

# **Nandini**

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## ***Voice For The Deprived***

Dedicated to the cause of marginalised and downtrodden

**VOL XVI**

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**RS.10/-**

**Country has become weak due to  
widespread corruption indulged in by  
politicians and officials at all levels.**

**Do the citizens have the will  
to curtail this evil?**

# THOUGHTS OF KANCHI PARAMACHARYA

## HOW TO CONTROL THE MIND ?

What is the obstacle to one pointed meditation? The answer is the unstill mind.

All problems are caused by the mind, by the desires arising in it. It is not easy to control the mind and keep it away effectively from desire. If we ask the mind to think of an object, it seems to obey us for a moment, but soon it takes its own course, wandering off.

When I speak to you about meditation and tranquility, for a moment your mind will perhaps become still and you will be happy. But in a trice, it will go astray and the calm you experienced for a few seconds will give place to unquietness.

If you bid your mouth to keep shut, it obeys you for a brief moment. Similarly, if you close your eyes asking them not to see anything, they shut themselves off from the outside world for some moments. But try as you might to tell your mind not to think of anything, it will not listen to you.

The mind must be kept under control. Thinking and non-thinking must be governed by your will. Only then can we claim that it is under our control, that we are masters of our own consciousness.

Lunatics are usually referred to as people with no control over their minds. In fact none of us have any control over the mind. A madman keeps blabbering. But what about us? We let the mind go freely to keep blabbering inwardly.

Do you know what it means to have mental control? Suppose you are suffering from a severe pain. If you ask your mind not to feel the pain, it shall not feel it in obedience to you [that is you will not feel the pain]. Even if a tiger comes face to face with you and growls, you will feel no fear if you ask your mind not to be afraid of the beast.

Now, we keep crying for no reason. If the mind is under control, we will keep smiling even if there is cause for much sorrow. And under the gravest of provocations, it will not be roused to anger and will remain calm.

First, we must train our mind not to keep wandering. One way of doing this is to apply it to good activities. When oil falls in a steady flow, without spraying, it is called "tailadhara". The mind must be gathered together and made steady. It must be accustomed to think of



noble and exalted objects like the Lord. Eventually, the very act of "thinking" will cease and we will dissolve in Isvara to become Isvara.

Before we pass on, we must find a way to control the mind. Otherwise, we will be born again and we will be subject to the constant unquietness of the mind again. So, we must use the opportunity of this birth itself to subdue the mind even while we are in the midst of so much that can rouse our desire or anger.

Yoga is controlling the mind in this manner.

You must not turn away from yoga thinking that it is meant only for people like the sages. Who needs medicine? The sick. We suffer from manovyadhi, mental sickness. So we must take the medicine that cures it.

There are two different ways of mastering the mind. The first is outward (bahiranga) and the second is inward (antaranga). We must have recourse to both. Both types

are needed. By employing both the outward and inward means, the mind must first be applied to good things. One pointedly and eventually lead to a state in which it does not think of anything at all.

The outward means, for example, of sacrifices, charity and so on. The best inward means is meditation.

There are five inward(or antaranga) means to aid meditation. They are ahimsa(non-violence), satya(truthfulness), asteyam(non-stealing), sauca(cleanliness) and indriya-nigraha[subduing the senses, if not obliterating them].

To practise ahimsa is to imbue the mind with love for all and not even think of harming others. Asteyam

means not coveting other people's goods. For satya or truthfulness to be complete, one's entire being, including body, mind and speech, must be involved in its practice. Sauca is hygiene, observing cleanliness by bathing, maintaining ritual purity, etc. Indriya-nigraha implies limits placed on sensual enjoyment.

"The eyes must not see certain things, the ears must not hear certain things and the mouth must not eat certain things"- restrictions with regard to what you can see, listen to, eat and do with your body.

The body is meant for sadhana, for Atmic discipline. The senses must be "fed" only to the extent necessary to keep the body alive. These five dharmas are to be practiced without any distinction of caste or community.

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## Provide support for education of poor children

It is gratifying that there is realization amongst the poor families about the need to provide quality education to the children, which is the only way to improve their living conditions and prospects in life.

Unfortunatly, the education in India has largely gone into the hands of business men and money multipliers who have increased the cost of eduction substantially.

Under the circumstances, the affordable option available for the poor families is to send the children to the government owned and government aided schools.

A letter was sent to the Government of Tamil Nadu under the Right to Information Act, seeking details about the number of government owned and government aided schools functioning in Tamil Nadu and the number of new schools that have been started in the last few years.

The following reply was received from the Government of Tamil Nadu

Number of Government owned high schools in Tamil Nadu	- 2053
Number of Government aided high schools in Tamil Nadu	- 642
Number of Government owned higher secondary schools in Tamil Nadu	- 2131
Number of Government aided higher secondary schools In Tamil Nadu	- 1081

This letter from the government has not provided any information about the number of new schools that have been set up in Tamil Nadu under the government ownership or government aided scheme.

As the number of government owned and government aided schools in Tamil Nadu are far from adequate and quality of education imparted in these schools are not of requisite standards in many cases, the poor families often wish that their children should be sent to private schools, where quality of education imparted are believed to be better.

