

Nandini

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Voice For The Deprived

Dedicated to the cause of marginalised and downtrodden

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**As political leadership
lacks morality,
citizens have to make
manly and effective protest**

THOUGHTS OF KANCHI PARAMACHARYA

FAULT FINDING HABIT

To live a life inspired by dharma means coming under a certain discipline and following certain rules of conduct. It is important for people to acquaint themselves with these rules.

It would be ideal if they live according to them on their own because to abide by them out of compulsion is not a matter of pride.

“Sampradaya” or tradition is something that has evolved naturally and it is natural that people adhere to them. The customs and rules making up a sampradaya are not all of them written down in the sastras.

Anything laid down as a law becomes a matter of compulsion. Nowadays, everywhere people are asked to “do this” and “not to do that.” Notices are displayed about this and that. They are displayed even where I perform the puja ; notices that say, “Don’t keep talking”, “Don’t wear shirts”, etc.

When I speak thus and ask you not to do this or to do that, I myself am guilty of offending against the good rule I just spoke about. When I say, “Don’t do”, it becomes a law. I should speak to you thus: “You think about it yourselves whether it is right to have such notices.”

“Do not magnify the faults of others,” say the wise. “But if there is something good about a man speak appreciatively about it.” I myself, however, am bringing your faults into the open. But, to repeat, you must not bring to light the drawbacks of others but only their good qualities. See, even the crescent moon is cool and radiant. That is why Siva wears it in his matted hair, makes its beauty known to the world. The same Siva swallowed the terrible halahala poison concealing it from everyone, so says Dandin in one of his poems.

Pointing a finger at the faults of others or exaggerating them in speech and writing has become the practice today. The more learned a man is, the more eager he is to find fault with others. “Finding fault is indeed the work of a vidvan,” it is said. “The word vidvan itself is said to mean a dosajna.” But a dosajna is one who knows the faults of something or somebody, not one who reveals them to the world or exaggerates them. If you think a person has any drawbacks,



you must speak to him about them in a friendly manner [so that he may correct himself] but not constantly harp on them and expose them to the outside world.

We must be worthy enough to speak about the faults of others and we cannot take upon ourselves the role of an adviser, when we need to correct ourselves. Advice given by us then would be counterproductive. If we tell a man what is wrong about him, he might even feel boastful about it. When are we fit to advise others? When we are worthy enough and when we know that our word will have the desired effect.

If we praise a person for his good qualities, he will have greater enthusiasm to cultivate them further.

But there should be restraint in praise too-Praise indeed is a tricky thing. That is why the wise say: “Isvara and the guru alone may be praised directly. Friends and relatives, instead of being praised to their face, must be spoken of well to others. You may praise a servant only after he has carried out the job entrusted to him. (It is like patting a horse after a ride).

Desperate Calls

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



Cancer patient needs support



Mrs. Prasanna Narayanan, age 42 years is suffering from acute cancer. The doctors at Dr. Kamakshi Memorial Hospital Pvt. Ltd, Chennai advised her to undergo 6 cycles of chemotherapy treatment. One cycle of chemotherapy treatment and medicines cost is Rs.85,000/-

Her husband Mr. Narayanan is working in a small private company.

Mrs. Prasanna Narayanan requests kind hearted persons for financial help for her treatment.

The cheque may be drawn in favour of Dr. Kamakshi Memorial Hospital Pvt. Ltd, Chennai and sent to the following address:

Mrs. Prasanna Narayanan
G-3, Karpaga Apartments
No.5, Thiruveedi Amman Koil Main Street
Thiruvaniyur, Chennai-600 041

Differently abled person needs support for self employment



Mr. R. Rajasekhar, age 26 years, lost his two hands and one leg due to polio attack. He has studied upto 10th std.

His parents are unskilled labourers.

Mr. R. Rajasekhar requests kind hearted persons for financial help for setting up petty shop to self employ himself.

Contact address:

Mr. R. Rajasekhar, S/o. Mr. Rajendran,
5/45, Vialoor Colony,
Vialoor Post Kunnam, Perambalur Dist-621 716

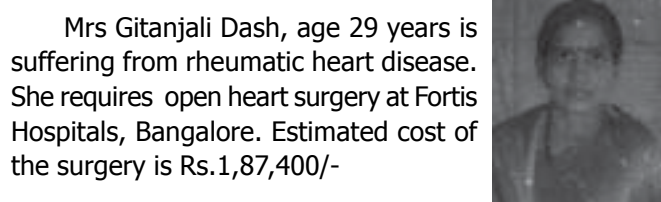
Heart patients need support for medical treatment



Mr. Goutam Midya, age 19 years is suffering from congenital heart disease. He requires open heart surgery at Fortis Hospitals, Bangalore. Estimated cost of the surgery is Rs.1,25,000/-



