

Nandini

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Voice For The Deprived

Dedicated to the cause of marginalised and downtrodden

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**GOVERNMENT BOOSTING
LIQUOR SALES
TO INCREASE IT'S REVENUE
IS THE BIGGEST ONSLAUGHT
AGAINST THE POOR AND
DOWNTRODDEN**

SWAMI VIVEKANANDA SPEAKS

Principle is eternal

It is lamentably true that the fathers and mothers are not what they were in old times, neither is society so educated as it used to be, neither has society that love for individuals that it used to have.

But, however faulty the present conditions may be, the basic principle that guided the society is sound; and if its application has become defective, if one method has failed, take up the principle and work it out better; why kill the principle?

The principle is eternal and must be there. Work it out afresh and make a reformed application.

Vedas are eternal laws

Mark you, your Vedas are not inspired, not that they came from anywhere outside, but they are the eternal laws living in every soul. The Vedas are in the soul of the individual, in the soul of the God. The individual has only to evolve and get the body of a sage or a Rishi and the Vedas will come out, eternal laws expressing themselves.

Truth and nothing but truth

All weakness, all bondage is imagination. Speak one word to it, it must vanish. Do not weaken ! There is no other way out Stand up and be strong. No fear. No superstition. Face the truth, as it is!

Salvation is already within us

This is the one great idea to understand, that our power is already ours, our salvation is already within us. Say either that it has become contracted or say that it has been covered with the veil of Maya, it matters little; the idea is there already; you must have to believe in that, believe in the possibility of everybody – even in the so called lowest man there is the same possibility as in the Buddha. This is the doctrine of the Atman. There is the body, there is then the mind – there is this Atman and in and through all the Atmans, is that Paramatman,



Serve the living God !

This world is a play. You are His playmates. Go on and work without any sorrow, without any misery — It is blasphemy to think that you can help anyone.

First root out this idea of helping and then go to worship. You are His servant Serve the living God !

DO NOT SIT IDLE

First of all, make the soil ready and thousands of Vivekanandas will in time be born into this world to deliver lectures on religion.

You need not worry yourself about that! Don't you see why I am starting orphanages, famine relief works, etc.? Don't you see how Sister Nivedita, an English lady, has learnt to serve Indians so well, by doing even menial work for them? And can't you, being Indians, similarly serve your own fellow countrymen?

Go, all of you, wherever there is an outbreak of plague or famine or wherever the people are in distress and mitigate their sufferings. At the most you may die in the attempt – what of that? How

many like you are taking birth and dying like worms every day? What difference does that make to the world at large?

Die you must, but have a great ideal to die for and it is better to die with a great ideal in life.

Preach this ideal from door to door and you will yourselves be benefited by it at the same time that you are doing good to your country.

On you lie the future hopes of our country. I feel extreme pain to see you leading a life of inaction. Set yourselves to work – to work! Do not sit idle, thinking that everything will be done in time, later on! Mind – nothing will be done that way!

Desperate Calls

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



Kidney patient needs support



Mr. N. Natarajan, age 51 years is suffering from renal failure. As per the doctor's instructions, he is undergoing dialysis for the last two years. Now, the doctors have advised him to undergo renal transplantation. Cost of the surgery at PSG Hospitals, Coimbatore is Rs.3 lakhs.

Cheque may be drawn in favour of PSG Hospitals, Coimbatore and sent to the following address:

Mr. N. Natarajan,
14/15, Kalpana Layout
Maniakampalayam Quarters
Ganapathi, Coimbatore-641 006

Student needs support for surgery

Mr. Sundar Purushothaman is studying MBBS Final year in Mahatma Gandhi Medical College, Pondicherry.

He underwent total hip replacement surgery in his left hip one year ago in the MIOT Hospital, Chennai. Now, he is undergoing same surgery in his right hip. Estimated cost of the surgery is Rs.3 lakhs.

The cheque may be drawn in favour of MIOT Hospital, Chennai and sent to the following address

Mr. Sundar Purushothaman, S/o. Mr. V. G. Sakthimohan
7, Palace South Street, Karaikal 609 602, Pondicherry

Differently abled student needs support for education

Mr. S. Prabakaran is a poor differently abled student. He is studying, final year Diploma in Computer Engineering in Srinivasa Subbaraya Polytechnic College, Puthur, Sirkali, Tamil Nadu



Mr. S. Prabakaran requests kind hearted persons for financial help for his studies.

The cheque may be drawn in favour of Srinivasa Subbaraya Polytechnic College, Puthur, Sirkali and sent to the following address.

Mr. S. Prabakaran,
31/2/30C Kathala Pettai
B. Kumarapalayam (P.O.), Thiruchengodu (Tk)
Namakkal Dist, Pin:638 183

Needs support for heart surgery

Mrs. Chellamani W/o Mr. S. Suryaraj is suffering from heart disease. The doctors at Sri Ramakrishna Hospital, Coimbatore advised her to undergo heart surgery.

Mr. S. Suryaraj requests kind hearted persons for financial help for his wife's surgery.