Given the compulsive need to provide quality education to the children, some poor families take calculated risk and admit the children in the private schools and are driven from pillar to post to find money to pay the exhorbitant school fees.

Nandini Voice for the Deprived is receiving number of requests from poor parents seeking support for the education of their children, particularly those studying in private schools.

It is difficult to say no to these well intentioned poor parents for admission of their children in private schools, since the logic and aspirations seem to be justified.

Nandini Voice For the Deprived appeals to those in the affordable income group to readily come forward and help these poor children in their educational pursuits.

# SWAMI VIVEKANANDA SPEAKS

## IMPORTANCE OF LIBERTY



Liberty is the first condition of growth. Just as man must have liberty to think and speak, so he must have liberty in food, dress and marriage and in every other thing, so long as he does not injure others.

\*\*\*\*\*

We talk foolishly against material civilization. Material civilization, any, even luxury, is necessary to create work for the poor.

\*\*\*\*\*

Bread! Bread! I do not believe in a God who cannot give me bread here, giving me eternal bliss in heaven!

Pooh! India is to be raised, the poor are to be fed, education is to be spread and the evil of priest craft is to be removed. No priest craft, no social tyranny! More bread, more opportunity to everybody!

Now, this is to be brought about slowly and by only insisting on our religion and giving liberty to society. Root out priest craft from the old religion and you get the best religion in the world.

Do you understand me? Can you make a European society with India's religion? I believe it is possible and must be.

\*\*\*\*\*

The grand plan is to start a colony in Central India, where you can follow your own ideas independently: and then a little leaven will leaven all. In the meanwhile, form a Central Association and go on branching off all over India. Start only on religious grounds now and do not preach any violent social reform at present; Only do not countenance foolish superstitions.

Try to revive society on the old grounds of universal salvation and equality as laid down by the old Masters, such as Shankaracharya, Ramanuja and Chaitanya.

\*\*\*\*\*

Have fire and spread all over. Work, work,

Be the servant while leading, be unselfish and never listen to one friend in private accusing another.

Have infinite patience and success is yours.

Work, work, for, to work only for the good of others is life.

\*\*\*\*\*

There is vast difference between saying "food, food" and eating it, between saying "water, water" and drinking it. So, by merely repeating the words "God, God," we cannot hope to attain realization. We must strive and practice.

\*\*\*\*\*

Only by the wave falling back into the sea, can it become unlimited, never as a wave can it be so. Then, after it has become the sea, it can become the wave again and as big a one as it pleases. Break the identification of yourself with the current and know that you are free.

\*\*\*\*\*

True philosophy is the systematizing of certain perceptions. Intellect ends where religion begins. Inspiration is much higher than reason, but it must not contradict it.

Reason is the rough tool to do the hard work; inspiration is the bright light which shows us all truth. The will to do a thing is not necessarily inspiration.

\*\*\*\*\*

Worship of God, worship of the holy ones, concentration and meditation and unselfish work, these are the ways of breaking away from Maya's net; but we must first have the strong desire to get free.

Give up all desire for enjoyment in earth or heaven. Control the organs of the senses and control the mind. Bear every misery without even knowing that you are miserable. Think of nothing but liberation.

\*\*\*\*\*

# 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.



## Laws grind the poor and rich men rule the law

Dear Sir,

Looking back and turning the pages of history, king or ruler was the custodian of law and people looked upon the king or raja for justice in case of any problem. The king had drawn do's and don'ts and law punished the law breakers. The rules with guidelines were firmly laid down.

In today's society, the scholars of law and interpreters of law twist the law to suit the situation and to suit themselves. As a result, those who need legal aid are pushed round and the lawyers utilize the loopholes and various possible interpretation of the law as a goose that lay a golden egg.

With the support of clever lawyers, the politicians and rich persons and influential people twist the law to suit themselves and often escape punishment in the judicial process, in spite of their misdeeds. The poor people who can not afford to employ lawyers suffer helplessly and silently.

The common folks are driven like dumb cattle whipped by the rich and interpreters of law, who seem to control the process of law.

Chennai

Bharat Hiteshi

\*\*\*\*\*

## Astronomical cost in a poverty ridden country

Dear Sir,

The 2G scam of Rs.1.75 lakh crores, the IPL auction money of several crores of rupees for each cricketer and thousands of crores of rupees spent in commonwealth games make one wonder as to whether there are two segments of India today, with one segment dominated by the rich and the corrupt people and the other one occupied by the deprived and down trodden persons.

While we constantly hear about suicide of farmers and even starvation conditions, we also hear about the obscene level of salaries being paid to employees in section of the organized sector and state and central government employees. Millions of Indians who are not part of the work force of the section of the organized sector and the government are now left out of this "island of prosperity".

The country is getting divided between "the haves and the have nots", that has the potential to trigger a class conflict and unrest of enormous and unmanageable proportion.

Unfortunately, those in charge of the government at the leadership level seem to be oblivious of such possibilities and perhaps think that security guards and alsation dogs can always protect the rich against the onslaught of the poor, if and when it would take place.

When the price of onion goes upto as high as Rs.80/- per kilogramme, those worst affected are only the aam aadmi. Similarly, aam aadmi are the worst hit due to the widespread corruption and nepotism in the country.