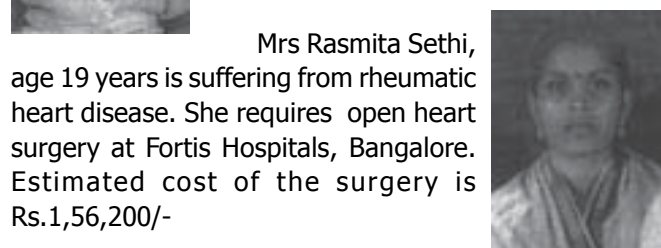
Master Minajul Mondal, age 16 years is suffering from rheumatic heart disease. He requires open heart surgery at Fortis Hospitals, Bangalore. Estimated cost of the surgery is Rs.1,50,000/-



Mrs. Gitanjali Dash, age 29 years is suffering from rheumatic heart disease. She requires open heart surgery at Fortis Hospitals, Bangalore. Estimated cost of the surgery is Rs.1,87,400/-



Baby Khusbu Sahoo, age 1 year is suffering from congenital heart disease. She requires open heart surgery at Fortis Hospitals, Bangalore. Estimated cost of the surgery is Rs.1,25,000/-



Mrs. Rasmita Sethi, age 19 years is suffering from rheumatic heart disease. She requires open heart surgery at Fortis Hospitals, Bangalore. Estimated cost of the surgery is Rs.1,56,200/-



Master Surya Kanta Rout, age 3 years is suffering from congenital heart disease. She requires open heart surgery at Fortis Hospitals, Bangalore. Estimated cost of the surgery is Rs.1,25,000/-

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

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

Desperate Calls

Differently abled person needs suitable job

Mr.K.S.Sakthivel, age 29 years is a differently abled man. He has obtained B.A. degree from Tamil Nadu Open University.

Mr.K.S.Sakthivel requests kind hearted persons for a suitable job.

Contact address: Mr.K.S.Sakthivel, No.75, "D" Block, Kalyanapuram, Elephant Gate, Chennai-600 003

Differently abled couple needs wet grinder

Mrs. Devi Appachi and her husband both are differently abled persons. They have self employed themselves by selling assorted food articles in small way.

The differently abled couple need wet grinder to sustain their self employment activity. The cost of the wet grinder is Rs.3,700/-

Contact address: Mrs. Devi Appachi, 9/5, Anna Salai, Kodungaiyur, Chennai-118

Needs sewing machine

Ms.S.Kavitha is a poor differently abled lady. Her parents are no more. She and younger sister are living under same roof.

Ms.S.Kavitha's sister knows tailoring work.

Ms.S.Kavitha requests kind hearted persons for donation of sewing machine to self employ herself and her sister.

Contact address:
Ms.S.Kavitha, No.13/5, Brindavan Street, West Mambalam, Chennai-600 033

Mr.R.Shanmugham is a poor differently abled man. He is married.

His wife knows tailoring work.

Mr.R.Shanmugham requests kind hearted persons for donation of sewing machine to self employ himself and his wife.

Contact address: Mr.R.Shanmugham, H/o.Mrs.S.Lakshmi, No.14/4, Brindavan Street, West Mambalam, Chennai-600 033

Differently abled student needs semester fees

Sri. M. Ramesh, a differently abled student pursuing M.Tech course in Anna University, Chennai belongs to a poor family. He has to pay Rs.7000/- as semester fees urgently. Please help him.

Contact Sri .M. Ramesh,
Ph. 9943477656, Email. mmm_ramesh@yahoo.co.in

Differently abled lady met with an accident - Needs support

Ms. K. Malliga is a differently abled lady who is M.com qualified. She hails from a poor family and belongs to

Villupuram district in Tamilnadu. She met with an accident a few months back and was operated in Chennai. She is presently recovering and has lost her job. She needs support of Rs.5000/- per month for the next three months for her treatment expense

Contact : Ms. G. Malliga, Tel. No. 9786415972

NGO needs support

Thiyagam, an NGO based in Madurai run by a differently abled lady Ms. S.J.Amutha shanthy is doing significant work towards the cause of differently abled women. Thiyagam provides free computer education creates employment opportunities and is also providing free education in rural areas to poor children.

Please contact:

Ms. S. J. Amudha shanthy, Thiyagam Women Trust, No.66/44, Kamar street, S.S. Colony, Madurai - 625010. Ph. 0452 - 6528207.

Poor students need educational support

Ms. V. Sangeetha studying in XI standard and Sri. V. Sateesh Kumar studying in IX standard belong to lower income group family. Father is a gardener and mother is a domestic maid. The above students need to pay total tuition fees of Rs. 950 /- per month to the school.

For more details contact Nandini Voice For The Deprived, Chennai.

Provide support for differently abled persons for self-employment

There are reported to be more than 20 million differently abled persons in India and 90% of them belong to the lower income group. Many of them live in rural areas, facing difficult economic and social conditions due to lack of mobility and poor economic conditions.

Only way to help differently abled persons to see better times, is by providing them quality education and opportunity for skill acquisition and self employment.

