition to be scrapped in the state.

For all the Gandhians in the country, the prohibition policy of Gujarat Government provides a ray of hope.

Readers' forum

Readers' forum provides space for the enlightened readers to give expression to their views on a variety of socio economic issues that is of relevance to the society.

Further enrichment of the journal with your thoughtful inputs would certainly go a long way in promoting the cause that the journal seeks to espouse.



Mockery of cabinet making

Dear Sir,

In a vast country like India, ministry making at the centre after election is an onerous and responsible, job.

The Prime minister has the power and responsibility to choose persons for his cabinet.

Only a Prime minister with track record in politics, popular and capable can form an efficient cabinet .

Dr.Manmohan Singh who has been selected as Prime minister for second term in succession is however still peevish and unable to exercise any authority, as seen from the way in which alliance parties succeeded in coercing the Prime Minister. They put up their own persons for ministership. Thus, street politicians and those with criminal background are in the cabinet and are now governing the country. One wonders what Prime minister is going to achieve with such elements.

It is time that the constitution is amended to introduce a rule that the Prime minister should be selected only from Lok sabha member and no person without a term of experience in Lok sabha should be appointed as a cabinet minister in the Government of India.

Coimbatore

M.R.Pillai

Dementia club doing great service

Dear Sir,

Dementia Club patronized by Novartis India Ltd., is rendering yeoman service to the dementia patients.

Expert doctors conduct the meet once in two months, normally at 11 a.m. It lasts upto 12.30 p.m.

The doctors address the gathering normally packed to the capacity of the hall and clear all the doubts of the participants, who are served with free cup of coffee with snacks to keep them in good humour. Since the patients get free consultations and the prescriptions, they have to bear only the cost of medicines thereby saving considerably towards the consultation fees.

The undersigned developed the symptoms of the deadly disease seven years ago. At the very outset, I joined the club. The disease which cannot be cured is now under control, thanks to the doctors who treated me freely.

Chennai

K.N.Narayana Pillai

Education cess unutilized by Chennai Corporation

Dear Sir,

I read in newspaper with shock and dismay that the funds with Corporation of Chennai for elementary education is under utilized, leaving an opening balance of Rs.117.5 crores for 2008-09, which could, at present level of spending, grow in excess of Rs.140 crores by end of March, 2010.

The interest on Rs.140 crores at 6% add to around Rs.8. crores annually. The published statement does not say where the interest thereon is charged.

Obviously, the Chennai Corporation is incompetent to assess the requirements of the schools and spend the money usefully. Perhaps, there is a need to convert this huge amount to a Corpus Fund, managed by a management committee of leading citizens, representatives of the schools and the educational department with the approval of the Corporation of Chennai. Such a committee can serve the society at large more efficiently than the Corporation of Chennai.

Chennai

K.V.S.Krishna

Reservation and quota

Dear Sir,

There is nothing much to cheer about the Annual Budget 2009, especially for the deprived and downtrodden section of the society.

The focus of the present governments both at the Centre and the State (Tamil Nadu) seem to be "Reservation and Quota". But they do not seem to be really concerned about who is the real beneficiary.

"Reservation and Quota" being the present day Manthra, Nandini Voice should mobilize the force to demand 20% reservation for deprived and differently abled people in the allotment of funds for NREGA which is Rs.39,100 crores.

Chennai

G.Krishnan

Desperate Calls

You can enjoy your prosperity only if you share your income
with the deprived and thus discover
the satisfaction that it provides.



Poor girl needs support for education

Ms.S.Kalaiarasi is studying XI std (Ist Group) in Government Higher Secondary School, Periyapalayam near Chennai.

Her father is an auto driver.

Ms.S.Kalaiarasi requests kind hearted persons for financial help for pursuing education in future.

Contact address:

Ms.S.Kalaiarasi, D/o.Sri.K.Sivakumar
3A, Thottakara Theruvu, Periyapalayam, Thiruvallur Dist.

Poor girls need sewing machine



Ms.S.Veni is a poor girl and she has studied upto 10th std. She has undergone one year tailoring course

Ms.S.Veni's father Mr. Subbaiah is an unskilled labourer.