Any thinking person would conclude that these multi crore scams and the auctioning of cricketers for several crores of rupees for the IPL game are signs of a society and economy that is losing sense of proportion and directions.

Unfortunately, the media which should espouse these issues and bring sanity in vibrant public debate in the country has itself become a part of this island of prosperity and therefore, not anymore representing the cause of the down trodden and the deprived.

What is most disturbing is that we have a scholar economist as the Prime Minister of India, who appears to be viewing the scenario from the gallery.

Mumbai

J.K.Viswanathan

\*\*\*\*\*

## IPL auction should be banned

Dear Sir,

It is nauseating to see the IPL auctioning process, which is extensively telecast by the business oriented private TV channels.

In a country where more than 300 million people are reported to be living below poverty line, it is absolutely insensitive to bid players who just play cricket for crores of rupees. One also wonders as to where do this money come from.

Obviously, hard and sustained work does not command any more respect and value in India.

IPL auction is a conclusive proof that business men have taken a strangle hold over the economy of the country and the poor have no place. A thoroughly irresponsible government allow such obnoxious practices to go on, without bothering about the impact that such practices will have on the psyche of the nation.

Vadodara

K.A.Guha

# Desperate Calls

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



## **Baby needs heart surgery**

Baby Swait, aged 14 months is suffering from congenital heart disease. Estimated cost of the surgery and medicines at Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital is Rs.2,00,000/-

The child's father Mr.Sandeep P.Zore is working in a small private concern. He is the only earning member in his family. He is living with his wife , child and his parents.

Mr.Sandeep P.Zore requests financial help for his son's surgery.

The cheque may be drawn in favour of Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital & Medical Research Centre and sent to the following following address:

Mr.Sandeep P.Zore  
Sahakar Chawl No.1761, Room No.12,  
Geete Compound, Shanti Nagar,  
Behind Shankar Mandir, Mumbra-400 612  
Dist. Thane, Maharashtra

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Suffering from kidney disease**

Mrs.Vasantha Krishnan is suffering from chronic kidney disease. The doctors at Fortis Hospitals, Mumbai advised her to undergo chemotherapy treatment every week for 6 months coupled with further radiation. Estimated cost of the treatment is Rs.5,00,000/-.

Mr.N.R.S.Krishnan is a retired senior citizen. His entire savings have already been exhausted because of his daughter's marriage, son's education and his wife's previous breast cancer treatment.

Mr.Krishnan requests financial help for his wife's medical treatment.

The cheque may be drawn in favour of Fortis Hospitals, Mumbai and sent to the following following address:

Mrs.Vasantha Krishnan  
W/o.Mr.N.R.S.Krishnan  
1, Bhavna Cooperative Housing Society Ltd.,  
6, Goshala Road, Mulund (West), Mumbai-400 080

\*\*\*\*\*



## **Needs support for medical treatment**

\* Baby Jeeva, S/o of Mr.Palani, 7 months old is suffering from broncho pneumonia. Estimated cost of the treatment at Sri Ramachandra Hospital, Chennai is Rs.3,00,000/-

\* Mr Muthuraman, S/o.Mr. Munian, age 40 years is advised to undergo repair of large thoracoabdominal aneurysm surgery at Fortis Malar Hospital,Chennai Estimated cost of the surgery is Rs.2,50,000/-



\* Baby Sriram,S/o of Mr. Ravichandran, age 4 years is suffering from deep burns. Estimated cost of the treatment at Kanchi Kamakoti Child Trust Hospital, Chennai is Rs.2,00,000/-

The cheque may be drawn in favour of concerned hospital and sent to the following address:

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

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Need support for heart surgery**

\* Mr. Ganesh Chandra Rana, age 33 years is suffering from rheumatic heart disease. Estimated cost of the open heart surgery is Rs.1,87,400/-



\* Baby S.K.Soyeb, age 2 years is suffering from congenital heart disease. Estimated cost of the open heart surgery is Rs.1,25,000/-



\* Baby Shalika Khatoon, age 3 years is suffering from congenital heart disease. Estimated cost of the open heart surgery is Rs.1,25,000/-



\* Mr.Naser Ali, age 29 years is suffering from rheumatic heart disease. Estimated cost of the open heart surgery is Rs.1,86,400/-



## Desperate Calls

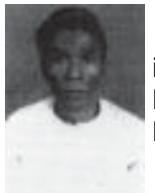
\* Baby Prarthana, age 2 years is suffering from congenital heart disease. Estimated cost of the closed heart surgery is Rs.75,000/-



\* Baby Al Amin Mondal, age 22 months is suffering from congenital heart disease. Estimated cost of the open heart surgery is Rs.1,50,000/-



\* Mr. Bihari Patel, age 35 years is suffering from rheumatic heart disease. Estimated cost of the open heart surgery is Rs.1,25,000/-



\* Mr. Jagdish Chandra Das, age 55 years is suffering from rheumatic heart disease. Estimated cost of the open heart surgery is Rs.1,12,400/-

\* Child Mehandi Katun, age 5 years is suffering from congenital heart disease. Estimated cost of the open heart surgery is Rs.1,25,000/-



The cheque may be drawn in favour of 'Needy Heart Foundation' Fortis Hospital, Bangalore and sent to the following address:

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

\*\*\*\*\*

### Needs hearing aid

Ms.S.Sarika, age 8 years is a hearing and speech impaired girl. She hails from poor family.