The differently abled persons can be provided support for marketing the products, as selling their products is a big challenge for them.

Why not the concerned citizens organize small exhibitions for sale of products made by the differently abled persons at different locations and housing complex areas, when differently able persons would get an opportunity to exhibit their products and show case their talent.

This calls for citizen's initiatives.

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.



Education for poor children

Dear Sir,

Nandini Voice For The Deprived, in its own inimitable style, has been carrying out sustained campaign to promote education amongst poor children in the country.

In several of your past issues, you have argued with conviction that the best way to achieve economic and social progress in the country and promote equitable distribution of income is by empowering the poor people.

Such empowerment of poor people would be possible only by providing quality education to the children belonging to the lower income group and build adequate skill and knowledge level amongst them to enable them to take up employment in competitive scenario.

While the Government of India is spending crores of rupees to promote education for poor children, it is seen that the quality of education provided by government owned schools, particularly in rural areas is extremely poor.

The private sector has made the education to be an expensive affair and now education in private schools has become the exclusive preserve of the "haves", as "have nots" cannot afford to send their children to such private schools.

Inspite of crores of rupees being spent by government, the poor children still remain disadvantaged, particularly in getting quality education.

The inadequate quality of government administration is the root cause for denying quality education to poor children.

Visakhapatnam

K.Srikanth

Moral climate in India

Dear Sir,

I feel disgusted to often read about the rapidly falling moral standards of some section of youth in the country. They seem to lack pride in Indian culture and value system. It is extremely disturbing to read about young people living together without formal marriage and taking to drinking habit in a big way.

In the present climate in India where religious heads and so called philosophers are no more role models for youth and the media is obsessed with sex stories and so called liberal personal life, the social scenario appear to be gloomy as far as morality in India is concerned.

New Delhi

S.Ranganathan

Accountability evasive in supreme holy shrine premises

Dear Sir,

On 28.5.2010, I sent a money order for Rs.100/- to Guruvayur Devasthanam towards yearly subscription for their magazine Bhaktha Priya for the period of June 2010 to May 2011. Neither their receipt nor the Money Order coupon from the postal department reached me.

Despite seven reminders to the payee and a few representation to the Post Master General, nothing is known about the safe delivery of the Money Order. The magazine is also not reaching me.

I feel that I have been taken for a ride.

Should not the Devasthanam authorities acknowledge my letter and reply suitably?

Chennai

K.N.Narayana Pillai

Please keep me in your mailing list

Dear Sir,

I am a great appreciator of your services to society and particularly for the deprived.

The recent exposures of scam in the allotment of 2G spectrum should have bothered you very much. I wish to know whether you are taking any steps to fight / spread the truth about it and others like the Adarsh society scam.

I remember you took some initiatives against the common wealth games scam.

Please send me any material if you have. Kindly do not remove my name from your mailing list.

Karaikudi

Dr.S.M.Krishnan

VOICE OF RAJAJI

THE CRAZE OF POWER

Every consideration points to the desirability, nay, the moral necessity of reducing the powers that Government has taken in our country.



The rich concentration of power in the Government is the cause of the admittedly unhealthy competitions of groups and leaders for positions of influence and consequent rifts within the ruling party, which have not yielded to the repeated appeals of the leader of the party. The cause of the malady not being removed, the appeals are futile and of no effect.

The willingness to spend practically unlimited sums of money, in violation of the spirit of the election laws, is also due to the same corrupting cause. The excessive power that the party in office has seized in all the affairs of men and in the economic life of the people, excites the thirst of greedy and ambitious people.

A seat in this House (Parliament and Assemblies), for good purposes or for bad purposes or for no purposes at all (except the mere consideration derived from being concerned in the public counsels) will ever be a first rate object of ambition.

Burke made the following statement.

"One thing is certain, that in this political game, the great lottery of power is that into which men will purchase with millions of chances against them. Nothing will ever make a seat in this House not an object of desire to members by any means or at any charge, but depriving the House of all power and all dignity. This is the true and only nostrum for that purpose."

With a permit and licence raj intruding in every walk of economic activity, the attraction for getting power are much greater.

The total remedy is not possible but the doctrine for which Gandhiji stood, reduction of the Government's power to the minimum and the release of the free economy of the people to the largest extent, is not only possible but is a crying necessity for national progress and for the cleansing of the political stables.

This is the principle hallowed by the repeated avowal of faith on the part of the Father of the Nation.

PASSIVITY WILL NOT DO

Those who are interested in the future of our liberties and who feel that the various curbs and restrictions imposed by the Government are unwise and should in the interest of progress be done away with, who feel that we need a polity of liberty must realize the simple truth that we cannot get rid of government control by supporting that same government, but only by opposing it.

When we ask a freedom loving citizen to come and join the forces against the aggressive Government, it is foolish for him to look at the entanglements he is caught in and to plead. Let everyone realize that we cannot fight without fighting. We help our greater enslavement by not fighting.