Cheque may be drawn in favour of Sri Ramakrishna Hospital, Coimbatore and sent to following address:

Mr. S. Suryaraj
P.F.No.1630, 5th Division,
Waterfall Estate, Valparai, Coimbatore

Visually impaired person needs teacher job

Sri N. Karunakaran is a poor visually impaired person. He is a graduate in Tamil Literature. He has also passed B.Ed. course.

Sri N. Karunakaran requests kind hearted persons for a suitable job.

Contact address:

Sri N. Karunakaran, No.81/171,
Karunanidhi Nagar, Tondiarpet,
Chennai-600 081

Needs support for medical treatment

Baby Salomi, 40 days old is suffering from congenital heart disease. The child requires open heart surgery. Estimated cost of the surgery is Rs.1,50,000/-





Ms. Rakshitha, age 4 years, is suffering from congenital heart disease. The child requires open heart surgery. Estimated cost of the surgery is Rs.1,25,000/-

Master. Dilshad, age 5 years, is suffering from congenital heart disease. The child requires open heart surgery. Estimated cost of the surgery is Rs.1,25,000/-



Baby Rohit, age one year, is suffering from congenital heart disease. The child requires PDA device closure surgery. Estimated cost of the surgery is Rs.90,000/-

Master. Umral Farooque, age 11 years, is suffering from congenital heart disease. The boy requires open heart surgery. Estimated cost of the surgery is Rs.1,25,000/-



Baby Appu Pavan Kumar, 5 months old, is suffering from congenital heart disease. The child requires open heart surgery. Estimated cost of the surgery is Rs.1,25,000/-

Ms. Manohari, age 27 years, is suffering from congenital heart disease. The lady requires open heart surgery. Estimated cost of the surgery is Rs.1,25,000/-



The cheque may be drawn in favour of Wockhardt Hospital, Bangalore and sent to the following address:

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

Mentally ill child needs support

Baby Vasima Banu, age 3 years is a poor mentally ill and bed ridden child.

Child's father Mr. Abdul Rahim is unskilled labourer.

He requests kind hearted persons for help for his child's medical treatment.

Contact address:

Mr. Abdul Rahim,
S/o. Mr. Abdul Kadhar
263/B/4B1, Alamin Rahumaniyapuram,
9th Street Krishnapuram,
Kadaiyanallur,
Thenkasi Tk., Thirunelveli District



Engineering student needs support for education

Mr. S. Dineshkumar is studying final year BE Electrical and Electronics Engineering in Kamaraj College of Engineering and Technology, Virudhunagar, Tamil Nadu.

Mr. S. Dineshkumar requests kind hearted persons for financial help for him to continue his education.

The cheque may be drawn in favour of Kamaraj College of Engineering and Technology, Virudhunagar and sent to the following address:

Contact address:

Mr. S. Dineshkumar,
S/o. Mr. Senthilrajan,
57, Kennett Hospital Road,
Ellis Nagar, Madurai-625 016

Differently abled person needs "electronic hand"

Mr. Vishnu Bhardwaj, age 20 years has completed Bachelor of Computer Applications course. He met with an accident recently. As a result, he lost his left hand.

Mr. Vishnu Bhardwaj wants someone to advise him and help him by providing him artificial electronic hand that can be fixed in his left side in the place of the hand that he has lost due to the accident.

Contact address:

Mr. Vishnu Bharadwaj, Moradabad
E-mail: vishnutmimt@gmail.com
Mobile: 09808880320

Poor students need support for education

* J.K. Jagatheesh , studying I year B.Sc.(Maths) in Sourashtra College, Madurai

Contact address: J.K.Jagatheesh, 68 A, Ramakrishna colony, Kaithari Nagar, Nilaiyur, Madurai – 5

* V. Satheesh Kumar studying in IX standard in Ambal Matriculation school, Chennai

* V. Sangeetha studying in XI standard in Good Hope Matriculation higher Secondary School, Chennai

Contact address for the above two students

521/4, Ramakrishna Street,
Arumbakkam, Chennai-600106.

Needs support for medical treatment :

Ms. Malathi Venkatraman writes that her son Arunachalam met with an accident on the road and had to be operated on his leg. He has to be operated once again. She needs financial support.

For further details, please contact

Ms. Malathi Venkatraman,

32, Bhaskar Nagar,

Arni, Thiruvannamalai Dist – 632301

Tamil Nadu

LACK OF ACCOUNTABILITY AND PROPER ACCOUNTING PROCEDURES

Contributed by:

K.N.Narayana Pillai, Chennai

How an octogenarian was harassed by Reliance Communications Ltd. due to indifference and lack of proper accounting is illustrated below:

My son landed in Chennai in May 2009 to see his ailing mother, although he was jobless due to recession in Chicago.

For a few days, he sought internet connection from Reliance Communications Ltd, (RCL) to explore job availability.

RCL representatives visited him and presented papers to be signed by me for connection to my land line. For the sake of my son, I signed the papers. They demanded Rs.3,500/- . My son handed over an A/c payee cheque.