Ms.S.Veni requests kind hearted persons for donation of sewing machine.

Contact address:

Ms.S.Veni

D/o. Mr. Subbaiah, 88/37, Colombo Street,
Krishnapuram-627 759
Kadaiyanallur, Thenkasi, Tirunelveli Dist, Tamil Nadu

Mrs.Rekha Rajan Devar has studied upto 12th std. She has undergone tailoring course.

Mrs.Rekha Rajan Devar requests kind hearted persons for donation of sewing machine to self employ herself .

Mrs.J.Rekha Rajan Devar
W/o. Sri.Jegaveera Ramapandian,
122/2, School Sreet,
Kambaneri, Kadaiyanallur.
Thenkasi (Tk), Tirunelveli Dist,
Tamil Nadu

Children need to undergo surgeries



Master Raghavan, 18 months old, is suffering from neuroblastoma disease and the doctors advised him to undergo surgery at the earliest. Estimated cost of the surgery is Rs.4,00,000/- at Kumaran Hospitals (P) Ltd., Chennai.



Master Abdul Ahad, age 2 years is suffering from profound hearing loss and requires cochlear implantation. Estimated cost is Rs.10,90,000/- at Madras ENT Research Foundation (P) Ltd., Hospital, Chennai.



Master Kishore, 1 year 8 months old boy is suffering from heart disease and the doctors advised him to undergo open heart surgery at the earliest. Estimated cost of the surgery is Rs.1,50,000/- at Sri Ramachandra Hospital, Chennai.



Baby Monish, 11 months old is suffering from congenital heart disease and the doctors advised her to undergo open heart surgery at the earliest. Estimated cost of the surgery is Rs.1,50,000/- at Sri Ramachandra Hospital, Chennai.

Your cheque may be drawn in the name of the respective hospital and sent to the following address mentioning the name of the beneficiary.

The Secretary
Women's Welfare Syndicate
8/2, Avenue Road, Nungambakkam,
Chennai-600 034



Poor person needs support for medical treatment

Mr.K.T.Muthukaruppan, age 68 years is suffering from spinal cord pain. The doctors advised him to undergo surgery. Estimated cost of the surgery is Rs.2,50,000/-

Till the completion of surgery, the doctors advised him to wear waist belt, collar belt and knee caps on both legs and walk with walking stick and also advised to take medicines which cost Rs.1300/- per month.

Mr.K.T.Muthukaruppan requests kind hearted persons for financial help for his surgery.

For further details, please contact:

Mr.K.T.Muthukaruppan

P.R.M.P.House, 12, North Car Street

Pon-Pudupatti-622408, Pudukkottai District, Tamil Nadu

Needs support for self employment



Mr.R.Vadivelu is a hearing impaired person. He is working as fitter in a private company for the last 23 years.

His family consist of 11 members (5 daughters,3 sons, aged mother, wife and himself).He is not able to run his family with his monthly salary.

Mr.R.Vadivelu requests kind hearted persons for financial help for a sum of Rs.9000/- to purchase welding machine to start self employed business

Contact address;

Mr.R.Vadivelu, S/o.Mr.Ramanujam, V.Anangoor & PO, Villupuram Tk, Pin:605103, Tamil Nadu

Daughter of visually impaired mother needs support for education



Mrs.G.Kuppu is a visually impaired woman and widow. Her only daughter Ms.G.Thanemozhi passed +2 examination and she got the seat for teachers training course in Achariya Teacher Education Academy, Puducherry.

Mrs.G.Kuppu requests kind hearted persons for financial help for a sum of Rs.35,000/- towards Ist year fees.

The cheque may be drawn in favour of Achariya Teacher Education Academy, Puducherry and sent to the following address:

Ms.G. Thanemozhi

C/o.Principal, Achariya Teacher Education Academy Villianoor, Puducherry-605 110

Welfare organization needs support

Share and Care is a non profit registered welfare society functioning since 1984. The society is working for the upliftment of the needy people such as physically challenged, parentless and destitute children, widows, deserted women and elderly people both in Chennai city and villages of Thiruvallur and Kanchipuram districts.

To meet the expenses towards food products and other items and salary, the organization needs financial support.

