

# **Nandini**

ISSUE 12  
MARCH 2011

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

Dedicated to the cause of marginalised and downtrodden

**VOL XVI**

**ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION - Rs. 100/-**

**RS.10/-**

**After all these scams and corruption,  
are the Indian politicians and  
bureacracy respectable anymore?**

# Thoughts of Kanchi Paramacharya

## ARE WE WORTHY OF BEING ANGRY?

Often we find ourselves angry with some person or other.

Anger is provoked in two ways. When we see a man guilty of an offence, we lose our temper. But we do not pause to think whether we too are not like him.

Even if we have not been guilty of sinful deeds, we must have had sinful thoughts. Perhaps, we have reason to think that we have sinned less than others. This must be because we are a little more mature.

Even so, how difficult do we find it to correct ourselves?. Would it not be more difficult for a habitual sinner to retrieve himself? We need not associate ourselves with him. The sastras proclaim that the first step towards Atmic improvement is to sever ourselves from evil people and to seek the company of virtuous men. But, there is no point in looking upon sinners with hatred or anger.

All we can and must do is to pray that they turn to the path of virtue. If, by the grace of the Lord, we acquire a little grace ourselves, we must use it to take them to the right path. Our opponent is not likely to change his attitude towards us simply because we are angry with him. Instead, he might turn against us with greater venom. Hatred thus will be kept fuelled on either side.

One must realise one's mistakes and try to reform oneself. We cannot congratulate ourselves if a person corrects himself fearing our anger.

Also, the change thus brought about in him will not be enduring.

If we think that there is something wrong with a man, we must try to correct him with love.

Why do people sin? The reason must be their mental condition and the circumstances in which they are placed. If we happen to be free from any guilt, it must be because we are more favoured by circumstances. When you see a sinner you must pray: "O Ambika, I too might have sinned like him. But in your mercy, you do not give me the occasion to do so. Be merciful to him in the same way."

We must not be angry with a man even if he bears ill-will against us. Our innermost mind knows how far we deserve to be spoken ill of. It may be that the man who nurses bad feelings against us is doing so not because of any wrong done by us. We know, however, in our heart



of hearts that the sins we have committed are indeed great. Such is our predicament that we must shed tears before Amba, atone for our sins and pray that they are washed away. In that way, are we qualified to point accusing finger at others?

The question arises: may we direct our anger against others when we are free from all sin? Were we truly sinless, we would be all love and affection. Where is then the question of our being angry with anyone? Even towards a sinner, we should have then no feeling other than that of love. On the other hand, if we are guilty of wrongs ourselves, we have no right to be angry with those we think are sinners.

In the state of utter sinlessness, we realise it all to be the sport of Amba. In her sport, who merits praise, who deserves blame? Anger, in any case, has no place in our life.

As I said earlier, according to Krishna Paramatman, the two great forces inciting man to sin are desire and anger. In other words, we hurt ourselves with our anger. Our opponent may ignore our anger but then we hurt ourselves with it - both our body and mind suffer.

The natural dharma of man is to be loving and affectionate. And to be loving and affectionate is to be ever in bliss. Love is Sivam, it is said. We must always learn to attain the condition of love that is Sivam.

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# 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.



## Expectations from the Tamil Nadu Government

Dear Sir,

Whom so ever may come next to power in Tamilnadu in the forth coming Assembly election, will they guarantee the following?

Will the new government appreciate that the money disappeared in the past 4-5 years from Tamilnadu has got nothing to do with tax evasion. It is , in fact , stolen.

Will the new government constitute a body of eminent and clean personalities to track the monies and bring back the same to Tamilnadu with in a reasonable time frame?.

Will it stop freebies and raise the standard of living of the people so that they can take care of their wants?.

Will it remove all posters and unwanted flex boards and make the cities reasonably clean?

Will it streamline the Police force to its pre-seventy glory?

Will it streamline the Universities and Government Schools, so that our standard of education would improve considerably?

Chennai

G.Krishnan

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## Magnitude of 2G spectrum loss

Dear Sir,

The citizens are shell shocked at the revelation of 2G spectrum loss of several hundred crores of rupees , just managed by a Union Minister with tacit support by the authorities at the helm.

This reflects on the poverty of governance, loss of value based politics and a death blow to the fair name of India.

When blatant lies under the banner of 'Satyameva Jayathe' have become the order of the day, the truth becomes a casualty. This is sad that such conditions are existing in a country, where Mahatma Gandhi preached and practiced truth and truth only despite many adversities.

The huge loss of money involved in the scam should be viewed in terms of the money required to combat

poverty and hunger rampant in the country, due to want of resources.

The total money loss in the two mega scams of CWG and 2G could have addressed the serious problem of over 300 million Indians going to bed without food every day.

According to the 2009 report of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Washington, with regional office in New Delhi, India ranked dismal 64<sup>th</sup> out of 86 countries for the Global Hunger Index (GHI) and placed along with many African and sub-saharan nations. This is a bad reflection on the policies of the Government and shameful for a nation with many resources.

The much touted economic growth do not seem to percolate to the poorest citizens whose living condition, hunger, health have not improved significantly over the years, which made the IFPRI to mention that India's performance on hunger reduction was 'lack luster'.