Once the passivity is replaced by manly protest, the regime would correct itself.



SWAMI VIVEKANANDA SPEAKS

My whole ambition in life is to set in motion a machinery, which will bring noble ideas to the door of everybody and then men or women will settle their own fate. Let them know what our forefathers and other nations have thought on the most momentous questions of life. Let them see what others are doing now specially, and then decide. We are to put the chemicals together, the crystallization would be done by nature according to her laws.

ILLICIT CAPITAL TOUCHES RS.20 LAKH CRORE

INDIA'S UNDERGROUND ECONOMY

A Washington based financial watchdog has come out with a damning report that estimates India's flight of illicit capital since Independence at a mind boggling \$462 billion (that is, more than Rs.20 lakh crore).

"These illicit financial flows were generally the product of tax evasion, corruption, bribery and kickbacks, and criminal activities," says the report released by Global Financial Integrity (GFI) that focuses on illegal financial flows and efforts to control them.

"The present value of India's total illicit financial flows is at least US \$462 billion. This is based on the short-term US Treasury bill rate as a proxy for the rate of return on assets," says the 88-page report, titled 'The Drivers and Dynamics of Illicit Financial Flows from India: 1948-2008'.

The report puts into stark terms the financial cost of tax evasion, corruption and other illicit financial practices in India. It also shows that these illicit outflows contribute to stagnating levels of poverty and an ever-widening gap between India's rich and poor.

Authored by Dev Kar, a former senior economist at the International Monetary Fund, the report also finds that the faster rates of economic growth since the reform process got into stride in 1991 led to a deterioration of income distribution. This, in turn, led to more illicit flows from the country.

The report clearly demonstrates how India's underground economy is closely tied to illicit financial outflows,.

The total present value of India's illicit assets held abroad accounts for approximately 72 percent of the



country's underground economy. This means that almost three quarters of the illicit assets comprising India's underground economy ends up outside of the country, says the report.

"Based on the last five years of the study, 2004-2008, India lost assets at a rate of \$19 billion per year," the report says, noting that India's aggregate illicit flows are more than twice the current external debt of \$230 billion.

Total capital flight out of India represents approximately 16.6 percent of India's GDP as of year-end 2008.

In present value terms, India lost an equivalent of about 36 per cent of its 2008 GDP, which represents a staggering loss of capital.

TATA'S CASE ON RADIA TAPES

It is strange and surprising that Ratan Tata has thought it fit to go to judiciary pleading for ban on publishing the contents of Radia Tapes.

One wonders as to why should Tata be afraid of these tapes and one cannot but suspect that he has something to conceal. It is sad that even Tata group does not seem to be above board in these times of scams in the country.

Citizens of India have a right to know about all the corrupt and dishonest dealings between the politicians and business men and Tata is not justified in asking for a ban. In the matters of probity in public life, there is no case for private privilege.

Ruthless exposition of corruption is the need of the day and Tata cannot ask for any privilege in this matter of national necessity.

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS TO STUDENTS AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED PERSONS

Nandini Voice for the Deprived organized a meeting on 27th November, 2010 at Youth Hostel, Indira Nagar, Adyar, Chennai-20 to award prizes to the college and school students and visually impaired persons who won prizes in the essay competition and quiz competition conducted in the context of the Gandhi Jayanthi day on 2nd October, 2010 and World Disabled Day on 3rd December, 2010.

22 college and school students were awarded prizes in the essay competition on Mahatma Gandhi.

23 school students were awarded prizes in the quiz competition on life sketch of Mahatma Gandhi.

12 visually impaired graduates and students were awarded prizes in the quiz competition, conducted in the context of the World Disabled Day.

Sri. R. Nataraj IPS, Director General of Police presided over the meeting.

Sri. P.N. Srinivasan, a Gandhian and Editor of Bharathamani spoke on relevance of Gandhian philosophy in today's times.

Prof. A. Vijayakumar Professor of English, Presidency college and a visually impaired person spoke on the opportunity for differently abled persons.

N.S.Venkataraman, Trustee Nandini Voice for the Deprived welcomed the gathering. Vote of thanks was proposed by Ms. S. Jayamala, a social activist.

Prizes were distributed by Mr. R. Nataraj and Mr. D.K. Oza IAS (Retd.).

Delivering his Presidential address, Mr. R. Nataraj stressed that the citizens should protect their rights and liberties and should not hesitate to fight in the case of any injustice being done to them by the government or the society. Acceptance of injustice and meekly submitting oneself to such injustice would only

lead to social decay. Great leaders like Mahatma Gandhi's life was one of struggle for justice which significantly contributed to alleviating the problems of downtrodden and deprived. He called on the younger generation to emulate the life mission of such leaders to promote a resurgent India.

Mr. P.N.Srinivasan said that Mahatma Gandhi practiced what he preached and thus was able to build huge confidence about his leadership amongst the country men. The philosophy of Gandhiji would be relevant for all time to come.