Contact address:

Share and Care Children's Welfare Society,

#4 (Old No.28) Arumugam Street,

Sembiam, Perambur, Chennai-600 011

Phone; 044-25376338 /25379175

E-mail:sharcare@md2.vsnl.net.in

Kidney patient needs support

Mr.A.Raja, age 35 years is suffering from chronic renal failure /end stage renal disease. At present, he is on haemodialysis support, twice in a week, which costs Rs.7500/- per month.



Mr.A.Raja and his wife are unskilled labourers and they have two children.

Mrs.R.Shanthi, the wife of Mr.A.Raja requests kind hearted persons for financial help for a sum of Rs.3,00,000/- towards kidney transplantation and medicines for one year.

The cheque may be drawn in favour of PSG Hospitals, Coimbatore and it may be sent to the following address.

Mr.A.Raja, H/o. Mrs.R.Shanthi, 50/4, Hudco Colony, Peelaimedu, Coimbatore-4



Poor lady needs support for surgery

Mrs. Maniammal is suffering from mitral regurgitation with tricuspid regurgitation, which needs open heart surgery. The cost of the surgery is Rs.1,45,000/-

Mrs. Maniammal's husband Mr. A. Thangadurai is a vegetable vendor.

Mr. A. Thangadurai requests kind hearted persons for financial help .

The cheque may be drawn in favour of G. Kuppaswamy Naidu Memorial Hospital, Coimbatore and sent to the following address.

Mrs. Maniammal
W/o. Mr. A. Thangadurai
New No.0/10A. Annai Indira Nagar, 2nd Cross
Street, Sidco Post, Coimbatore-21



Mr. Tapan Ghukhu, age 40 years is suffering from CAD with TVD for which he is advised to undergo coronary artery bypass grafting. The cost of the surgery is Rs.1,00,000/- at Mallya Hospitals, Bangalore.

Your cheque may be drawn in the name of the respective hospital and sent to the following address, mentioning the name of the beneficiary.

The President
Save Poor Lives, No.22,
Perumal Koil Street,
Aminjikarai, Chennai-600 029

Kidney patient needs support

Ms. Vidya Sahadeven, age 24 years is suffering from kidney failure. She has to undergo kidney transplantation. Her husband is a job typist

The cheque may be drawn in favour of Shree Ayyappa Pooja Samithi Medical Relief Fund and sent to

Shree Ayyappa Pooja Samithi
Sane Guruji Nagar, Lalchbakki,
Ulhasnagar-421 004 Thane Dist
Maharashtra,
further details, please contact
Mr. Sahadeven, Mobile: No.09921654743



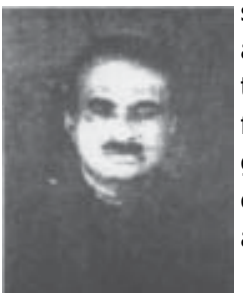
Need support for surgery

Baby Kubra Ahamed, 8 months is suffering from congenital heart disease, large PDA with moderate PAH . He has to undergo closed heart surgery at the earliest. The cost of the surgery is Rs.75,000/- at Wockhardt Hospitals, Bangalore.

Master Pinku Gosh, age 6 years is suffering from cyanotic congenital heart disease (single ventricle PS) and has to undergo B/D Glenn shunt at the earliest. The cost of the surgery is Rs.1,25,000/- at BGS Global Hospitals, Bangalore.



Mr. S. P. Murthy, age 58 years is suffering from triple vessel coronary artery disease. He has been advised to undergo cardiac catheterization followed by coronary artery bypass grafting and open heart surgery. The cost of the surgery is Rs.1,42,000/- at Manipal Hospital, Bangalore.



Disabled girl needs support for education

Ms. P. Pandeswari is a poor disabled girl .At present, she is studying 10th std in Corporation School, Chennai. Her health conditions are also fragile.

Ms. P. Pandeswari needs support for treatment and also for continuing education

Contact address:
Ms. P. Pandeswari, D/
o. Mrs. Pandiammal
55, Alandur Road, Saidapet,
Chennai-600 015.



Disabled girl needs wheelchair

Ms.P. Masila, daughter of Sri. Perumal, age 18 is a severely disabled girl who cannot walk but can move only in a sitting posture. She belongs to a very poor family and her father is an unskilled labourer.