Obviously, the rich and the upper middle class population have reaped the benefits of the economic growth, while millions of poor people could only maintain the status quo.

Although the Prime Minister painfully admitted that 'it was national shame' to have 70% of anemic children in the country, the seriousness with focused attention is not visible.

Tirupati

Dr.V.Rajagopal

E.mail:rajvel44@gmail.com

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## Inclusive corruption

Dear Sir,

Nandini Voice For The Deprived, March 2011 edition echoes elaborately on the inclusive corruption confronting the entire country. The economist Prime Minister appears to have no time to curb it.

JPC issue completely stalled the proceedings in both houses of Parliament. We need a standing JPC (a permanent JPC) consisting of members of parliament of both houses, presided by an opposition leader to ensure transparency, integrity, efficiency at all levels.

Chennai

K.N.Naraya Pillai

# Desperate Calls

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



## Poor lady needs job

Ms. Leema Mary, age 29 years has obtained Master of Commerce degree. She has also undergone B.Ed. course and Post Graduate Diploma in Computer Application.

Ms. Leema Mary requests for a suitable job.

Contact address; Ms. Leema Mary, Pungampadi, Kolinjipatty Post, Sanarpatty (Via), Dindigul (Dt), Tamil Nadu.

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## Visually impaired person needs support

Mr.K.Antony is a visually impaired person. He is having two school going children.



He was doing business near Ambattur in Chennai, selling cool drinks and with Xerox and STD facilities. As the shop was totally damaged due to an accident, he lost his shop and materials completely.

Mr.K.Antony requests kind hearted persons for financial support to start petty shop to earn for his family.

Contact address:

Mr.K.Antony, No.102-B,Block (Ambedkar Quarters), Gandhi Nagar, I.C.F., Chennai.

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## Need sewing machines for self employment

Following ladies hail from poor families. They have undergone tailoring courses. They requests for donation of sewing machines for their self employment pursuit.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Education level</u>
Ms.V.Vijayalakshmi,	41 years	10 th std
Ms. P.Sumathi,	24 years	12 <sup>th</sup> std.
Ms.D.Muthulakshmi,	29 years	12 <sup>th</sup> std.
Ms.T.Vijayalakshmi,	31 years	12 <sup>th</sup> std.
Ms.S.Murugammal	25 years	9 <sup>th</sup> std.
Ms.K.Jaya	22 years	9 <sup>th</sup> std

Contact address:

<b>Ms.V.Vijayalakshmi</b> D/o.Mr.Velayutham, 6C, 58 B, EB Colony Melakadayanaloor, Thenkasi Tk, Tirunelveli Dist	<b>Ms.P.Sumathi</b> D/o.Mr.Paramasivan 6C, 64, EB Colony Melakadayanaloor, Thenkasi Tk, Tirunelveli Dist	<b>Ms.D.Muthulakshmi</b> D/o.Mr.Dharmar 6C 58 D1, EB Colony Melakadayanaloor, Thenkasi Tk, Tirunelveli Dist
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**Ms.T.Vijayalakshmi,**  
D/o.Mr.Thangamalai  
6C, 74 A,  
EB Colony  
Melakadayanaloor,  
Thenkasi Tk,  
Tirunelveli Dist



**Ms.S.Murugammal**  
D/o.Mr.Servaran  
6C 60 Indira Nagar,  
New Colony,  
Melakadayanaloor,  
Thenkasi Tk,  
Tirunelveli Dist



**Ms.K.Jaya**  
D/o.Mr.Karuppaiah  
17/20, Adidhiravida  
Vadaku Theruvu  
Melakadayanaloor,  
Thenkasi Tk,  
Tirunelveli Dist



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## Needs support for medical treatment

❖ Master Akshay, S/o of Mr.Ravi, 6 years old, underwent diagnostic laparoscopy/appendectomy/adhesion.



Again he has been admitted in the hospital. He needs 20 days of hospitalisation. Estimated cost of the treatment at Kanchi Kamakoti Child Trust Hospital Chennai is Rs.75,000/-

❖ Mr Sankar, S/o.Mr.Saravanan, age 28 years has to undergo both hip replacement surgery at New Hope Indian Speciality Hospital, Chennai. Cost of the surgery is Rs.2,50,000/-



❖ Master Aravind, S/o.Mr.Azhaguvelsamy, age 6 years is suffering from severe to profound hearing loss. The cost of cochlear implantation at Madras ENT Research Foundation (P) Ltd., Hospital, Chennai is Rs.9.10,000/-



❖ Master Vishnu, S/o.Mr.Asoka Kumar, age 2 years is suffering from hurler syndrome. The cost of enzyme replacement therapy at Apollo Speciality Hospital, Chennai is Rs.22,00,000/-



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  
\*\*\*\*\*

### Needs support for heart surgery

❖ 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/-



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



❖ Master Mehandi Khatun, 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  
\*\*\*\*\*

### Visually impaired women need support

Ms.Rukmani and her sister Ms. Kalyani are visually impaired persons. The sisters have self employed themselves and are making decorative pieces and selling them in the market.