She requests kind hearted persons for donation of hearing aid.

For further details, Please contact  
The Editor, Nandini Voice For The Deprived

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### Poor student needs support for education

Ms. Tamilarasi studying in 8<sup>th</sup> Standard in Sri Sewa Vignesh Matriculation School, Pozhichalur, Chennai belongs to lower income group. Her father is now sick and has to undergo surgery shortly. He lost his wife a few years back and has three daughters to support.

Ms. Tamilarasi has to pay Rs.315/- as tuition fees every month. Please extend support for the education of this girl.

Contact for details,  
Editor, Nandini Voice For The Deprived

## NANDINI COMPUTER SCHOOLS – SATISFYING EFFORTS

Nandini Computer Schools, run by Nandini Voice For The Deprived, is providing free computer education to the boys and girls from lower income group at different centres in Tamil Nadu.

Nandini Computer Schools have been functioning for the last 10 years at different centres such as Chennai, Nagercoil, Dindigul and Perambalur in Tamil Nadu.

So far, around 5000 students from lower income group have successively completed the computer course and most of them have been placed in jobs.

The objective of starting the free Nandini Computer school was to ensure that young boys and girls from lower income group would not be denied opportunities to receive computer education and take up jobs in the field of information technology. In the past, computer education has largely gone into the hands of private sector and most of the private institutions have been charging exorbitant fees that are totally unjustified considering the expenses involved in providing computer education. In view of this, in earlier days computer education became an exclusive preserve for middle and upper income group.

Nandini Voice For The Deprived has the satisfaction of breaking this obstacle for poor students and the notion

that computer education would be expensive and costly. Nandini Voice For The Deprived, which is not supported by any big resources have been able to start and run these free schools for the last so many years.

Nandini Computer Schools admit the students who have passed +2 examination and provide them 6 months course in basic computer education that covers following subjects

- |                |                       |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| * MS- Dos      | * DTP                 |
| * Windows      | * Adobe Pagemaker 6.5 |
| * MS Office XP | * Corel Draw          |
| * Foxpro       | * Tally 9.1           |

Examinations are conducted at regular intervals and after final examinations, proper certificate is provided to the students.

It is also satisfying that considering quality of education imparted in the free computer schools, the employers and industries have generally recognized the certificate and readily provide employment to the students.

While Nandini Computer Schools are being run only in a few centres in Tamil Nadu, it has certainly emerged as role model for other organizations to emulate.

## DISGUSTING TASK OF DEALING WITH GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

Sometime back, a person who is in seventies said that he has taken a vow not to pay bribe to any one under any circumstances and therefore he was not able to register a property in his name in the Registrar's office, since he could not get the job done without paying bribe.

A visually impaired lady who belongs to lower income group could not get the pension from the government in spite of submitting the application a few years back. She said that her attempts to reach the government department in a straight forward manner to get the pension sanctioned was not successful. She has been told by other differently abled persons that the only way to get the pension sanctioned is to approach through a middle man or a local politician, who has to be paid for the services. As she cannot afford to pay such "service charges", she has not been getting pension from the government.

A domestic servant said that she shifted her house and she has been trying to register her new address in the ration card for several months now. She has been repeatedly going to the concerned office but was not getting any cooperation. As she is a daily wage earner and cannot afford to take leave which would mean loss of pay, she says visiting the government office several times is costing her dearly. She has almost lost the hope of getting the new name registered in the ration card. There are touts in the government office who have offered to help her but she has no money to pay them.

Another domestic maid said that she went to the ration shop to collect her ration provisions on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of the month and she was asked to come after the 15<sup>th</sup>. When she went on the 17<sup>th</sup> date of that month, the same person in the ration shop said that she should have come in the first week.

Any number of such disgusting experience in dealing with the government departments can be readily cited

and almost every person in the society would have felt such experience.

Recently, a gentleman found that the electric meter in his flat was not functioning properly and was showing excess reading. He said that he approached the local office of the electricity board atleast ten times. But, finally, when he paid money, things were sorted out very quickly.

Obviously, all these conditions indicate the sickening state of affairs in the government offices almost at every level, where corruption and lethargy have become the order of the day.

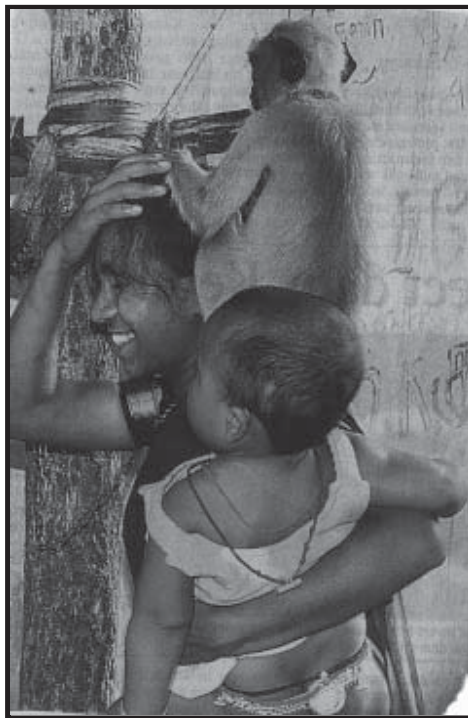
The situation has deteriorated so much that people would like to avoid going to the government offices to the extent possible. They believe that nothing can be done without paying bribe money and therefore many people readily offer bribe money themselves even before being asked, so that they can avoid the harassment.