She is very much interested in continuing her studies. She had to discontinue her studies for sometime due to poverty in the family. With persistent efforts, she got herself readmitted in a corporation school in Chennai and has now successfully passed tenth standard. She is now studying in eleventh standard in a Corporation school in Kannagi Nagar (near Sholinganallur in Chennai).

Her biggest problem now is mobility. During a recent meeting of differently abled people in Chennai, Masila saw a few differently abled persons using wheelchair and desperately appealed to Nandini Voice that her life would become a little more easier if she can have a wheel chair of foldable type for her use. The cost of wheelchair is around Rs.6000/-

Please help this poor deserving girl

Contact Address :Ms. P. Masila, D/O Sri. Perumal, 6847, Kannagi Nagar, Okkiyam Thoraipakkam, Chennai -600096

Disabled lady needs sewing machine

Ms.B.Padma is a poor disabled lady. She knows tailoring job.

Ms.B.Padma requests kind hearted persons for donation of sewing machine.

Contact address:

Ms.B.Padma, No.1, Thulasingham Street, 1st Street, Perambur, Chennai- 600 011

Poor lady needs sewing machine

Mrs.S.Savithri is a poor lady and her daughter lost her both legs due to polio attack.

Mrs.S.Savithri requests kind hearted persons for donation of sewing machine to enable her to earn and support her family.

Mrs.S.Savithri

45, Kandan Street, Perambur, Chennai-600 011.

SCRAPPING OF EXAMS FOR TENTH STANDARD STUDENTS WHAT DO THE SCHOOL TEACHERS THINK ?TEACHERS' VIEWS INVITED



Ever since the Union Education Minister announced the proposal to scrap examination for tenth standard students , varying views have been expressed by the general public , politicians and journalists.

Perhaps, the people who are most appropriate to provide the views on the subject for the benefit of the decision makers in the government are the higher secondary school teachers.

Nandini Voice For the Deprived will organise a meeting of higher secondary school teachers at Chennai in the month of August,2009 to discuss the subject and evolve the recommendations.

Nandini Voice for the Deprived invites higher secondary school teachers in Tamil Nadu to send their views in the form of an essay on the subject.

Ten of the best entries would be selected for cash awards The awardees would be invited to present their views during the meeting.

The maximum number of words of the essay should be 1500 and the essay can be written in English or Tamil.

Last date for submission of essay is
30th July,2009.

Essay can be sent either by email or by post to the following address.

Nandini Voice For The Deprived

M 60/1, 4th Cross Street, Besant Nagar, Chennai-600090

Tele:- 24916037 Email:- nsvenkat@md4.vsnl.net.in Website:- www.nandinivoice.org

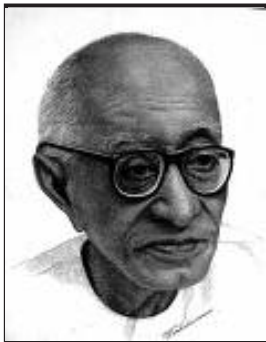
VOICE OF RAJAJI

SUBSTANCE OF FREEDOM

A few decades ago, the phrase 'substance of freedom' was used in a sense that is almost forgotten now.

Now the same words 'substance of freedom' may be used in connection with the controversy over the question of how far citizens are free in our country. We may have achieved political freedom as a nation, but the nation may be so governed as to rob individuals of the substance of freedom.

If citizens' lives are interfered with and controlled in numerous significant directions, it is useless to talk of freedom. There can be no personal freedom without economic freedom and this freedom goes down in a steep curve in an economy with mal distribution of income.



The adjustments between the freedom of the citizen and the majority rule which the citizen must accept in parliamentary democracy are of the greatest significance to his life. Freedom is an illusion if the State is raised to the level of the final owner of all things and master of all activities and the citizen only a tool in the employ of

the State.

The State is not just a word spelt with five letters but the will of a majority of people. Party government makes the frontier between the State and the citizen very important, because the choice is not between right and wrong, but between your opinion and that of others who are just the same in all respects as yourself but who happen to be able, for a variety of reasons, to commandeer more votes in their favour.