Apart from their self employment activities, the two visually impaired sisters are also helping the other poor people and differently abled persons in finding their feet in life.

They would like to provide training in tailoring course to visually impaired women. They need two sewing machines for the purpose immediately. Please help them.

Contact: Mobile: 9444208961/63

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### Needs support for education

Ms.Vidya is presently studying B.Ed. course in N.K.Thirumalachariar National Education Society, Chennai.

She has secured first class with distinction in B.Sc (Zoology & Biotechnology). Since she hails from poor family, she is unable to pay her B.Ed. course fees. The total fees is Rs.25,000/-. She has so far paid Rs.15,000/- only. She needs an amount of Rs.10,000/- immediately to pay the balance amount.

Cheque may be drawn in favour of N.K.Thirumalachariar National Education Society, Chennai and sent to the following address:

The Editor  
Nandini Voice For The Deprived  
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### Visually impaired person needs support for self employment

Mr.G.Balakrishnan is a visually impaired person and he sells the books and magazines in railway platform at Chennai.

He sells the books with marginal profit. He needs financial support for purchasing more books for sale, to improve his income.

Contact address: Mr.G.Balakrishnan  
55/23, Nagoji Street, Triplicane, Chennai-600 005  
\*\*\*\*\*

### Differently abled lady needs support for self employment

Ms.P.Masilamani age 20 is a severely differently abled lady. She could study only upto 9th standard, as she could not go to school due to mobility problem. She hails from a poor family and wants to set up a petty shop and a coin telephone facility. She needs sum of Rs. 5000/- Please help her.

Contact address:- Ms.P.Masilamani  
6847,Kannagi Nagar, okkiamThoraippakkam,  
Chennai - 600097.  
\*\*\*\*\*

# ESSAY & DEBATE COMPETITION FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS AWARD FUNCTION AT CHENNAI

A meeting was organized on 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2011 at Adyar, Chennai to present awards to the college students who won prizes in the All India essay competition on "How to overcome money power and muscle power in elections?" and debate competition on "How to combat corruption?".

The meeting was presided over by Mr. N. Vittal, Former Central Vigilance Commissioner.

Mr. B.S.Raghavan, Former Chief Secretary, Government of Tripura and Mr.S.Gnani, renowned Tamil writer addressed the gathering.

In his presidential address, Mr. N. Vittal said that the country is now suffering from multiple organ failure and he mentioned the four important organs of the democracy as Judiciary, Central Vigilance Commission, CBI and Election Commission. These organs are expected to maintain the quality of democracy and probity in governance and in public life. But, these organs themselves now need to be cured.

Mr. B.S.Raghavan expressed his disgust about the prevalence of widespread corruption and dishonesty in India and asked the youth to stand up to the need of the country and fight for the cause of truth in the national sphere. He said that the youth should take pledge not to be the beneficiary of corrupt practices directly or indirectly.

Mr. Gnani told the students that they should not have the present day film stars or the politicians as their

role models and should be able to look beyond them. Excellent literature is available in India which can guide the youth to reach glorious levels, if only they would care to study them and derive the benefits. He also said that the youth should socially boycott the corrupt and dishonest persons what ever may be their positions in the society and should not call them for any functions or meetings.

Col. Krishnaswami, a retired army officer, proposed vote of thanks.

The meeting was well attended by large number of students and citizens from cross section of the society.

Mr. N.Vittal and Mr. Gnani presented the prizes and certificates to the students.



From (LtoR) Mr.N.S.Venkataraman, Mr.B.S.Ragavan, Mr.N.Vittal, Mr. Gnani



Mr.N.Vittal presenting the award to Mr. A.R.Asif



Student asking a question to Mr. N. Vittal



Mr. Gnani presenting the award to Ms. Thaslema Banu

# ALL INDIA ESSAY COMPETITION FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS ON “HOW TO OVERCOME MONEY POWER AND MUSCLE POWER IN ELECTIONS?” VIEWS AND SUGGESTIONS OF THE STUDENTS

## **Highlights of the observations of the students**

The terms muscle power and money power have unfortunately become synonymous with Indian elections.

\* The targets for the power hungry Indian politicians are the simple minded and poor citizens living below poverty line, who are vulnerable to the temptations of easy money and vague promises due to their desperate economic and social conditions.

Such poor citizens are cajoled with bribing for votes and are also threatened with muscle power which is nothing but a by product of money power. Considering the prevalence of the twin evils of money power and muscle power, the results of the Indian elections cannot be considered as genuine mandate of the people.

\* The evil practices start even at elections to the students unions in colleges and universities and gain full scale at the panchayat, municipal, state and national level.

\* Today, the money and muscle power play such a dominant role in elections, that there is little chance for a common man with honest intentions and little resources to contest elections, even if he has the capability. The political parties are responsible for this situation, since they only consider the “winnability” (money power & muscle power) of the person for nominating him as the

party candidate. Therefore, the political parties in India should be held totally responsible for denying the citizens good candidate to choose and thus killing the spirit of electoral democracy.

\* The ground conditions have to be improved, so that men who value certain code of ethics are enabled to come to the centre stage of politics and contest the elections.