Very few people are willing to fight for probity, as they have to pay a price for this. Many times, they cannot get the jobs done at all.

Quite a few people send letters to the newspapers about such issues. Many news papers do not even care to publish these letters of complaints since they are no more unheard of incidents. Even in cases where such letters of complaints are published, very rarely the government department takes note of them.

When individual letters are sent to the departments, often acknowledgements are received but nothing happens beyond that.

Dealing with the government departments have now become a disgusting task for the citizens.



# VEHICLE ACCIDENT VICTIMS COMPENSATION PROCESS - A TEDIOUS, TORTUOUS EXERCISE

Contributed by R.S. Sriram,  
Fellow of Insurance Institute of India, Insurance consultant

Most pathetic situation is faced by the victims of accident or relatives of persons who meet with death due to accidents, who have to run from pillar to post to get monetary compensation. The judicial process to decide the case is abysmally lethargic. If the victim/claimant happens to be a poor/illiterate person, the agony is further compounded due to lack of knowledge regarding the approach and procedures to obtain compensation.



## Awareness about the procedure lacking:

Even though there is law governing use of vehicles on public road and the Motor Vehicles Act stipulates the procedure for processing compensation to such victims, the practical judicial process is far from offering timely and adequate solution to the problem.

Common men are not aware of how to or whom to approach for compensation in such cases. Government has not taken adequate measures to educate public in this regard.

## Corruption and harassment:

In many cases, police interference creates harassment to the victims, instead of providing any useful help.

Worse is the case of "hit and run accidents", wherein the identity of the vehicle causing accident or its owner remains untraced.

Even where the cases are filed, the nexus between the police and the advocate taking up the case is so powerful that the amount reaching the claimant are small in relation to the damages suffered, as he/she is forced to offer a huge cut in the compensation to the above persons, making a mockery of compensation to the victim.

## Law on accident compensation:

Now, let us look at the position of law in this regard.

The Motor Vehicles Act which governs the use of vehicles on public road provides for compulsory insurance of any vehicle, against the damages it can create to other people using the road.

However, vehicles under the ownership of government (eg. State Road Transport corporation buses) are exempted from this requirement.

What does this mean? As per common law, if a person causes any damage to others due to negligence, then he/she is bound to pay monetary compensation towards the damages. It means that the person causing the damage is liable to compensate under law. Similarly, the vehicle owner is liable to pay for damages caused to others by the use of his/her vehicle on public road, even though vehicle is driven by other persons like paid driver or friend/relative etc. at the time of accident. This is the fundamental position of law.

New Motor Vehicle Act stipulates that the vehicle has to be compulsorily insured, so that in the case of an accident, the insurance will be in force. Then, the insurance company will pay the compensation, so that the financial burden on the vehicle owner is reduced and the victims are assured of compensation, even if the vehicle owner is not in a position to provide the same. This is the basic objective of the above statutory provision.

In order to implement the provision, the Act stipulates the following:

\* Insurance of vehicles against third party damages is compulsory with exception as stated earlier.

\* It is a punishable offence, if no such insurance is in force when the vehicle is used in public places. Police are authorized to book vehicle owners and take necessary action under this law.

## VEHICLE ACCIDENT VICTIMS

\* The certificate of insurance has to be carried in the vehicle always.

\* A special court called MACT-Motor Accident Claim Tribunal with full judicial powers has been constituted exclusively to decide all cases of vehicle accident compensation in respect of third party damages. MACT decides the compensation amount and passes award ordering the insurance company ,if insurance was in force at the time of accident or the vehicle owner if otherwise ,to pay the same to the claimant. Appeals are allowed against the judgment of MACT in higher courts.

\* Solatium fund is available for "hit & run" accident victims managed by the government and the fund providing meagre compensation where cases can not be filed in MACT for want of identity of vehicle owner. However, the compensation in such cases is very low as fixed by the Motor Vehicle Act itself at Rs.25000 for death & Rs.12500 for injuries/disabilities.

\* Compensation on no fault basis is allowed as fixed in the Motor Vehicle Act at Rs.50000 for death and Rs.25000/- for injuries/disabilities in those cases where the vehicle is identified but the fault is not to be proved. In this category of cases, the compensation being a fixed amount is ordered quickly without resorting to the regular judicial process by the MACT.

The above are the major provisions concerning vehicle Accident / Insurance / Compensation thereof .

It may be noted from the above that in order to obtain adequate compensation, the judicial process involves protracted delay. That is why a claim takes many years for settlement in the normal course of Judicial process, although it provides for interest to be paid on the awarded compensation amount from the date of filing of the case.

### Remedial suggestions:

Here are the specific reasons for such delay and the possible solutions.