They insisted on cash payment by returning the cheque. He obliged. But they never issued a cash receipt, the fundamental principle which has to be followed by any organization.

The connection was used only for three days till my son left for Chicago in May itself. I called RCL over telephone repeatedly to take back their facility immediately. They dragged on. Finally, I complained

to their Mumbai office, which in turn informed me that the connection would be terminated within 24 hours. It never happened.

I went on reminding in black and white. They never responded. They forget that a customer is God and has to be treated well.

At the end of June 2009, a letter came from them with a final bill for payment to end the connection. Immediately I settled it stating that it was full and final settlement. They never issued a receipt.

Then, another bill for June 2009 was received although the facility remained idle, due to their indifference. I rejected them since the full and final settlement was already made.

To my surprise, a lawyer's notice reached me asking me to meet the lawyer on 26.5.2010, after nearly an year. Since I could not step out due to the critical condition of my ailing wife , I wrote to the lawyer about my plight, enclosing a cheque for the bill quoted.

Since I am an "ant" and RCL is an "elephant". An ant cannot fight with an elephant.

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.



Article on Dementia

Dear Sir,

Your journal is doing more than what most of the foreign funded, sophisticated and Government of India patronized huge NGOs are doing.

Hats off to you.

The article in your August 2010 issue on handling 'dementia' (Dementia – My Experience by K.N.Narayana Pillai) is a most valuable one.

I want to give wide publicity to this article, which it highly deserves.

Chennai

A.Banerjee

Family rule under democracy

Sir,

I read the July issue of Nandini Voice with considerable interest, particularly the article on "Perfecting Family Rule under "democracy":

Kushwant Singh termed it "dynastic democracy", More aptly, one may call it "genealogical democracy", as dynasty smacks of royal rule.

With regard to the article "So called VIP's in Tirupathi temple": there was a tradition that once inside any temple, one should not do *namaskaram* to *any one*, as it is presumed that inside the precincts, only the Deity is to be respected.

Chennai

N.Dharmeshwaran

How people view Maoists?

Sir,

Maoists are indulging in violence and are destroying public property in the name of ending oppression in the society.

In spite of the deplorable behaviour of the Maoists, there is no evidence of national revulsion against them. This may be due to the fact that at least some sections of the countrymen think that Maoists are against corrupt politicians and corrupt business men who are viewed as exploiters. The helpless common man, perhaps want someone to teach a lesson to these corrupt elements and defeat them effectively.

Due to the deplorable behaviour of the Maoists, several innocent people suffer and die and policemen

lose their lives. It is necessary that Maoists should be put down.

The government should see the writing on the wall and understand that Maoists are able to take the law into their own hands largely because of the widespread anger in the society about the corrupt politicians and the officials.

Today, no politician at any level moves around without security guards to protect him, as he is afraid of his own safety due to his corrupt and dishonest practices.

The sure way to put down Maoists is to put down the corrupt politicians and corrupt officials.

Name withheld on request

So called VIP's in Tirupathi temple

Dear Sir,

You have done a great service to the devotees of Tirupathi temple by publishing their anguish about preferentially allowing the so called VIPS to visit Tirupathi temple while making the poor devotees wait in the queue for very long time.

It is strange that these rich people who are politicians, ministers, cinema stars and businessmen, who get special treatment in Tirupathi temple fail to understand that it is improper to get any special benefits for themselves in temple premises. It is a sign of deterioration that such things are happening even in the temple.

Kozhikode

K.Sukumar

FIFI World Cup -2010

Dear Sir,

The foot ball world cup in South Africa is the best event in recent times. First, it took place in South Africa, a developing country surrounded by number of less developed regions. South Africa has proved that a developing country and its people are in no way secondary to the so called developed countries in Europe and USA.

As an Indian, I feel sorry that India has no role in this World Foot Ball event.

The Government of India and private enterprises in India should initiate massive efforts immediately that world ensure that India will be a participant in the next World Cup event in 2014.

Mumbai

K.A. Madhu

ARE POOR FAMILIES NOW RUN BY WOMEN ?

One of the severe impact of the government's liquor policy and consequent rapid spread of liquor habit amongst the people of all age groups is that the welfare of the poor families have been severely affected.

Obviously, the government is not concerned about such distressing conditions, as it wants liquor money at any cost to implement its populist schemes such as distribution of free TV sets, gas stoves etc. to hood wink the common men.

However, those concerned with the social welfare and improvement in the life of the downtrodden cannot but feel concerned about this scenario..

It is now reported that liquor sale is increasing at such a rapid rate that atleast 40% of the men folk of various age groups have taken to regular drinking and atleast 20% more have become occasional drinkers. Happily, this liquor habit is still largely confined only to men folk and the women still have not succumbed to the liquor trap set by the government to increase its revenues.

The direct impact of the increasing drinking habit amongst men is that the economics of the poor families have been uprooted considerably. As a result, the responsibility for running the families have fallen on the shoulders of the poor women, who not only have to take the beatings and harassment from the drunken husbands but also have to feed the entire family and educate the children. It is pathetic sight to see these poor women working from dawn to dusk with fragile health and enormous anxiety writ largely on their face.