\* The use of money power and muscle power in elections are the direct consequence of corruption in government machinery, which have made money power and muscle power in elections possible. Therefore, without eradicating corruption, it would not be possible to defeat money power and muscle power in elections.

\* Obviously, those in pivotal positions like Prime Minister and Chief Ministers should have the will and quality of mind set to combat corruption. If they are party to the corruption either as active participant or as silent spectator, the country has no hope of cleansing the electoral process.

\* The Election Commission can play a positive role but it has its own limitations, since it depends upon the government machinery to conduct elections, which are under the control of many dishonest politicians.

The students have given the following suggestions to overcome money power and muscle power in elections.

## **HIGHLIGHTS OF SUGGESTIONS MADE BY THE STUDENTS**

### **Curb black money circulation**

Circulation of black money in the country which plays a big role in the elections can be largely curtailed by de monetising one thousand rupee currency notes and five hundred rupee currency notes immediately.

### **Fine tune the RTI Act**

The transparency in the government machinery is the basic requirement to combat corruption.

The Right to Information Act (RTI) should be further fine tuned and stringent punishment should be given to the government officials who do not provide the information sought by the citizens under RTI Act. Huge campaign should be made amongst the citizens to encourage them to seek information under RTI Act from

the government whenever needed by them without any sense of fear, to ensure transparency in the government dealings.

### **Impose President’s rule three months before the general elections**

The suggestion of Rajaji that the President’s rule should be imposed before the general elections should be accepted and implemented to ensure fair elections, even if it would require an amendment to the constitution. Ensuring that the politicians would not be in power at the time of conducting the general elections would go a long way in conducting fair elections in the country.

Rajaji had the wisdom to say this several decades back. But, today, it is unfortunate that the governments

do not seem to have the will and sagacity to accept this extremely important suggestion.

### **Importance of negative votes**

The negative vote (not voting for anybody) should be accepted by the government and implemented and if any Parliamentary Act would be required for this, it should be ensured.

Citizens should have the liberty to reject all the candidates if they would feel like this and this should be considered as their fundamental right in a democratic society.

### **Need for fast track court for election disputes**

A special permanent court must be constituted to look into all issues relating to elections at the state and central level, which should be a fast track court, which would have the authority to ban criminals and dishonest people from contesting in the elections.

### **Election observers are becoming laughing stock in some constituencies**

The election observers have now become a laughing stock in many cases, since they are posted from other states and often do not understand local language, customs and practices. An independent group of election observers from local areas must be posted for each constituency chosen carefully from various walks of life, in addition to present practice of posting observers, if the election commission would so desire.

### **Deny permission for more than two terms**

No MLA or M P should be permitted to contest in elections more than two times. The American law that no one can become President more than two times is a commendable step and similar regulations should be followed in India also.

### **Insist on internal democracy in political parties**

Political parties should be made more accountable by being forced to do internal audits of their finances and producing evidence of internal democracy. At present, there is no indication that Election Commission exercises any visible or effective supervision in this regard.

### **Curb family interests**

To curb vested family interests which often result in money power and muscle power, more than three blood relatives (from the same family) should not be allowed to contest from the same party.

### **Scrap MP/MLA constituency fund**

The MP and MLA constituency fund should be scrapped forthwith, as there is lot of evidence of this being used for corrupt practices and generation of black money which is used during elections.

### **Introduce finger print electronic voting**

Election Commission should introduce finger print based electronic voting machines, which would count a vote to be legal only when the finger print of the person matches with the one in the database. This would completely eliminate bogus voting. This would not be as difficult as it is thought now, considering the growth of information technology.

### **Permit online voting**

Election Commission should also consider out of box ideas like online elections for allowing voters to vote online. This would not only ensure greater participation but would also ensure fearless voting, especially in terrorist dominated and violence prone areas.

### **Conduct knowledge test for candidates**

While educational qualifications need not be insisted for the candidates contesting elections, they should be asked to undergo a knowledge test by Election Commission. This would ensure that ignorant people who have only money power and muscle power do not enter the fray and win elections.

### **Bring down cost of election campaign**

The cost of election campaign should be brought down by encouraging campaign through print and visual media in the form of advertisements, for which concessional charge should be fixed by the government and part of the expenses should be subsidized by the government.

Maximum number of public meetings that can be conducted in each constituency by each party should be fixed and processions and posters should be banned. Anybody violating these regulations should be barred immediately for life from contesting elections.

### **Educate the voters**

Ultimately, nothing is a substitute for the alert and responsible citizens. In recent times, many voters have complaints that their names have been removed from the rolls. In today's conditions when the names of the voters are in the website, each citizen should take pain to see the website and ensure that his/her name is in the list. If not, they should put up a complaint to the election commissioner immediately. The Election Commission should do sustained campaign to educate the voters on this. NGOs can help the illiterate voters and those who do not have access to website in this regard.

**Let Election Commission assume a bigger role**

The Election Commission and State Electoral Officers should be conscious of the fact that they are responsible not only for conducting the elections in a fair manner but also should ensure that right climate prevails in the country for conducting the elections.

In spite of the present disgusting political scenario in India created by politicians at various levels and the prevalence of corruption amongst the government machinery, the Election Commission should strive to assume a bigger role and responsibility for itself, rather than considering itself as a mere machinery for conducting the elections. People have such expectation from Election Commission and it should raise up to the occasion and meet the expectations of the people.