### Lack of knowledge about the procedure to claim compensation

Guidance Bureau can be set up in every police station to guide the claimants in this regard. Pamphlets listing the steps to claim compensation can be made available in English and vernacular languages in police stations / court premises.



This arrangement can be set up in local panchayat/ municipal/corporation offices also

### Adjournments provided generously in the case hearing process

Maximum number of adjournments in a case should be limited by suitable amendment of procedure.

### Appeals against judgments / awards are allowed upto supreme court level

Appeals should be curtailed based on the amount of compensation and severity of question of law involved in the case. By amending the procedure, this can be achieved.

### Time limit to decide the cases

Motor Vehicles Act may be amended incorporating deadline for the award of judgement.

### Inadequate number of judges in MACT, resulting in accumulation of cases

Adequate number of judges have to be appointed on priority basis.

Further, out of court settlements / pre litigation settlements should be encouraged extensively to avoid patience testing judicial process. This would ensure that completion of cases can be speeded up. For this, an organization within the framework of MACT consisting of retired judges may be formed to guide the process.

Even though these simple ideas can reduce the delay substantially, the major problem of corruption has to be tackled in right earnest manner. Judiciary should avoid such practices and should take severe measures, so that corrupt practices are kept at bay.

There is an urgent need to reduce the agony of road accident victims.

# UNEMPLOYMENT SCENARIO IN INDIA

## FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

**Contributed by Mr. Rajesh Shukla,  
Director, NCAER-CMCR**  
**Excerpts from the article that was published in Financial Express**

About two million graduates and half a million post-graduates are unemployed in India. It is interesting to note that the level of unemployment increases with the level of education. At the 'primary' level, unemployment is 3.6%, which increases to 5.2% at matriculation. It rises to 8% at graduation and further to 9.3% at the post-graduate level.

While the majority of lowly-qualified unemployed youth prefer to live in villages, the highly-qualified are generally found in the towns due to employment and professional reasons. Some 54% of the post-graduate-unemployed, 83% of the professionally qualified ones and those with higher research degrees reside in towns.

The vast majority of the unemployed are from the Arts and Science streams. The percentage of unemployment among Arts degree holders increases with the level of qualification but declines in the case of Science degree holders. While 39% of Arts graduates are unemployed, the percentage rises to 49% among the professional degree holders of the Arts stream. In contrast, the percentage falls from 37 to 22 in the case

of Science degree holders. There is more unemployment among engineering post-graduates than among ordinary graduates and the reverse is the case with Commerce graduates.

The most important reasons for unemployment among Indian literate youth are shortage of jobs, non-availability of suitable jobs and family responsibilities. Shortage of jobs applies to a higher percentage of rural unemployed (38%) than to their urban counterparts (31%). The problem of not getting a suitable job is faced more by urban youth (48%) than rural (46%). Family objection is another reason for unemployment among educated youth. It is reported by 7% of urban and 4% of rural unemployed.

The respondents were asked whether they supported the current, caste-based reservation of seats in higher education. As is evident in NYRS 2009, about 48% of all literate youth indicated that they supported it, while 35% were against caste based reservations. While 54% of SC, 50% of ST and 47% of OBC are in favour of the current system, 43% of the general castes back it.

### Youth and unemployment (2009)

Education level	Estimated literate youth population (million)	Unemployed (million)	% share of unemployed	% share of rural unemployed
Below primary	32.2	0.9	2.9	77.0
Primary (5 <sup>th</sup> )	68.1	2.4	3.6	65.2
Middle (8 <sup>th</sup> )	90.1	3.6	4.0	57.0
Matric (10 <sup>th</sup> )	63.7	3.3	5.2	61.2
Higher secondary (12 <sup>th</sup> )	46.7	2.6	5.6	63.1
Graduate	24.8	2.0	8.0	53.0
Post graduate & others	5.8	0.5	9.3	45.8
Professional degree	1.3	0.1	10.6	17.3
All India	332.7	15.6	4.7	60.1

Sources: NYRS(2009), NCAER

# VOICE OF RAJAJI

## FUTURE OF PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY IN INDIA



The future of parliamentary democracy, as of any other institution rests on popular confidence, depends more on the justice, fair mindedness and efficiency of those who work the administration under them, than any other single factor.

The popular acceptance of that work as good and beneficial gives durability to parliamentary democracy more than any academic element. The work of any institution, again, depends on the character and the policies of the individuals who happen to be in charge of it.

The future of parliamentary democracy in India therefore depends on how it is being run by the political parties. It can so conduct itself that it becomes a sham and acquires a bad name and thereby destroy faith in the institution – and this may be done without intending it and as a result of what may be called party egotism.

### Case for indirect elections?

There have been proposals in various quarters to abolish direct election as being fraught with too much wasteful expenditure and serious defects and to adopt, instead, indirect election as more suitable for a poor nation of vast size and little educational preparation for the direct franchise.

Of course, every remedy has its own defects. The greatest difficulty with indirect election is that we cannot have mere electoral colleges with no other duties and power attached except to vote. This is bound to lead to corruption.

This could be overcome by giving responsible local duties and powers, over and above the mere voting function, to those elected at lower levels. We would have, so to say, an elected bureaucracy with vast powers at all levels.