These harassed women from the poor families often regret that they have married at all and perhaps feel that they would have been more peaceful without this drunken husband around.

Nandini Voice for the Deprived receives large number of requests from poor families, particularly seeking

support for education of their children. It is seen that over 90% of such requests come from poor mothers and rarely fathers approach for help. These women clearly understand that providing good education, particularly to the girls is vitally necessary to give the girls some sort of security later on in their life, if the husband would happen to be a drunkard.

It is typical of the culture of Indian society that these women rarely disown their husbands inspite of their drinking habit and consequent bad and indisciplined behaviour but put up with them as if it is their duty that they should stay on with the husband at any cost.

It is high time that a careful investigative study should be made about this changing scenario in the poor families due to the rapid spread of drinking habit amongst men, which has forced women to take the full responsibility for protecting the family and the children.

It is good in one way that women come forward to protect the family interests braving the wayward behaviour of men. But, the negative impact is that the children, particularly girls, lose the sense of respect for their father and perhaps for the men folk.

In a chat recently, a thirteen year old girl, constantly witnessing her mother being beaten and harassed by her drunken father said that she would desire to become a police woman. When closely questioned, the girl coolly said that she would become a police woman to beat her drunken father and teach him a lesson.

It is high time that the government and the society should realize the serious adverse impact due to this rapidly multiplying number of drunkards, particularly amongst the lower income group and the erosion of the place of man as a family head.

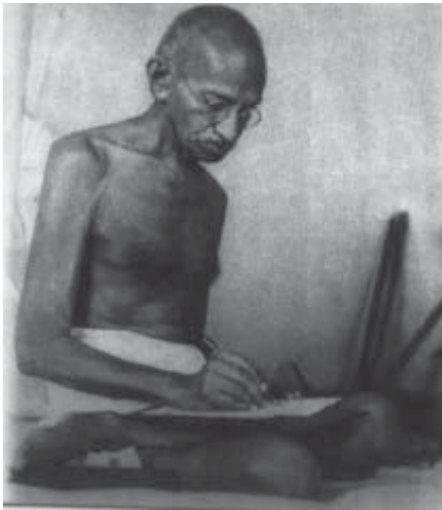


BLATANT LIES UNDER THE BANNER OF 'SATYAMEVA JAYATHE'

Dr.V.Rajagopal (rajvel44@gmail.com)

The Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi stood firmly, despite fragile health, on the principles of three Ts namely 'truth', 'tolerance' and 'time' (Satyam, Sahanam and Samayam) and he propagated the values for achieving the freedom to the country.

He not only strongly believed in these, but also made the Britishers to appreciate and accept his philosophy of non-violence based on the above principles which paved the way for independence.



Gandhiji's disciples, as true Gandhians, followed his footsteps most faithfully and respectfully in maintaining the human values, essentially civic and moral throughout their official and personal lives. We had many Gandhians who with their humble and austere lives laid foundation for high standards in public life. Mahatma Gandhi inculcated in the minds of one and all in those years of freedom struggle that TRUTH will ultimately triumph, no matter what the obstacles were.

Thus, 'Satyameva Jayathe' became the lofty symbol and glorious golden words to uphold the country's image as a nation totally committed to the path of 'truth'. The country proudly adopted the slogan. This path was meant for Indian citizen irrespective of the party affiliation, caste, creed, religion, age and gender. That was the glorious past of India.

How far did the noble ideals of Gandhiji serve the nation in the post-independent era?

An incisive analysis of the situations during the pre independence, early (until 1970s) and post-independence, past four decades reveals unequivocally that the golden word 'truth' suffered the most and become

a casualty in recent years. With the gradual decline in the basic discipline among some citizens, notably among the politicians, the 'truth' has slowly and steadily gave way to 'lies' in the form of simple, moderate and blatant lies.

In early years, there used to be fear to tell lies among the children and elders alike, but now there is no inhibition nor fear to tell lies to escape from the situations, small or big.

Unfortunately, the education system in recent years has failed to check the spread of evil. The people in power and politics have become liars to escape from wrong doings like corruption, molestation, rape and many criminal activities. Amazingly, even senior citizens who were in the helm of affairs during their service days stoop down to tell lies with least concern to their own conscience.

While a section of the media is playing role in bringing out news on various issues such as corruption, molestation, violence and crimes, there is vulgar display of blatant lies by all those concerned to cover up the misdeeds and a virtual competition in the art of telling lies on the TV screen.

No sophisticated lie detector can help as the conscience itself fail more often in many offenders. The 'Right to education' bill will be more meaningful when it includes in the syllabus for the school children the right education to inculcate the basic human values as visualized by Mahatma Gandhi and followed by many of his followers and others. The primary and secondary education are the right stages.