That the organization called the State is necessary for modern human existence and progress must be conceded. But it is erroneous to assume that nature or expediency demands the omnipotence of the State. Its power must be strictly limited if the sense of freedom is important, for ultimately that sense lies in the individual's consciousness and nowhere else. The citizen must be free and feel that he is free.

What should be the limitations on the power of the State is the real and important question.

'What are the frontiers of the citizens' freedom?' is the form the question takes in a socialist State. It is the citizen that is the reality and the tangible and unalterable fact. His freedom must be taken for granted for all mechanism which may be good or bad, being made in parliamentary democracies out of a majority of votes and many other circumstances not altogether perfect or even good. The

frontiers of this mechanism created by citizens for their good must be strictly and carefully limited. The frontiers of the citizen's freedom must be as wide as possible. The benefit of the doubt must ever go to the latter.

It is not a mere matter of words but one of very great significance whether, in fixing the limits between the State and its citizens, we go on the principle that the citizen is the primary and the State secondary, or whether we go on the reverse principle. We should have maximum freedom for the citizen and minimum power for the State under one principle. If we proceed on the opposite basis, we shall have minimum freedom for the citizen and maximum power for the officials of the State. The former is what the Gandhiji wanted.

It is important to preserve the initiative and the incentive of the citizen; for the power and stamina and the progress of people depend on this and not on the regulations that the State imposes.

The individual's energy is at the base of all productivity activity, while all that the State can claim is what it needs for maintaining order and effective co-operation. The positive source and the mechanism for energy are the individual's potential which must enjoy the maximum opportunity and only the necessary minimum retardation.

The substance of freedom is in great jeopardy today. Those who realize the importance of winning this battle must see that all available courage is summoned and the battle fought with heroic determination. Those who are most entangled in the State's tentacles must be the first to realize the significance and supreme importance of the struggle and throw away the many temptations to drift.

Nothing fails so despicably as fear and nothing so succeeds as courage. Tyranny cannot be overcome by fear but only by courage, the courage to give a straight battle. To flee in terror or hide oneself away from the straight fight and hope to succeed in compromises on details will end in a rout.

ANNUAL BUDGET IN VACUUM



One more annual budget has been presented in Parliament without being taken note of by the common man. Those taking note of the budget seem to be only the professional journalists who have to fill space, the professional economists and the politicians who make a living by discussing on the budget threadbare and the business men and salaried class who care to look in a limited way as to how the budget would affect them.

The journals and newspapers routinely publish the views of people from cross section of society who seem to provide their views as a ritual and get a bit of space for them in the media. Otherwise, the budget proposals cause no ripples in the country.

Common man does not view the budget proposals seriously anymore, as the promises, assurances and expectations made by the Finance Minister during the speech in Parliament and in the proposals are only met half way or even less. People also realize that huge outlay of crores of rupees on various schemes are spent with substantial percentage of the money being siphoned out by the politicians, bureaucrats and official machinery and the business men, which only contribute to generating more black money in the country.

The recent budget proposal is conspicuous by the absence of any schemes or proposals to bring back the ill gotten money amounting to several hundred crores of rupees lying in the foreign banks and deposited by the

corrupt Indian politicians, bureaucrats and business men. Nothing has been said in the budget proposals to destroy the parallel economy in the country caused due to corruption and black money. The finance Minister probably thinks that the corruption and black money is no issue at all, by ignoring the problem totally!

During the recent parliamentary election campaign, both Congress and BJP talked about the crores of rupees of corrupt money lying in foreign banks and the need to bring them back. The Prime Minister made some promises before the election in this regard but now seem to have conveniently forgotten the whole issue.

What is very important is not only the allocation of funds for various development schemes but also the need to ensure that the money is spent properly and fully and without being misused by corrupt elements. When there is no way to do this or lack of willingness on the part of Government to ensure this, all such proposals in the budget only become an eye wash and a wasteful and counter productive exercise.

The common man in India no more has faith in the politicians or the bureaucracy and now think that corruption has become the order of the day and has become a part of government dealings. Obviously, he is frustrated and feels helpless and in such circumstances, he chooses to ignore the budget schemes itself, rightly concluding that all these budget proposals are in vacuum.

GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO NAXALS AND MAOISTS

In recent times, it is becoming evident that naxals and maoists are becoming bold and they attack not only the innocent citizens but also several policemen have been shot down. The violence indulged by naxals and maoists is sending alarm signal everywhere, particularly amongst government machinery.

It appears that the Government of India is viewing the problem created by naxals and maoists as mere law and order issue.

Government is responding to the challenge by creating new paramilitary division and by strengthening the police force with more men and machines to fight and defeat the



naxals and maoists. One would not know as to whether this strategy would work, particularly since such strategies have not worked in northeastern states, where the government has been battling with insurgents for the last several decades without success.

What should cause real concern is the fact that naxals and maoists appear to be receiving support from the local population particularly from the tribals and people from lower income group, who seem to have lost all hopes about their future in the present state of affairs. Obviously, naxals and maoists are able to convince such sections of the local population to join with them in fighting the government, citing the level of corruption and exploitation prevailing in the country and characterlessness of the average politician and those incharge of the government.

It is extremely difficult for any government or law enforcing authority to fight against the popular uprisings by

the poor and downtrodden people, who feel that they have nothing to lose except the chain and who feel alienated .

When policy of bullet for the bullet would not be successful, the only alternative for the government is to fight disruptive elements by moral force and by exhibiting quality of good will and understanding towards the suffering population, so that they would not be interested in supporting elements like naxals and maoists.

The ministers and bureaucrats incharge of the government machinery must provide the image of people with impeccable character. Unfortunately, the government is not able to provide such image. This is the crux of the issue.

Unfortunately, today most sections of the countrymen feel that politicians who are either in the government or opposition, are more interested in themselves and their families and in amassing wealth rather than serving the society and alleviating the poverty in the nation.

Many people believe that forces of corruption and nepotism have gained upper hand and the political leadership of the nation is largely hand in glove with such forces. For the suffering masses who are frustrated and who have lost confidence in the political leadership, the only alternative available would be to revolt against the system, which often lead to violence and blood shed. This is not a desirable situation.

It appears to be a fact that naxals and maoists are gathering strength in the country due to such conditions and they are trying to become popular amongst the lower income group in the society by calling themselves as liberators.

The level of corruption in the country has already reached an alarming proportion causing wide spread dissatisfaction amongst the people. Top political leadership of the country should have the wisdom to see the writing on the wall and should take strong and urgent steps to ensure that the conditions would not arise that would be convenient for the growth of naxals and maoists.

As much as fighting naxals and maoists with bullets, the Government of India should also look inward and correct itself; so that fighting against the government would not become a popular appeal for the deprived section of the society.

There is no alternative other than ensuring a honest and corruption free administration to win the hearts of the deprived section of the society.

ELLIOTS BEACH IN CHENNAI - A SPENDING OPPORTUNITY !

One gets an impression that Chennai corporation is viewing Elliots beach in Chennai as a spending opportunity.

It is strange that Chennai Corporation is demolishing the pavements in Elliots Beach that were laid up a few years back and is now replacing them with the tiles that are no better.

An elliptical island near the beach was constructed and lawn and plants were grown sometime back. It remained green for sometime and then was neglected. Now, the Corporation has demolished this structure and is reconstructing the same. One wonders as to what is the need and why the elliptical island was constructed at all earlier, if it were to be demolished after a few months. Is it a play thing for Chennai Corporation ?

Every year during the monsoon , trees would be planted along the beach only to wither away a few weeks later. Perhaps, Chennai Corporation is planning one more round of tree plantation this year also!

The construction of a viewing gallery was thoughtlessly started on the beach sands and was stopped in view of the public protest. Now, the semi construction is remaining an eye sore.

Near this viewing gallery construction, there is a police outpost and a poorly maintained fenced area with half hearted attempts to grow some plants. Is it also part of the beautification project ?

The beach sand continues to remain dirty , with eatables and waste paper strewn all round and the hawkers continue to have a field day on the beach sands. Chennai Corporation which is so eager to spend lakhs of rupees on brick and mortar construction in every conceivable way on the beach, does not seem to have the desire to maintain the beach in clean condition.