**Give security to Election Commissioners / Electoral Officers**

Those holding positions of Election Commissioners and Electoral Officers should be protected from threats from the politicians at the time of elections or later, by being given personal security by the government till they attain the age of 70, if they so desire.

**Need for interaction between Election Commission and people belonging to lower income group**

It is necessary that the Election Commissioners and State Electoral Officers should interact with the people belonging to lower income group living in rural areas (majority of the votes come from them and they are gullible) every month as a matter of priority, to educate them that selling their votes would cause both the country and their personal welfare dearly in the long run.

**LIST OF PRIZE WINNERS IN THE ALL INDIA ESSAY COMPETITION  
FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS  
ON**

**“HOW TO OVERCOME MONEY POWER & MUSCLE POWER IN ELECTIONS?”**

Mr.R.Saranyaraj, Final Year B.E., ECE,  
Park College of Engineering and Technology,  
Coimbatore-641659

\*\*\*\*

Mr.Dudhatra Ghanshyam B.  
1<sup>st</sup> Year M.V.Sc.  
(Veterinary Pharmacology & Toxicology)  
College of Veterinary Science & A.H.,  
Sardarkrushinagar, Dantiwada Agricultural  
University, Sardarkrushingar,Banaskantha,  
Gujarat-385 506.

\*\*\*\*

Mr.A.R.Asif,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Year M.C.A., Annamalai University,  
Annamalai Nagar-608 002.Tamil Nadu

\*\*\*\*

Mr. Amit Ranjan  
Bachelor of Engineering  
(Electrical 2<sup>nd</sup> Year), Thapar University,Patiala,  
Punjab-147 004

\*\*\*\*

Ms.Pradyumna Shenvi,  
B.A. I Year, (English Lit.)  
G.S.science college, Belgauam,  
Karnataka-590006.

\*\*\*\*

Ms.V.Deepthi, 2<sup>nd</sup> Year MBBS,  
Saveetha Medical College, Saveetha Nagar,  
Thandalam,Chennai-602 105.

\*\*\*\*

Mr.V.Kiran Ayyar,  
M.Sc. Physics,  
Manasa Gangotri,  
University of Mysore,Mysore.

\*\*\*\*

Ms.P.Lakshmi,  
B.A.Eng.Lit. I Year  
Marivanios College,  
Thiruvananthapuram,Kerala

\*\*\*\*

Ms .G.Vembu,  
1<sup>st</sup> Year B.A. Eng Lit.,  
Bharathidasan Govt. College for Women,  
M.G. Road, Puducherry-605 003.

\*\*\*\*

Ms.Jyotsna Nagvanshi  
Student of B.A. LL.B. (Hons) IIIrd Year  
Dr.Ram Manohar Lohiya National Law  
University,Lucknow.

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# DEBATE COMPETITION FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS ON “HOW TO COMBAT CORRUPTION ?” HIGHLIGHTS OF THE VIEWS OF COLLEGE STUDENTS

Nandini Voice for the Deprived, organized a debate competition for college students at Chennai on “How to combat corruption ?” on 23.1.2011. A number of college students participated in the debate competition.

The following persons were the members of the panel of judges

- ❖ Mr. P.K.N.Panicker, President, Chemical Industries Association
- ❖ Col. Krishnaswamy, Retired Senior Army Officer
- ❖ Mr. V. Nandakumar, Former Principal, Public School, Singapore
- ❖ Mr. R. Sundararaman, Dy. General Manager, State Bank of India
- ❖ Mr. G. Krishnan, Entrepreneur
- ❖ Mr. R.S.Sriram, Fellow of Insurance Institute of India

Highlights of the views expressed by the students are given below

- ❖ In India, the corruption starts from the birth of a person when a birth certificate has to be obtained and it extends up to death when bribe has to be given for cremation and for obtaining death certificate. It further extends even beyond death, if one would like to get legal heir certificate. Thus, corruption has become a total phenomenon in India today.
- ❖ Citizens are often impatient to get things done or lack the will to fight against corruption and sometimes even volunteer to give bribe to expedite matters. It is a strange phenomenon in India that several bribe takers are also bribe givers. One may take bribe as a government official and then the same person may give bribe to admit his son or daughter in a school. Thus, corruption remains largely cyclical.
- ❖ On the whole, corruption today is an attitudinal problem in India. People seem to be increasingly reconciling themselves that corruption is inevitable and one has to live with it. Thoughts of great leaders like Mahatma Gandhi who stood for truth are becoming history. Faith in the systems are now being lost.
- ❖ The image of politicians as corrupt persons have come to stay and a non corrupt politician is an exception rather than a rule. Most politicians in India cannot be reformed by reasoning with them, since many criminals and persons of doubtful integrity have become politicians, and hold positions of power. Unless there would be huge public pressure and pressure from media, the politicians would not improve their conduct and behaviour. While judiciary can help, unfortunately, judiciary itself is now being caught in several incidents of corruption, creating sort of doubts about the conduct of some judges themselves.
- ❖ There is no want of legislative laws in India to curb corruption. But, the problem is that those responsible for implementing the laws are themselves often involved in corruption..
- ❖ Some of those who claim to fight against corruption are now the senior citizens, who have retired from jobs or taken voluntary retirement, who themselves have not done much to fight against corruption or might have remained as passive spectators, when they were working in government departments or elsewhere.