To conclude, as long as the political system in the country is loaded with criminalization, there is least scope for the TRUTH to prevail or triumph of Gandhiji's teachings which seem to have lost relevance in today's India. Are we true to the concept of 'Satyameva Jayathe' is the challenging question which the rulers of the country have to introspect and answer.

Caste Versus Casteism

Prof. Susheela Kaushik

Former Professor of Political Science, Delhi University. Email:- susheelaka@gmail.com

Often caste consciousness is identified as casteism. Because of the politicising of caste, the identity of caste consciousness has increased.

Casteism is a divisive attitude and harmful to social and personal interaction and will lead to a fractured society; whereas this caste consciousness and identity is more political; exploited for partisan political advantage. The three Yadavs are interested in this and exploit this.

Casteism has penetrated every religion, including those which originated by opposing the caste system and its antiquated divisive rituals.

Even those who converted to other religions, have not been able to give up their original castes – mainly because of the hierarchical order which wields and yields power and the superiority that it confers for one group over the other. Hence, any social anthropologists who justify caste, are justifying the hierarchy and power of one group over the other and not equality.

Caste, has always been a political institution, based on hierarchy and power. It was also always politicised, though it was believed that it was politicised only in the 1960s. The resurgent nationalism in the pre-and post-independence years might have restricted its role. So also during the years of political crisis and emergencies, caste took a back seat to overt political issues. Otherwise, the local politics in the Madras and Bombay Presidencies as well as in the PEPSU (present-day Punjab, Haryana region) operated on caste lines. Caste thus has been the basis for grouping or regrouping in this pluralism-based democracy.

However, in order to play this game politically, the group concerned has to have an idea about its strength, both numerically and socio-economically. It is for this reason that the British regime adopted the caste-based census after 1931, with so many caste-based movements coming up, asking for legislative quotas.

The secular parties (i.e., parties which have broad politico-social basis across castes and religions) are worried about losing their social base, while the non-secular parties (including the casteist ones) are happy to know their basis and strength.

The problem arises when the caste-based parties become casteist parties; the religion-based parties become religious parties; because in turn they become

fundamentalist parties. Democracy then does not benefit from pluralism but is ruined by the fundamentalism that involves hierarchical caste violence, patriarchal gender violence and cruel human injustice.

Despite the logic of the Kaka Kalelkar committee, and the Mandal Commission, caste and class hierarchy do not coincide; caste and work also do not coincide. As a social category, caste became conservative and divisive rather than merely a harmless social group.

Of late (or perhaps always), caste has had its economic implications. It was also a mechanism by which people in the lower economic order are prevented from moving up and challenging the superiority of other groups. This has led to quite a few movements like Khap Panchayats in Haryana.

Khap Panchayats seeks to prevent other (lower) caste men getting a share in the land by way of marriage. This has especially led to an extra restriction and violence in the case of girls choosing to marry a boy from another caste, as under the patriarchal power which dominates in all the castes, the males from other castes may begin to claim ownership in the land.

Ultimately, caste feudalism, patriarchy and power of the community join up to promote and preserve the past social order and prevent any change in the society. After all, any move towards a change is a potential threat to these feudal orders.

One should thus see the emerging developments like Khap Panchayats, same gotra, etc. not in terms of religion, caste or community norms, as much in terms of the economic implications in an agricultural society in a rich fertile green belt.

The poorer sections or smaller cultivators are not part of these developments.

This also explains why politicians bend backwards to show their solidarity with these conservative khap panchayats, rather than understand and lead the progressive social dynamics. It is the rich and powerful who are the agents behind this revival of fundamentalist positions.

EDUCATION FOR POOR CHILDREN DESPERATE SITUATION FACED BY POOR FAMILIES

It is pathetic to see the plight of poor families, who understand that imparting quality education to their children is the only way to ensure secured future for them in life. Because of this realization, many poor families run from pillar to post to find money for educating their children to the best of their capability.

Unfortunately, education has gone into the hands of business men and most of them do not anymore view imparting education as a social objective but only as a money making exercise. It is sad that the government has failed to check this deteriorating condition, though it continues to pay lip service to the cause of education of poor children.

State governments are running several schools at various levels. They provide almost free education and also give free mid day meal, text books etc. to the students studying in the government owned and government aided schools. While these are laudable acts, the fact remains that several government owned and government aided schools fleece money from the students under various pretext. This is nothing but corruption.

It causes concern that most of the government owned / aided schools and private schools do not respect the government's order with regard to the fee structure. Obviously, the government's writ does not run amongst the schools.

Several of the schools insist that the students should buy uniforms and notebooks only through the schools and the costs are inflated. The fees are being levied under various heads in violation of the government's directives and the schools do not accept the cheques but

insist on cash payment. They do not give proper receipts and often the receipts are "computer receipts", which have no number and seal and have no validity.

The poor parents know that the schools are charging the fees in violation of the government's directives but feel helpless and do not have the courage to protest, as they are not confident that their protests would have any impact.

The poor parents suffer enormously and often borrow at exorbitant interest and run into debts.

It is unfortunate that the government remains unconcerned and thinks that its job is over just by issuing directives to the schools.