Recently, a fish market has come in one end of the beach sand emanating nauseating smell with filth all around. The Corporation authorities do not seem to be concerned about this.

Above all, with total disregard for the ecological regulation and public opinion, lakhs of rupees were spent in construction of the Governor's bungalow on the beach sand. Neither the Governor nor the authorities in Corporation thought it necessary to observe the ecological regulations or honour the public view by stopping this construction. The Governor rarely visits this building and the building now remains as a standing monument for the anti ecological attitude of the Chennai Corporation and Tamil Nadu Governor.

Those who love Elliots Beach for its natural beauty feel extremely let down by the attitude of the Chennai Corporation , which seems to think that a few bricks and bulbs will create beauty.

Now, one wonders as to how a public body like Chennai Corporation can waste lakhs of rupees in the Elliots beach beautification project , which cannot stand scrutiny from any view point. Is it that Chennai Corporation is not accountable at all to the public view and the opinion of educated , knowledgeable and concerned citizens ?

When the pavements are constructed and reconstructed spending huge amount of public money, is it that citizens who see such scenario should remain merely helpless and as simple letter writers ?

There is a strong case for the Chennai Corporation to withdraw its Elliots beach beautification project so that the beach would remain beautiful. All that is required is that Chennai Corporation should appoint private contractors to exclusively keep the beach sands clean. If it would be kept clean, the nature would take care of beauty.

Certainly, Chennai Corporation has failed in its test for accountability as far as it's spending in Elliots beach is concerned.

NAMING OF BUILDINGS AND BRIDGES AFTER POLITICIANS ARE WE CREATING STANDING MONUMENTS FOR CORRUPT ELEMENTS ?

In the last few years , several buildings, bridges, roads etc. have been named after politicians who are not the best creatures in the country. What a bad example we are setting for future generation!

There are great scholars, scientists, social activists and freedom fighters who are happily with us. Why not we name buildings and bridges after them? Obviously, the contribution of such people to the country and national cause are far more significant and better than that of the politicians.

MPs and MLAs have funds at their disposal. for recommending projects in their constituency. We invariably find MPs and MLAs having their names prominently painted on the projects implemented in the constituency with public money.

We often see people accused of corruption, nepotism and even murder, after whom the bridges and roads are named. The public in India who feel disgusted about such things cannot do anything other than putting up with such avoidable names in public places.

FREE NANDINI COMPUTER SCHOOLS IN TAMIL NADU

Nandini Voice For the Deprived , invites applications from boys and girls belonging to lower income group for the six months long free computer course.

Nandini Computer Schools are functioning at Perungudi and Korattur in Chennai, Nagercoil, Perambalur and Dindigul in Tamil Nadu. In the computer schools, basic computer operations are taught including MS Word, Tally, Accounts package, etc. and the students are equipped to take up jobs such as data entry operators.

Boys and girls who have passed plus two examination and whose family income is less than Rs. 4000/- per month are eligible for admission.

Placement services would be extended to the successful students.

In the last few years, more than 4000 students belonging to lower income group have passed from Nandini Computer Schools and most of them have been placed in jobs.

Those who are interested can contact

Nandini Voice For The Deprived, M 60/1, 4th Cross Street,
Besant Nagar, Chennai-600090 Tel:- 24916037

IS INDIAN MEDIA OBSESSED WITH SEX ?

In the last few weeks, the biggest topic for the Indian media is the homosexuality and the verdict of judiciary in the matter. The photographs of rich youth clamouring for homosexuality are being shown everywhere as if it a subject of priority in the country.

With the media becoming crowded with so many journals and TV channels and everyone of them struggling to have circulation and viewer ship, any matter of sensation appears to be good enough for them for publication. It is a reflection on the rapidly deteriorating quality and standards of media in India that homosexuality has become the subject of greatest priority for them.

Many people feel disgusted about such topics being discussed prominently in the national press and feel concerned about the adverse impact on the youth and the country's psyche due to such publicity given to such unwanted and nauseating subjects. But, the Indian media does not seem to care and for them viewership and business interests are the most important goal.

Anything bad or unnatural always create curiosity amongst the people and media exploits such weakness. There is no more any sense of responsibility in the Indian media and this is a sad scenario.