Prof. A. Vijayakumar urged the differently abled persons to develop skill and confidence and they should strive to stand on their own feet. There is great compassion in the society about the problems of the differently abled persons and such support should be utilized by the differently abled persons with dignity and understanding to improve their own conditions.

Mr. N.S.Venkataraman summarized the views of the students expressed in the essay competition and pointed out that overwhelming number of students said that Gandhian philosophy has not failed and it cannot fail since it signifies truth. Only the present day leadership in the country have failed to adhere to Gandhian philosophy, which is a sad situation.

After the award of prizes, students of Om Nrithyakshetra, a dance school provided a dance performance to entertain the large number of differently abled persons assembled in the hall.



PRESENTATION OF AWARDS TO STUDENTS AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED PERSONS



Mr.R.Nataraj, presenting the award to a college student



Section of the audience



Mr.R. Nataraj, presenting the award to visually impaired student



Visually impaired prize winners pose for photograph



From left
Mr.D.K.Oza IAS (Retd.)
Mr.A.Vijaya Kumar, Visually impaired professor
Mr. N.S. Venkataraman
Mr. R.Nataraj IPS, DGP
Mr. P.N. Srinivasan, Editor, Bharathamani

ALL INDIA ESSAY COMPETITION FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS ON HOW TO OVERCOME MONEY POWER AND MUSCLE POWER IN ELECTIONS?

Nandini Voice For The Deprived, is organizing an All India Essay Competition for college students on the subject

How To Overcome Money Power And Muscle Power In Elections ?

The essay competition is being organized to encourage the students to think on this important subject and with the objective of providing opportunity for the student community to express their views and provide recommendations for the consideration of Government of India and the Election Commission.

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

Last day for the receipt of the essay is 10th January 2011.

Ten of the best entries would be selected for the awards.

The essay should be sent to
Nandini Voice for The Deprived,
M 60/I, 4th Cross Street, Besant Nagar, Chennai-600090
Tel:- 44-24916037
Email :- nsvenkat@md4.vsnl.net.in
Website:- www.nandinivoice.org

SIGNATURE CAMPAIGN AGAINST MONEY POWER & MUSCLE POWER IN TAMIL NADU ELECTIONS

Nandini Voice for the Deprived, has launched a signature campaign amongst the citizens of Tamil Nadu, against use of money power and muscle power in the forthcoming elections in the state.

Objective :

There is widespread concern amongst citizens of Tamil Nadu about the use of money power and muscle power in elections, resulting in a situation where the best of candidates often do not get elected.

In view of such practices, the process of electoral democracy itself gets vitiated, that may lead to people losing confidence in the system itself.

It is necessary to build a strong public opinion before the forthcoming assembly elections in Tamil Nadu, so that a feeling of revulsion would be built in the minds of the voters about such unethical and unfair practices.

This would create a conducive climate for holding elections in the state .

Signature Campaign :

A signature campaign is being organized by Nandini Voice for the deprived, where it would despatch ten thousand post cards written in Tamil to the citizens chosen at random, requesting them not to succumb to money power and muscle power while exercising their franchise.

Each one of the addressee would be requested to write similar letter to atleast ten more persons each. This chain would continue until the election day.

Appeal :

Nandini Voice appeals to the citizens in Tamil Nadu to support its efforts by participating in this significant signature campaign.

CITIZENS LOSING FAITH IN GOVERNMENT A DISTURBING TREND



Nandini Voice for the Deprived carried out a quick survey amongst citizens belonging to various age groups and income level to ascertain their views regarding the recent raid in A.Raja's residence at different places in the country by CBI.

The opinions expressed by the respondents to the survey shows a disturbing trend amongst citizens of their losing faith in the Government.

When asked about the CBI raid on the residences of A.Raja, to one's shock, all the respondents said that it was an eye wash. They were sure that nothing really would happen to A.Raja though he could even be arrested and kept in custody for a few days and then released on bail. Case would go on in the court for several years and A.Raja and his friends, associates and family members would hold on to their ill gotten wealth. He would continue to be in politics and would continue to win elections and may even become a minister once again. This was the opinion of all the persons who participated in the survey.

Asked about CBI investigating the case, more than 80% of the respondents were of the view that CBI is only an extended arm of the Government of India and would pursue the case only to the extent that CBI would be permitted to do so by the Government of India. Many of them said that CBI's role which is now widely suspected in the country, is deeply disturbing, since without the strong and honest investigation by CBI, corruption cannot be defeated in the country.

When further questioned, many of the respondents said that dishonest and corrupt people are sitting in crucial positions of power in the country, effectively circumventing the law and making India a den of corruption.

Common men suspect that many of those holding huge wealth and properties have amassed it in dishonest

ways and they are responsible for the economic disparity and sufferings of the poor section of the society.

How to save this situation? The respondents do not have any particular solution but their feelings of desperation and frustration is clearly evident.