## DEBATE COMPETITION FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

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Particularly, the All India services officers were picked up for criticism for speaking about the corruption issues only after safe superannuation.

- ❖ It is very important that top leadership in the Government should be committed to probity. Positions like President, Prime Minister and Chief Ministers, Judges, Vice chancellors are all positions of trust and no country can progress, if persons holding such positions become suspects.
- ❖ Unfortunately, unlike the countries like Singapore, China or Middle East countries, punishment for corrupt persons are not swift in India. In the name of personal liberty, corrupt persons enjoy considerable freedom in India and lack fear of law and punishment. The judiciary which has the responsibility to punish the guilty is involved in counter productive and time consuming exercise and has largely failed in its role and is not fulfilling national expectation in this regard.
- ❖ The sure way to fight against corruption is to build revulsion in the minds of the students in the formative age group against corruption, by introducing corruption issue as a compulsory subject in curriculum for school students all over India.
- ❖ The students pointed out that they rarely get opportunities to express their views on national matters of concern, though they are allowed to vote after 18 years of age. All the national forums are occupied by politicians, retired bureaucrats, senior journalists etc. The youth are told that they should fight for the value systems but are rarely allowed space to express themselves and influence national agenda.. The youth are termed as agents of change but these "agents" are seldom given opportunities to express their views in the media or in any public forums.
- ❖ While new laws and regulations can be introduced, this would not help by themselves. The battle against corruption should be ultimately fought in the minds and hearts of the people, particularly the youth. A concerted campaign against corrupt system should be launched just as the campaign against child labour, AIDS etc., now being launched. For this to happen, media must have less business orientation and should be more focused on building value system in the country.
- ❖ If media would not rise up to the occasion to carry out its responsibility to build pressure on the government machinery, politicians and public to refrain from corrupt practices, the situation could become hopeless with grave consequences for the national peace and progress.



A student speaking in the meeting

**LIST OF PRIZE WINNERS IN THE DEBATE COMPETITION FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS  
ON “HOW TO COMBAT CORRUPTION?”**

**CONDUCTED BY NANDINI VOICE FOR THE DEPRIVED AT CHENNAI ON 23.1.2011**

**LIST OF PRIZE WINNERS**

**S. NO NAME OF THE STUDENT**

- 1 Ms.Vaishnavi Aarthy G, B.Com. I Year M.O.P. Vaishnav College for Women,
- 2 Ms. T.Roseline Niranjana, B.A. II Year Soka Ikeda College for Women
- 3 Ms.Madhumitha Sriram, B.Sc. I Year JBAS College for Women
- 4 Sri..T.Shriram, B.Com. I Year RKM Vivekananda College
- 5 Ms.A.Thaslema Banu, B.Sc. II Year, JBAS College for Women
- 6 Ms.Vandhana Narayanan, B.E. Biomedical Engineering, Jerusalem College of Engg.,
- 7 Sri.M.Sathish, B.Sc. III Year C.S.Gurunanak College
- 8 Sri.Arvind Vasudevan, B.E. I YearSRM University
- 9 Ms.T.M.Suchitra, B.A. 2<sup>nd</sup> Year English LitEthiraj College for Women
- 10 Sri.Prathiksh Prem, B.E. course St. Joseph’s College for Engineering,

**LIST OF CONSOLATION PRIZE WINNERS**

- 1 Ms.T.Jahnavi, B.E. student Adhi College of Engg. & Technology
- 2 Sri.Sridhar Bala, B.E. student Adhi College of Engg. & Technology
- 3 Sri.Thayriam George, B.A. III Year English Lit.Loyola College
- 4 Sri.M.Satheesh, B.A. II Year Political ScienceUniversity of Madras
- 5 Sri.V.Giridhar, B.E. II Year M I T. Chrompet,
- 6 Sri.K.Nagappan, B.A. II Year Media Arts Loyola College
- 7 Ms.Soundarya, V.B.Com I YearM.O.P. Vaishnav College for Women,
- 8 Ms.Pooja Sathyanarayanan, B.Sc. I Year JBAS College for women
- 9 Ms.Mahalakshmi Sathyanarayana, B.Sc. I Year JBAS College for Women
- 10 Ms.Bhumika Popli, P.G. Student Asian College of Journalism
- 11 Sri.V.Sathiyam, Dip. in Computer Science Engg.R.V.S. Polytechnic, Tirupur
- 12 Sri.Aravind, B.B.Tech, II YearBharath University, Chennai
- 13 Sri.E.Gopalakrishnan, Student of Loyola College
- 14 Sri.Joe Britto, B.Sc. Student of Loyola College
- 15 Ms.R.Anusha, B.Com. III YearSoka Ikeda College for Women
- 16 Ms.M.Malathi, BBA II Year Soka Ikeda College for Women
- 17 Ms.J.Anjana, B.A. III Year Soka Ikeda College for Women
- 18 Ms. Sahana Parveen, B.Sc. I Year JBAS College for Women
- 19 Sri.P.Kumaresan, M.Phil, student University of Madras
- 20 Sri.Maria Reegan, M.Phil, student University of Madras
- 21 Sri.Samuel, B.A. II Year, Presidency College

# Comments from concerned citizens on the views of the students on corruption

## Happy to note youth are concerned

Thank you very much for forwarding the views of college students on 'how to combat corruption'. I am very happy to know that our youth are concerned about the serious issues like corruption which has become so pervasive and is cutting at the roots of our country. I have shared your paper with my colleagues in Election Commission of India.