This, virtually defeats the government's objective of providing free education.

In recent times, new government owned or government aided schools are not being started and the expansion of education facilities have been virtually left to the business minded private sector. Though many of the private sector schools claim that they are promoted by charities and trusts, in effect they are not different from commercial enterprises. These so called charity bodies and trusts rarely invest their own money in these institutions.

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PRECARIOUS POWER SCENARIO IN TAMIL NADU NEED TO CURB GROWTH IN DEMAND FOR GRID POWER

It makes curious reading that a high power delegation led by Chief Secretary of Tamil Nadu left for Japan as part of state's efforts to bring in Japanese investments.

One wonders as to whether there should be more industrial investment in Tamil Nadu at all in the next few years, as there is an average of 20% power cut in the state crippling the industries, which has almost become a permanent feature with no prospects of improvement in the near future.

Is there not a need to balance the growth in demand for power with the availability ?

It is estimated that there would be short fall in the supply of power in Tamil Nadu from 1400 MW to 3400 MW between June, 2010 and May, 2011. This estimate has been confirmed by Tamil Nadu Electricity Board itself.

What should cause more concern is the fact that there is unlikely to be any improvement in the overall deficit scenario in Tamil Nadu during the next few years, as the demand is likely to go up and it will not be matched by new capacity creation.

The present demand for power in Tamil Nadu is around 12880 MW, as against the installed capacity of 15,800 MW (including external purchase constituting around 1.35%) in the state.

While the installed capacity is more than the demand, it is highly deceptive since around 31% of the installed capacity (around 5000 MW), is constituted by wind power. The wind power is available at reasonable capacity utilization level only during four to five months in a year. The average capacity utilization of wind power sector in Tamil Nadu is only around 44%.

Further, there is transmission loss of as high as around 19% in Tamil Nadu.

Therefore, the available power in Tamil Nadu is only around 10,000 MW in most part of the year. This clearly leaves a gap of 2,880 MW and the gap would be more, when there would be any planned or unplanned shut down of the power stations due to any reason.

Based on the power projects under implementation in the state at present, there could be an additional capacity of 1400 MW in 2010-2011, 3316 MW in 2011-12 and 1860 MW in 2012-13. By 2013-14, the likely installed capacity in Tamil Nadu would be around 22376 MW. Plans for capacity creation beyond 2013 is now only in the planning stage.

Considering transmission losses, the power availability by 2013-14 in Tamil Nadu may be around 15000 MW only. Considering the past experience and

the planned and unplanned shut downs of power stations and any short falls in hydro power due to monsoon uncertainties, the average generation of power could be even lower at around 14000 MW by 2013-14.

The number of consumers in Tamil Nadu in various sectors like domestic, industry etc. have been steadily going up at the rate 4.7% per annum, with the domestic consumers presently constituting around 67%. With the various schemes of the government like free distribution of lakhs of TV sets around the state, the demand from the domestic consumers would only go up substantially.

As against such availability of around 14,000 MW of power by 2013-14, the demand for power is likely to be 14224 MW in 2011-12 and 15,617 MW in 2012-13, according to the estimate of the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board itself.

This can be seen that the power situation in Tamil Nadu is precarious and there will be no relief from the severe power cuts and the load shedding in the state in the near future.

The potential for new capacity creation for wind power and hydro power in Tamil Nadu has been nearly exhausted. As it takes at least five years to conceive, design and implement thermal power projects and the period would be much more in the case of nuclear power projects, the Tamil Nadu Government should seriously think of taking some tangible steps to reduce the growth in demand for power in the state immediately. This calls for strong steps with adequate forward planning and people should be taken into confidence about the issues and possibilities.

What is the point in promoting more industries, when the power can not be made available even to the existing operating ones? Creating more power consumption centres at heavy cost, without creating the capacity for providing the power inputs would be similar to the act of putting the cart before the horse. This will amount to

PRECARIOUS POWER SCENARIO IN TAMIL NADU - NEED TO CURB GROWTH IN DEMAND FOR GRID POWER

the wastage of investments and resources, which should be avoided.

Obviously, the government has to identify non power intensive areas of activity to sustain the economic growth. This is quite possible, in several areas. For example, there is huge possibility for setting up agro chemical and herbal based projects in the state that will be eco friendly and non power intensive. Many other areas can be readily identified which would mean setting up several small scale projects in a big way. The government has to reverse its thinking that only massive power intensive projects like automobile or iron and steel would spur significant growth.

It is necessary for the government to declare that it would not commit itself to supply power to any medium or large scale units in the state for next three years and the new projects have to be self dependent entirely for their power requirement. It should also encourage cluster of units in a particular location to pool their resources

and set up small power projects to meet their requirement in quick time.

There are recent examples of power project being set up based on poultry litter waste in Namakkal district in Tamil Nadu and waste to power plant of capacity 15 MW in Delhi based on municipal solid waste.

The bio mass project of small capacity to meet local requirement based on agricultural waste should be supported actively. The potential for bio mass power generation in Tamil Nadu has been estimated to be 500 MW and only 110 MW have been exploited so far.