According to them, the increasing trend of violence and unrest in the country is due to the lack of faith of the common men that the government would involve itself in fair and purposive governance.

With the political leaders and top bureaucrats no more commanding respect, many seem to think that citizens have to take law into their own hands to protect themselves. Further, they seem to think that it may be necessary to organize themselves into groups and agitate for everything that they need.

With regard to the prevailing system of democracy in the country, the consensus opinion appear to be that the control of democracy have largely gone into the hands of dishonest and criminal elements.

After the conclusion of the survey, Nandini Voice for The Deprived felt that the citizens losing faith in the government is a disturbing trend, since it would be leading to unrest and even violence.

The politicians in power and bureaucrats should see the writing on the wall before it would become late.

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INDIA'S REPUTATION IS NOW AT STAKE

It is often said that it takes years to build reputation but it can be wiped out in one stroke by bad behaviour. This appears to be true both for the individuals as well as the nations.

In the last one year, so many scams have taken place in India that now the world looks upon India as one of the most corrupt countries, where corruption has become the order of the day.

Though it is known for quite some time that India has low standing in the corruption gauge developed by institutions like Transparency International, many thought that India would be able to overcome the forces of corruption and redeem itself. The recent occurrences have shown that it is unlikely to happen in the immediate future.

While those Indians living in the country attribute several reasons for this despicable scenario and are drawn in lengthy national debates which appears to have become a national obsession, those Indians living abroad face the humiliation most.

The business men and technologists who have to deal with the international companies or overseas clients often find that their assurances and agreements are viewed with suspicion by their counterparts abroad and are double checked very carefully.

India is no more viewed as a trustworthy partner because of the terrible damage that has been done to the image of the country by the massive and scandalous corruption that have been seen in commonwealth games, spectrum dealings etc. The Indians abroad often find it difficult to explain such conditions to others and feel small in public gatherings vis a vis those from other countries, particularly the developed nations.

Of course, no country in the world today is free from corruption including the most advanced ones but the level and intensity of corruption in India and the helplessness of the Indian society in tackling corruption is something that makes a huge difference between the happenings in India and several other countries.

Now, who is responsible for this condition and how will the country get rid of this unenviable situation and that is leading to loss of reputation ?

One cannot but blame Dr. Manmohan Singh for this sordid situation, as he is the man in charge and leader of the government.

It is strange that in spite of this present scenario, there appear to be many pledged admirers of Dr. Singh in the country who argue that the present conditions are not due to him but in spite of him. But, this is an unacceptable explanation in defence of Dr. Singh, since his approach to the issues, whether one would call it as ineptitude or soft style of management, is the principal cause for the problems.

The grim fact is that the country is suffering enormously due to Dr. Singh's leadership or the lack of it. This country cannot afford it any more nor the citizens deserve it.

Goodness in a person is no substitute for good leadership quality, particularly when it concerns leading a nation. Obviously, Dr. Singh lacks many leadership qualities that are today needed by a country with enormous problems and at the same time with great opportunities.

There is no time or case for experimenting or giving more time, particularly when it concerns the country with millions of people looking for quality leadership and now groping in corruption and consequent darkness.

The crisis of leadership is as evident as the sun in the day light. Under Dr. Singh's government, there have been many corrupt ministers and bureaucrats and who seem to have taken Dr. Singh for granted. There is no alternative other than the fact that Dr. Singh has to give way to some one else and provide the country an alternate choice of leadership.

May be, the country would get a leader stronger and with a greater will to govern.



APPEAL TO MAKE “MAHATMA GANDHI’S LIFE SKETCH” A SUBJECT IN SCHOOL Response from the Government of India



Nandini Voice For The Deprived sent an appeal to Government of India to make Mahatma Gandhi’s life sketch a subject in school.

During the recent quiz competition conducted by Nandini Voice For The Deprived amongst school students about Life Sketch of Mahatma Gandhi, it became evident that the knowledge level of school students about Mahatma Gandhi’s life and philosophy were very poor. Students said that they have been not taught about Mahatma Gandhi in their classes at all. Therefore, Nandini Voice For The Deprived sent an appeal to the Government of India in this regard. A reply was received from the

National Council Of Educational Research And Training (NCERT) of Government of India.

Excerpt from the reply received from NCERT

“Children study about Gandhiji’s life and his work in History and Political Science textbooks developed by NCERT.

In language and literature courses also, many lessons have been included that talk about his life and thoughts. A list of lessons which have been included in our textbooks is enclosed with this letter”.