It would indeed be a long term plan to educate the people in the art of government.

### The party system

The party system which has come down to us from Britain has not pleased many people.

Edmund Burke said, "Party divisions, whether on the whole operating for good or evil, are things inseparable from free government. This is a truth which, I believe, admits little dispute, having been established by the uniform experience of all ages."

Can we by any trick or law prevent people from coming together over some important question or principle which cannot be disposed of in a short struggle, but which must be tackled through generations? This coming together in a crusade would mean a party.

Without going into the practicability of any scheme of representation of the people based on, or more or less on, the no party principle, one may put this aside for the present and examine other ideas which at least

approach the problem from the no party ideal without going so far as to say.

### Coalition government

There is a strong plea in some quarters for a coalition government to be accepted as the normal scheme of governance in India.

There are well known objections to this proposal, principally the point that it would do away with full responsibility which is essential for good government. But as against this, there is much that can be said in favour of constant interplay of wisdoms and ideas between opposing groups.

### Proportional representation

We shall now go back to John Stuart Mill's, powerful plea in favour of, proportional representation.

That great devotee of freedom of thought and enemy of every kind of suppression of liberty, strongly welcomed the then new idea of proportional representation in parliamentary government, as greatly contributing to the actual realization of the principles of liberty as against the traditional and rigid majority system which often suppresses the real majority view. The single transferable vote was enthusiastically welcomed by John Stuart Mill because it mathematically offered fuller scope for a real majority to issue out of elections. But subsequent experience has shown how cliques can manipulate and render even mathematics impotent.

Experience has also shown that the system may undermine the stability of governments. The experience of France has particularly demonstrated this and it is only the continued efficiency of the permanent services that has kept France going in spite of governments falling once in a few weeks.

It is not an impractical proposition by itself for India, but it is extremely doubtful whether those who have now got into positions of importance will ever agree to the single transferable vote or to any other scheme of proportional representation or whether such a scheme is at all feasible in a country where the illiteracy percentage is high.

All constitutions create certain vested interests and change becomes impossible, where change is to be approved by those who have developed a vested interest in the existing order.

#### Expenditure on elections

One reform however is very necessary and also very feasible. The unconscionable and grievous expenditure on elections, which gives overwhelming advantages to money power, can be largely eliminated if the responsibility of getting people to know that they have a vote to give is taken over entirely by the Government instead of leaving it to political parties and candidates.

Elections now are largely, so to say, private enterprise, whereas this is one thing that should be first nationalized.

#### Mobile polling booths

Again, the voting may be done in mobile polling booths operated by the Government.

Instead of the voters being conveyed by political parties and candidates to the polling booth, the Government's mobile polling booth can go down to every street in town and village and collect the votes.

This would eliminate 99 percent of the corrupt practices and leave the one percent, linked to the honesty and efficiency of the officials engaged for the purpose. It would also furnish justification and reasonable grounds for enforcing the exercise of the franchise, instead of leaving it to the pressure of interested parties.

#### Need for honest and efficient administration

I conclude as I began, emphasizing that parliamentary democracy's popularity and therefore, life depends on the honest and efficient administration that prevails under it – I would even say, which survives in spite of all. The greatest and ever encouraging examples before us is British administration and British parliamentary democracy.

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## **CORRUPTION STARTS AT YOUR DOORSTEPS**

In one of the recent casual discussions, an expert from abroad who has been watching the Indian scenario closely made a startling remark that at least 500 million Indians are corrupt.

Strangely, this remark was not challenged by those who participated in the discussions and perhaps they were wondering as to whether that expert could be correct.

While the himalayan corruption indulged in by A.Raja, Suresh Kalmadi and others have shocked the nation, what the nation was shocked was not about the practice of corruption but the himalayan size of corruption.

Even so and inspite of such huge corruption, there have not been any big revolt in the country and the corrupt persons are walking with their heads high and have not gone into hiding out of any sense of shame.

It is even more shocking to hear that Union Minister For Telecommunication had the audacity to declare that there was only zero corruption in the 2G scam, while responsible statutory body like CAG has unusually come out with such bold and forthright report estimating the possible size of corruption. This audacity of the minister only indicates his confidence that the gullible country men can be easily duped and corruption as a concept has become a normal practice in India today.

Possibly, one reason for the lack of huge revolt amongst the country men about the himalayan corruption of A.Raja and Suresh Kalmadi was due to the fact that most of the Indians cannot touch their conscience and say that they have never been involved in corrupt practices themselves.

While most of the country men do not indulge in sort of corruption like the present day politicians, the fact is that they often indulge in corrupt practices like paying bribe to traffic police man to escape punishment for violating the traffic rule or grease the palm of a railway TTR for getting out of turn allotment of berth in the train and so many other similar acts.

Most of the hospitals in the country insist on cash payment even for amount as high as Rs. One lakh and do not give proper receipts for the payment made. Such hospitals are run by highly qualified doctors and the patients do not protest and insist on cheque payment.

Colleges taking bribe money to admit students and parents willingly paying such amount has become a common occurrence. Hundreds of incidents of such trivial corruption can be readily pointed out.