There is strong case to do a sustained campaign amongst the people and avoid wastage of electric power in all possible ways.

Of course, the ministers and politicians should set an example by not wasting huge power for their road side meetings and conferences, for which the power are often wired in a clandestine manner.

1,20,000 INDIANS HOLD A THIRD OF NATIONAL INCOME

Last year may have been a cruel year for much of the country with slow growth and double-digit food inflation, but India's high net worth individuals (HNWIs) prospered — just over 120,000 in number, or 0.01% of the population, their combined worth is close to one-third of India's Gross National Income (GNI).

HNWIs, in this context, are defined as those having investable assets of \$1 million or more, excluding primary residence, collectibles, consumables and consumer durables.

According to the 2009 Asia-Pacific Wealth Report, brought out by financial services firms Capgemini and Merrill Lynch Wealth Management, at the peak of the recession in 2008, India had 84,000 HNWIs with a combined net worth of \$310 billion. To put that figure in perspective, it was just under a third of India's market capitalization, that is, the total value of all companies listed on the Bombay Stock Exchange — as of end-March 2008. The average worth of each HNWI was Rs 16.6 crore.

Some simple calculations that throw up stunning numbers. It would take an average urban Indian 2,238 years, based on the monthly per capita expenditure estimates in the 2007-8 National Sample Survey, to achieve a net worth equal to that of the average HNWI.

And that is assuming that this average urban Indian just accumulates all his income without consuming anything. A similar calculation shows that an average rural Indian would have to wait a fair bit longer — 3,814 years!

According to the firms' 2010 World Wealth Report, India now has 126,700 HNWIs, an increase of more than 50% over the 2008 number.

While the figure for combined net worth is not available, it seems safe to assume that as a class not only have India's super-rich recouped their 2008 losses, they have even made gains over their pre-crisis (2007) positions. In 2007, 123,000 HNWIs were worth a combined \$437 million.

Meanwhile, in 2009 alone, an estimated 13.6 million more people in India became poor or remained in poverty than would have been the case had the 2008 growth rates continued, according to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA).

The 2009. Asia-Pacific Wealth Report notes that the HNWI population in India is also expected to be more than three times its 2008 size by the year 2018, with emergent wealth playing a key role.

Courtesy: Times of India

WHY NOT DOW CHEMICAL TENDER AN UNCONDITIONAL APOLOGY TO THE BHOPAL VICTIMS ?

Even after 26 years of Bhopal tragedy, the citizens of India have not forgotten the sufferings underwent by thousands of poor and innocent people who lived around the Union Carbide factory in Bhopal and thousands of people who died due to the toxic gas leak from the pesticide factory.

Obviously, somebody should accept responsibility for such disaster and should pay for it.

Dow Chemical, a multi national company of great standing and size, took over Union Carbide well after the incident, knowing fully well that the administration of Union Carbide was responsible for this serious industrial accident, which is now considered as one of the worst industrial disasters in human history. It is sad that Dow refuses to accept that it should compensate the victims, since Union Carbide taken over by Dow was the culprit earlier at Bhopal. How can one organization take over another organization when assets alone would be taken over and not material and moral liability ?

The provincial Government and Government of India have not certainly done enough to help the victims and take the American based multinational company to task. Now, after 26 years, when judiciary delivered the verdict, which has shocked the nation for its lack of appreciation of the injustice done to the poor and innocent people of Bhopal and the careless, lethargic attitude of the management of the Dow and that of the Government of India.

Now, in the wake of such public protest and anger, Government of India is trying to take steps which it appears, would be nothing more than the payment of compensation to the victims and their family members, which is widely considered to be inadequate.

The real issue is the lack of accountability of Dow Chemical. While Government of India appears to think that extending some monetary compensation would be the substitute for all its careless attitude to the issue over the last 26 years, Dow Chemical appears to think that the value of Indian lives deserves only so much.

It is shocking such a big multi national company cannot understand that human life is the most important fact of life. Its efforts to conserve resources by not paying adequate compensation and taking responsibility for the tragedy and ignoring the needs of innocent sufferers are resulting in great loss of respect around the world,

which it has gained over several decades of hard, sustained and creditable work. What is the point in claiming that Dow has technological and managerial excellence when it gives an impression that it has no consideration for human values, particularly when the human beings involved are poor and deprived.

Will Dow Chemical remain so unconcerned and take a mere legalistic view, if such disaster had happened in USA or other European countries ?

It is true that thousands of innocent victims of Bhopal, dead and alive, who have suffered over 26 years now, cannot be compensated adequately by any amount of money. At the same time, there is an urgent need to assure the victims that the world is civilized and it cares for them and their sufferings have been duly viewed with genuine sympathy and understanding.

It is very important that the multinational companies, for that matter any industry, should not take the loss of human lives in developing countries for granted as if it is a non issue. They should not succeed in running away from the scene after causing such disasters.