List of NCERT text books based on Gandhiji

S.No.	Class	Name of the text book Name of the lesson	Writer
Hindi			
1.	VI – Vasant Part-I	Naukar	Anu Bandhopadhyay
2.	VII – Vasant Part II	Ashram ka Anumanit Vyay	Mohan Das Karamchand Gandhi
3.	VIII – Supplementary Reader	Bharat ki Khoj	Jawaharlal Nehru
4.	IX – Sanchayan Part-I	DeeyeJal (based on Gandhiji’s Dandi march)	Madhukar Upadhyay Uthe
5.	XI – Sparsh Part – I	Shukra Taare ke samaan	Swami Anand
6.	XII – Antara Part – II	Gandhi, Nehru and Yaasar Arafaat	Bhishma Sahni English
7.	XII – Flamingo	Indigo	Louis Fischer
8.	XI – Srijan Part – I	Unit-II Excerpts from his diary 'My Experiments With Truth'	Mohan Das Karamchand Gandhi
9.	XI – Srijan Part – I	Unit-II Excerpt Autobiograpdhy 'My Experiments With Truth'	Mohan Das Karamchand Gandhi
Urdu			
1.	X – Nawa-e-Urdu	Chori aur usha kafara (excerpt from Gandhiji’s autobiography)	Mohan Das Karamchand Gandhi
2.	XI – Nayee Awaaz	Sachchi zindagai ruhani khushi (excerpt from Gandhiji’s autobiography)	Mohan Das Karamchand Gandhi
Sanskrit			
1.	XI – Shashwati	Bhavyah Satyagrashramah	Pt. Hoskere Nagap Shastri
2.	XI – Bhaswati	Gandhinah Sansmarnam	Kshama Rao

The above reply from NCERT shows that it does not want to act on the appeal.

Mahatma Gandhi is Father of the Nation and children should be taught about Gandhiji adequately well.

Nandini Voice For The Deprived wants the Government of India to include Life Sketch of Mahatma Gandhi as compulsory and independent

subject in schools, atleast in 10th std. level and the subject should be taught atleast for two hours every week.

It appears that NCERT is not interested in the suggestion and seem to be satisfied by providing isolated lessons on Gandhiji in school syllabus.

This is an unfortunate situation.

GADKARI CELEBRATES SON'S WEDDING VULGAR SHOW OF WEALTH

Nitin Gadkari, President of BJP, the main opposition party aspiring to come to power, has indulged in vulgar show of his wealth, while celebrating marriage of his son in lavish manner in New Delhi recently.

After a closed-door wedding for two days, a grand reception was held at the Vidarbha Cricket Association's banquet lawns in New Delhi

Hundreds of state police in uniform and private security guards were deployed to ensure that no stampede-like situation would arise. Around one lakh and more people were reported to be feasting together during the celebration.

BJP workers and business men were in full attendance, ushering in the guests pouring in from all parts of the city. All roads in the area were choc-a-bloc with people heading to the ground, on foot and in vehicles. The city's traffic department was forced to divert traffic to other roads.

The dais was specially constructed by artists and the site was covered to make it look like a fort.

Obviously, Nitin Gadkari, President of BJP is not concerned that millions of Indians are living in extreme poverty conditions without knowing where the next meal would come from. It is shocking that the person heading a national political party, dare to indulge in such vulgar show of wealth. While his party says that it is committed to economic emancipation of poor and downtrodden in the country, the act of the President of BJP shows his mind set and attitude, which is unacceptable in a country like India with multitudes facing extremely difficult economic conditions.

Obviously, this gentleman does not care for the public opinion nor have any consideration as to how poor people of India would view such wastage of money in an unnecessary celebration, by feeding people who are already well fed.

93 MILLION SLUM DWELLERS BY 2011 IN INDIA

An expert committee, constituted by Government of India to look into various aspects of slum census, projected the population living in this cluster in 2011 at 93.06 million, up from 75.26 million since 2001, Minister of Housing and Urban Poverty said in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha. The expert committee, submitted its report to the Ministry in August 30.

The committee has recommended that it is absolutely essential to count the slum population, even in cities having less than 20,000 population for policy formulation purposes.

The expert committee had given a "normative definition" of slum and according to it, a compact settlement of at least 20 households having slum like characteristics should be counted in this category of dwelling.

STRENGTH OF STUDENTS IN STATE RUN SCHOOLS FALLS

Even though the Centre and state governments have taken several steps to improve the programme of government schools in the country, the number of students joining these schools continue to fall. Every year, the numbers come down by about 50,000 as the love for private schools is on the rise.

"Every year, the Government of India allots more than Rs 800 crore through Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) to Tamil Nadu for constructing new school buildings, classrooms, laboratories, besides renovating existing schools and appointing new teachers but it has become hard for most of the government schools to attract a good number of students," the sources said.

Lamenting that the government elementary schools in the state were the worst hit, the sources said high and higher secondary schools were not affected to a large extent. Even though the government has taken several steps to provide more infrastructure than private schools, it is the English medium in private matriculation schools which attract parents.

The trend in Chennai city corporation schools also seems to be the same as government schools. Fewer admissions have been witnessed in elementary and higher secondary classes but have sizeable numbers at the middle school-level".