A moralist or a Gandhian philosopher would readily assert that in qualitative terms, there is no difference between the corruption of A.Raja and Suresh Kalmadi and the corruption indulged in by common men by bribing the traffic police man with Rs. 50/- or greasing the palm of railway TTR with Rs.100/-.

Very few people in the country can say that they have registered a document in the Registrar's office or even obtained a marriage certificate from the Registrar's office without making bribe payment.

If the above scenario would be carefully analysed, one would know the intensity of corruption in India and extreme difficulty in rooting out the corruption.

As the overseas expert said, if corruption in India were to be eliminated, at least 500 million Indians should be reformed.

# SUGGESTIONS TO COMBAT CORRUPTION

An open letter to the Prime Minister of India has been sent by Mr.B.R.Lall, former retired Director General of Police, Haryana, expressing his concern about wide spread prevalence of corruption in the country.

In the long letter, Mr.Lall has outlined the following measures that require to be adopted without any loss of time to combat corruption.

1) Establish a high power "Independent Commission Against Corruption" that will cover all shades of public servants, including the highest politician, as also the people from the private sector. The commission would be absolutely free from any governmental control and will submerge into it the functions of the proposed Lokpal, the existing CVC, the CBI and the enforcement directorate as also of the government as at present in relation to corruption cases.

2) Repeal the provisions of section 26 of the CVC Act, as the registration and investigation of a crime should not require any permission from anyone for any criminal charged with an offence of corruption, even if he be a constitutional functionary or a legislator of any description.

3) Similarly, repeal section 19 of Prevention of Corruption Act. This is a requirement of a colonial power and not of the democracy that boasts of Rule of Law.

4) Amend Prevention of Corruption Act to provide for more stringent punishments. As of now, a person

amassing even thousands of crores of rupees through corruption does not attract a punishment beyond 7 years of imprisonment. It should extend upto punishment for whole of life for corruption or amassing assets beyond certain level. Do away with the notional fines. A provision need be made to confiscate any of his properties or those of the family members to recover the amount equivalent to misappropriation alongwith penalties.

5) Make tax evasion a cognizable crime punishable with a jail term that should be commensurate with the amount evaded.

6) Amend Representation of People's Act to debar all the charge sheeted persons from fighting elections or from holding any office in the government or in any registered political party. The persons convicted for any term, of course, cannot find any place.

7) Rules under the Benami Property Transactions Act 1988 be framed and promulgated immediately.

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## DEBATE FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS ON HOW TO COMBAT CORRUPTION ? AWARD OF PRIZES

Nandini Voice For The Deprived conducted an All India Essay Competition for college students on "How to overcome money power and muscle power in elections".? The students participated in the essay competition from all over India with enthusiasm.

On January,23rd , 2011, Nandini Voice For The Deprived will be conducting a debate contest in Chennai for college students on "How to combat corruption"?

Nandini Voice For The Deprived is striving to encourage the students and youth to introspect on the national problem and provide them an opportunity to express their views, particularly in a situation where most of the people who

dominate the national debate today are in the plus sixty age group and politicians.

A meeting would be organized at Chennai on 30th January,2011 (Martyr's Day ) to distribute awards to the prize winning students in the above competitions.

Mr. N. Vittal, Former Central Vigilance Commissioner would present the awards to the students.

Fifteen prize winning college students would be presented cash award of Rs. 500/- each and a certificate.

We request for your support. All are welcome for the meeting.

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# POSTAL DEPARTMENT LOSING IT'S REPUTATION

Once, Indian postal department was the most popular department of the government and was considered as consumer friendly. Unfortunately, in recent times, the postal department has been gradually losing its reputation and now is no more considered as efficient or trustworthy by the common man.

In earlier days, letters were used to be delivered three times every day in places like Chennai city. Later on, it became two deliveries and then one delivery every day. Nowadays, sometimes, the letters are reported to be delivered once in three days.

Repeatedly complaints are being made by the concerned citizens about the delay in receipt of letters. It is said that in several post offices, notably in Chennai city, letters are not being delivered for days together if the particular post man covering an area would be on leave. Several complaints regarding such conditions have appeared in press particularly in the neighbourhood newspapers in Chennai city.

Even the speed post delivery are often delayed much beyond the assurance given by the postal department.

With much publicity, e money order was introduced by the postal department which is supposed to be delivered within a day. But, there have been number of complaints that even e money order sometimes takes three to four days for delivery.

Complaints have been made repeatedly about the post men compulsorily collecting Rs. 20/- from the old

age pensioners and differently abled persons who get pension from government by money order. Many of the beneficiaries silently pay the post men Rs.20/- every time they deliver the pension amount, due to their fear that the post man would mark them as "not available" and send back the money to the government if they would not pay the bribe money.

Similarly, the postal savings schemes operated by the postal department is also steadily becoming unpopular, as it has become an herculean task to collect the amount after maturity. Even the agents often complain privately that they have to pay the postal staff, to get their cooperation.

The postal staff say that replacements are heavily delayed when the staff retire or die in harness.

While the postal authorities have been making considerable investment in beautifying the premises of the post offices, they seem to have no such interest in imposing discipline amongst the post men and staff and streamlining the systems.

In any case, the management of the postal department now stands exposed for its lethargic attitude and inefficiency in administration.

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