All said and done, it is the duty of DOW Chemical to tender an unconditional apology to the victims of Bhopal for its inadequate response and not mitigating their sufferings during the last 26 years. The world opinion would view Dow in positive manner to some extent and its stature would go up, if Dow Chemical would do so.

Perhaps, it would be a good gesture on the part of Dow Chemical, if it would come forward to clean the entire contaminated site in Bhopal at its cost and build a monument at the site in memory of the poor victims of Bhopal.

DOW Chemical is certainly at the cross roads today. While it would save a few million dollars by not responding to the call of Bhopal, it would gain good will worth several several million dollars, if it would act responsibly with grace in the matter.

FUEL PRICE HIKE

WHY IS GOVERNMENT OF INDIA IGNORING THE JATROPHA OPTION ?

The Government of India has done it again.

It has once again increased the price of fuel and may marginally reduce the price after the expected huge public protest. It would then try to convey an impression that it is sensitive to public opinion but would have nevertheless succeeded in increasing the price substantially.

The helpless citizens will reconcile themselves to the situation, apprehending as to when would be the next price increase.

Many citizens feel outraged about the government resorting to the repeated price increase of fuel at frequent intervals, always giving the explanation that such price increase are inevitable due to the spiraling international price of crude oil.

While everyone understands that the Government of India has no way of controlling the international price of crude, the fact is that the Government has failed to take measures for maintaining the price of fuel in India, which could be possible in spite of the international price situation of the crude. There are many options and ways of doing this with reasonable success. However, the Government has failed to implement time bound and imaginative policy measures to tackle the scenario.

The national consensus is that while there are alternative energy options like wind and solar power etc., the best alternative fuel for India that can give sort of immediate relief is the jatropha based bio fuel.

The country has been discussing about the techno economic viability of producing and using jatropha fuel in a big way for the last several years. But, nothing much has happened on the ground. The industries and investors have certainly responded and have come forward to cultivate Jatropha plantation and set up jatropha projects in several states but have not received any matching response from the government so far. It is sad that a few units that were set up for producing jatropha oil in the country are suffering due to the lack of pro active government measures and a few projects have not taken off at all.

Jatropha is a drought resistant crop and has a long life. Due to the tropical conditions and huge cultivable land availability in India of which substantial land area remain inadequately exploited due to water scarcity, jatropha is an ideal crop for Indian conditions. Jatropha oil has been well proved to be suitable in all respects for mixing with petroleum diesel. Use of jatropha oil as a direct fuel in tractors have also been experimented successfully. It has been repeatedly pointed out that by

promoting large scale cultivation of jatropha crop, there will be several tangible benefits for the country including utilization of land hitherto not used due to water scarcity and huge employment potential, apart from substituting petroleum diesel to some extent.

There are mainly two issues on promoting jatropha fuel in the country and both the issues can be tackled elegantly by appropriate government policies.

For mixing jatropha oil with diesel for use as fuel, jatropha oil has to be trans esterified, which involves chemical reaction and that would result in the production of glycerin as co product. Glycerin is a valuable chemical though the demand for glycerin is not high enough for full utilization in the case of large scale production of jatropha trans esterified oil.

However, in recent years, several multi national companies have developed value added chemical products for production from glycerin.

Government has not done much in this regard by way of providing policy support and incentive measures for development of glycerin based products that would substantially improve the economics of jatropha fuel project.

The cost of production of jatropha oil is such that the government has to give marginal subsidy support to the jatropha industry to ensure reasonable return for the producers. While the government remains helpless in the case of international crude oil price and is spending hundreds of crores of rupees in foreign exchange to import the crude oil, it is unwilling to extend subsidy support to Indian jatropha industry, in spite of the obvious benefits that it would provide.

This attitude of the government is surprising and lacks logic.

Independence Day Essay Competition for School & College students On Subramania Bharathy



Nandini voice for the deprived, has announced an essay competition for school and college students on the following subject, in the context of forthcoming independence day

" What I admire most about Subramania Bharathy"

Objective :

Subramania bharathy was one of the great patriots and freedom fighters and a towering personality. Known for his courage of conviction and willingness to sacrifice his personal comforts for the sake of national good and his principles, Subramania Bharathy was a role model for everyone. He would continue to be a role model for the future generation.

It is necessary that the students in the formative age group should be encouraged to read about the life sketch of Subramania Bharathy and understand his philosophy, vision and outlook.

This essay competition on the eve of the independence day is being organised as a tribute to the memory of illustrious Subramania Bharathy.

Eligibility :

School students studying in 9th standard to 12th standard
College students studying at undergraduate and post graduate level

Awards :

Best of five entries amongst school students and best of five entries amongst college students will be selected for award.

Size :

The essay should be maximum of one thousand words and can be written either in english or tamil.

Last date : Last date for submission of the essay is 5th august, 2010

Contact details :

The essay should be sent by post or email to the following address

Nandini Voice for the Deprived

M 60/1, 4th cross street, Besant nagar, Chennai-600090. Tel:- 24916037

E mail:- nsvenkatchennai@gmail.com

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