ALGAE BIOFUEL AND JATROPHA BIOFUEL APPROPRIATE ENERGY SOURCE FOR INDIA

More than 80% of the Indian requirement of crude oil amounting to around 160 million tonnes per annum is presently being imported and the level of import is likely to go up steadily. It is unlikely that the Indian production of crude oil would be stepped up in tune with the demand growth.

At present, India imports around 60 million tonnes of coal of both coking and non coking type. If India were to maintain GDP growth of around 8% per annum in the coming years, the demand for energy will substantially go up and it is expected that the Indian import of coal would increase to the level of 230 million tonnes per annum by 2020. There is no immediate likelihood of Indian production of coal being stepped up to any significant level due to various constraints.

The Indian import of LNG (liquefied natural gas) is likely to touch around 20 million tonnes by 2020 to meet the energy and feedstock demand.

The above facts readily point to the fact that Indian dependence on import of the energy source such as crude oil, coal and natural gas will reach an unacceptable level in the next few years, that would throw the country at the mercy of international suppliers and trade cartels. Such situation would be beyond the control of the Government of India and would potentially create a sort of crisis, resulting in uncertainty in the fortunes and progress of Indian industries and economy.

Obviously, the Government of India has to take some forward planning measures with great sense of urgency to avoid a crisis situation in the energy front. While the Government of India is certainly thinking on these lines and is discussing about projects such as nuclear, solar, shale gas and offshore wind energy, there are considerable uncertainties with regard to these projects. It is also causing anxiety that the cost of nuclear and solar power would be so high, that it could be beyond the capacity of the consumers to pay.

Under the circumstances, the Government of India and the Indian industries have to think of more dependable and appropriate supply source for energy in tune with the country's strength and appropriate to the climatic and soil conditions. From this point of view, the jatropha biofuel and algae biofuel represent the most ideal energy options for India in the foreseeable future.

Both algae and jatropha are agricultural crops and are ideally suited to grow in India. The present issue

with regard to algae bio fuel and jatropha bio fuel is with regard to the production cost, which is quite high under the present available technology practices. Realising the potentials of algae bio fuel, huge research efforts are now being made in the developed countries by quite a few universities and multi national companies, to reduce the cost of production by improving the yield of oil from algae and developing better extraction technologies.

In the case of jatropha bio fuel also, there is huge opportunity to improve the yield and reduce the cost of production of oil by adopting more appropriate agricultural and chemical engineering practices.

In India, while in the case of jatropha oil, some research and development efforts have been initiated by individual companies, though without any specific coordination between them and fixing a national time bound target, the R&D efforts in the case of algae bio fuel is at negligible level.

There is great need for the Government of India to take initiative in promoting and facilitating research and development efforts with regard to jatropha bio fuel and algae bio fuel, so as to develop engineering and technology practices to produce the oil at affordable and acceptable cost.

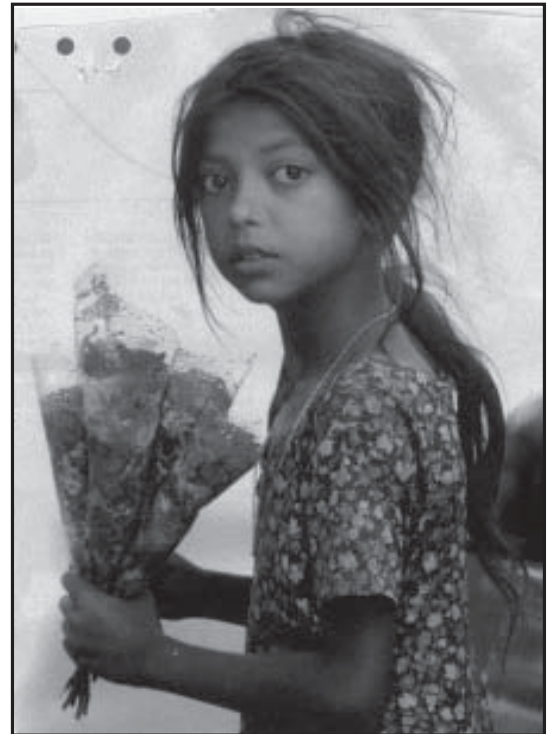
There is certainly enough talent and enthusiasm amongst the scientists and technologists in the country to meet the R&D challenges in the field. But, they have to be given the facilities and appropriate policies and incentives to achieve the desired ends.

Government of India should immediately set up two separate and dedicated research and development facilities, with the task of developing and fine tuning the technologies for the production of jatropha bio fuel and algae bio fuel from various aspects including agricultural practices, biotechnology and chemical engineering aspects and activities in several other related fields.

These dedicated R&D labs should be given a clear stage wise target of upto five years with provision for fund of adequately large amount, which may be in the order of a few hundred crores of rupees for the next five years. These dedicated R&D centres for these two vital bio fuels would be the answer for the country's potential energy crisis, which is now waiting to happen and which should be avoided at any cost.

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