MUSIC PROGRAMME FOR DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS IN CHENNAI

Nandini Voice for the Deprived organized a special classical music programme for differently abled persons at Chennai on 12th July,2009.A large number of visually impaired persons and orthopaedically disabled persons attended the programme.

The music was rendered by the students of Ms. "Bombay" Jayashri for a period of 90 minutes.

There are many differently abled persons and particularly visually impaired persons with extraordinary musical talent . Unfortunately, most of the talent do not see the light of the day, as they do not get opportunities to listen to quality classical music or learn music from quality teachers.

This music programme was organized to give an opportunity to differently abled persons to listen to classical music of high standards. Differently abled persons listened to the music with rapt attention and great interest.

A High Tea was organized by Nandini Voice For the Deprived to honour the differently abled persons who attended the programme.

PROFILE OF POET TOYOHICO KAGAWA – THE WORKER IN A SLUM

The poet Toyohiko Kagawa of Japan lived as role model for serving the cause of downtrodden.

The profile of poet Toyohiko Kagawa is published in two parts, with the first part appearing in this issue.

Toyohiko Kagawa was born in Kobe, Japan, on July 10, 1888. His father was the head man of nineteen villages in the province of Awa and later held a high position in the Privy Council, which was the most influential body in the Empire.

Shortly after passing his fourth birthday, Kagawa's parents died and he was sent to the ancestral village of Awa to live with his father's neglected wife and a foster grandmother. Life was full of sorrow for him there, for he was brought up without care or affection. Both women beat him whenever he failed to please their whims. Kagawa's childhood was a lonely and unhappy one and Nature was a great solace to him at that time.

At eleven years of age, Kagawa was sent to a boarding school in Tokushima. He was very lonely and miserable there and as a result he began to think that life was hardly worth living. Due to his experiences on the farm, he felt that Nature and man were at war and now he had found that man and man were also at war. Kagawa would have succumbed to this melancholia had it not been for two enlightened scholars from the West, Dr.H.W.Myers and Dr.C.A.Logan. Somehow, he had failed to root himself in the cultural soil of Japan and missed the true meaning of Buddhist compassion and service; but religious faith came to him through his Western friends.

These two men became his counsellors and through them, he was initiated into the life of religion and devoted service. Dr.Myers tried to convey to Kagawa the belief that life was worth living. This wise man saw Nature and mankind to be one, not at cross purposes; for through the whole of Nature breathed the love of God.

Dr.Myers said that man should seek beauty, his life should be beautiful; it should show forth the virtues of self respect, unselfishness, love.

Kagawa gave away his small allowance, shared his food with the poor and even gave away the clothes on

his back to people in distress. He felt that a man could not be a true humanist and save money, while there were many people starving. He gave away so much that he was always half starved. This, added to the constant studying affected his health.

In order to recover his strength, Kagawa went away to an isolated seashore village. There although he was in pain and weak, he did acts of service in an effort to encourage the fishing folk around him.

This was the turning point in his illness, for it was as though the love of God flowed through him and brought him back to life. He then decided to spend every moment that was left to him in alleviating some of the suffering and evil in the world.

Although only partially recovered, he went back to school. In the mornings, he studied and the rest of his time, he devoted to serve in Shinkawa, Japan's most notorious slum. He then realized that in order to best help these slum dwellers, he must go and live among them. In this way, he could fulfill his vow of service to his fellow men.

Thus, on Christmas Eve, 1909 Toyohiko Kagawa moved all of his belongings into a hut in Shinkawa and made it his home.

In Shinkawa lived some 20,000 outcastes, paupers, criminals, beggars and sex deviates. These people were sardined into houses six feet square, more like prison cells than homes. Often such a house had to accommodate a family of five or two families of nine to ten persons.

There were no windows. Light and air came in through the open door. One community kitchen, a water hydrant and a common toilet served the needs of a score of families. These houses faced upon unpaved alleys three to six feet wide. These alleyways were with filth; refuse from the houses; overflow from the toilets and the backwash of over worked sewers.

(To be continued)

GMR ADVT.

**Such hard workers
are those who build
the nation and not
the platform speakers
who dominate the
national scene today**



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