S.Y. Quraishi, Chief Election Commissioner

\*\*\*\*

## Civil servants fighting against corruption becoming less

It is not correct to state that civil servants while in service do not fight against corruption. I can give many instances of civil servants standing up to corrupt politicians. Perhaps, you can state that such persons are decreasing in numbers.

T.S. Krishna Murthy,  
Former Chief Election Commissioner of India

\*\*\*\*

## Need to create awareness

I am glad to note that you have come forward to create an awareness about the importance of Free and Fair Election as the sine quo non of a functioning democracy. Without a firm basis of enlightened and vigilant citizenry and a free and impartial Election Machinery, there can be no chance for a democratic structure of a Parliamentary system of governance.

Era Sezhiyan, Former Member of Parliament

\*\*\*\*

## Very Good perspective

Very good perspectives by students about corruption. I hope students' organisations have taken some initiatives.

S.P. Ambrose. IAS (Retd.)

\*\*\*\*

## It is heartening

It is heartening that you are also embarking on the crusade against CORRUPTION. I congratulate you and your team for the noble initiative and wish you success in all your efforts.

Karan Kharb

\*\*\*\*

## Incentive for corruption is huge

One potent reason for the all pervading corruption is that the incentive for indulging in corruption is huge, but the disincentive against it is very very weak.

Consider the Sukhna land scam. The Lt. Gen. is going to suffer a monetary loss of about Rs.7,000 per month in his pension! If he had got away with it, the rewards would have been tremendous - Dy Chief of the Army Staff, foreign travels, post-retirement positions, opportunities to make more money through corrupt practices etc etc.

The legal and other related systems need to change to see that the disincentives for corruption become very intimidating and the incentives are small.

B.S. Lamba

\*\*\*\*

## How many students fight ?

When you have the award ceremony, can you take a survey of how those students who have won will actually take up the challenge of what they have written. In fact if data is available, it would be useful to find out what did the winners of debate awards of last year do to combat corruption. This kind of survey would help any one designing a program for college students.

Karnataka

Bhamy

\*\*\*\*

## Students are the only hope

I am very happy to learn that the students are being exposed to the vice of all round corruption prevailing in our country and they are being mooted to discuss the subject and to suggest ways to combat it.

Students are the only hope for bringing the change. An awakening has to be made in the youth.

We need leaders and not politicians. In every school and colleges, special lectures should be delivered on the subject of morals, good behaviour, honesty, respect for rights of others, earning by work only and not by crime, faith in God and respect for all religions.

Likewise, in colonies lectures should be arranged for the young on the same lines. A general awakening in the youth has to be generated. The crime has to be prevented. Only punishment is no solution.

Unless greed is thrown out from the mind of the youth, an honest society in the future will not be possible. If the youth takes a vow not to tell lies, not to covet on properties of others, not to earn by corruption and crime, not to violate rights of others, not to hate people of other castes or creed, not to hate other religions etc. we will definitely get a better society in the future.

The youth has to be told in uncertain terms that no one gets more than his fate, no one can provide wealth for his sons and grandsons if the wish of the God is otherwise.

Justice A. K.. Srivastava (retd.)

\*\*\*\*

### Pressing need to hold such debates

There is a pressing requirement for holding such debates at all places across the length and breadth of the country, so that the entire youth of the country which must have already started becoming victims of this cancer, gets obsessed with the passion for eradicating it. There is a Rotary Club or a Lions Club in almost every town of the country but I have not heard of such a debate being organized by them.

In western countries, people save money for a burial spot in the cemetery. In India, people now have to save money for death certificate, getting the body from hospital etc. etc.

Col SK Paranjape. New York

\*\*\*\*

### Awareness programme in schools and colleges

Thanks for sharing with me the notes of interesting comments by students on the most important Topic of the Day - ie CORRUPTION The present generation of young students are the future citizens of the country and duty bound to target corruption at all levels. Hopefully I propose this subject be made an awareness programme in all Educational Institutions in Chennai (Later Other Districts in TN) to whip up enthusiasm.

Rama Sundaralingam

International Drugs Expert (Interpol Hq Lyon France)  
Currently in India

\*\*\*\*

### Need for concrete action

The question is how can the common man be empowered to fight corruption?

What is the result he can expect to see?

How can this become an example for others to follow?

A concerted stage A to Z cycle to make the above happen is necessary.

Aiyar Pallavi

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#### FORM - IV

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Place of Publication  | Chennai   |
| 2. Periodicity of its Publication  | Monthly   |
| 3. Printer's Name  | Mr.A.Ragunatha Sairam   |
| Nationality  |   |
| a. Whether citizen of India  | Yes   |
| b. If foreigner, country of origin   | No  |
| Address  | Mervena Printers,<br>14 (Old 23), T.M.Maistry Street, Thiruvanmiyur, Chennai - 600 041. |
| 4. Publisher's Name  | Mr.N.S.Venkataraman   |
| a. Whether citizen of India  | Yes   |
| b. If foreigner, country of origin   | No  |
| Address  | M-60/1, IV Cross Street, Besant Nagar, Chennai - 600 090, TamilNadu.                    |
| 5. Editor's Name   | Mr.N.S.Venkataraman   |
| Nationality  |   |
| a. Whether citizen of India  | Yes   |
| b. If foreigner, country of origin   | No  |
| Address  | M-60/1, IV Cross Street, Besant Nagar, Chennai - 600 090, TamilNadu.                    |
| 6. Name and Address of individuals who own Nandini Institute of Chemical Industries, the newspaper and partners or shareholders holding. More than one percent of the total capital. | M-60/1, IV Cross Street, Besant Nagar, Chennai-600 090                                  |

I, N.S.VENKATARAMAN, hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Date : 18.02.2011

**N.S.VENKATARAMAN**  
Signature of Publisher

# Corruption - Is it In our genes?

## Corruption in Mughal India

Dr. D. M. Mohunta, Ph.D.

It would be interesting to look at how deep and wide is corruption in our society and what are its origins.

One can go back in to history and what it reveals is that corruption was as deep and wide as it is today, from the time written historical accounts are available.

It is almost as though corruption is a genetic trait of the Indian sub-continent, Pakistan, Bangladesh, included.

The accounts given by most foreigners such as the following tell the story. Badauni (reign of Akbar), Bernier (mid 17<sup>th</sup> Century), Manucci (second half 17<sup>th</sup> Century), Pelseart ( 1620's), Tavernier , Thevenot, Khafi Khan (Aurangzebs court), Other sources are historical like European company records, etc.

### Corruption in Mughal India

Abraham Eraly ( author of The Mughal World) notes "Corruption was rampant in Mughal India" "At seaports, custom officers were strict and harsh, .....The purpose of severity was not, however, to enforce the law, but to put the squeeze on the victim. The customs duty were between two and five percent but effective duty worked out much higher because of corruption.

Mughal officers, according to one English merchant, will do nothing without bribes..... The custom officer, says Fryer, would not clear the goods unless his "fist was mollified".

" The coils of red tape were an ideal environment for corruption to thrive. Officials harvested the public like a farmer harvests his field. Every favour, indeed every official action, had its price. The emperor himself connived with ministers and courtiers who took bribes for securing royal favours.

" The above statement sound very familiar in today's context.

Thevenot, travelling through the Deccan in the early years of Aurangzeb's reign noticed that on the road between Aurangabad and Golconda, there were checkpoints every 7 kilometers to collect tolls, known as Rahdari. The treasury perhaps received only fraction of the extortions.

This is a modern version existed in Bihar some time back but of course entirely illegal.

In those days also, falsification of land records, with connivance of local officers, mainly as to type of land was common to reduce taxes. "Land assessment, for instance, was generally taken to mean loot." It was also common to sell government appointments.

Currently, one hears so many tales about property assessments, favourable government appointments.

Above examples given show that all pervasive corruption has been a tradition in the history of India, the entire methodology and structure passing down from one generation to another.

With decline of the Mughal empire after the death of Aurangzeb, the situation only worsened, whether it was the Marathas or satraps of Mughals who had declared their independence.

### Saltpetre trade those days

Here are some examples from the 18<sup>th</sup> century, from the trade in Saltpetre which at that time, India supplied almost 75% of the world's, demand; a ripe space for intrigue and corruption.

Saltpetre was big business then, something akin to current arms trade. It was crucial for the English, Dutch and French. It is recorded that Indians sold to the Europeans at 3 cents a pound and they in turn sold mostly at 6 to 7 cents a pound, The price would rise to 30 to 50 cents per pound, at the user end, during a war like the American Civil War.

"In 1735-36. Nawab Shujauddin ordered the English saltpetre trade at Patna to be stopped as a protest against extension of private trade by officials of the company and against the misuse of Dastak (*permits*)" The Patna administration must have indicated that it was willing to turn a blind eye and allow the English to buy saltpetre there in return for what the company records referred to as handsome bribe. Shortly after that, the English Council at Calcutta decided that it would be best to "treat with the nabob [the naib-nazim] at Patna underhand."

"In 1744, Ali Vardi ordered another major suspension of British business in Bengal. The deadlock was solved when the English paid a large sum at Murshidabad for the clearance of their business. At Patna however, the Diwan Keerutchand completely ignored the order from the central government and instead demanded Rs.5.000 for the Patna Nawab and between Rs. 3,000 and Rs 4000 for other officers at the Patna durbar, as condition for the resumption of English Business there."

(to be continued)

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E-mail : nsvenkat@md4.vsnl.net.in  
Website : nandinivoice.org

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**Nandini Institute of Chemical Industries**

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