

Nandini

ISSUE 3

MAY 2009

Voice For The Deprived

Dedicated to the cause of marginalised and downtrodden

VOL XIII

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION - Rs. 100/-

RS.10/-



The real saviour of India

SWAMI VIVEKANANDA SPEAKS

GIVE UP ALL DESIRES AND THINK ABOUT LIBERATION

Give up, renounce the world. Now, we are like dogs strayed into a kitchen and eating a piece of meat, looking round in fear lest at any moment some one may come and drive them out. Instead of that, be a king and know you own the world. This never comes until you give it up and it ceases to bind.



Give up mentally, if you do not physically. Give up from the heart of your hearts. Have Vairagyam (renunciation). This is the real sacrifice and without it, it is impossible to attain spirituality. Do not desire, for what you desire you get and with it comes terrible bondage. We never get freedom until we are self contained. "Self is the Savior of self, none else."

Learn to feel yourself in other bodies, to know that we are all one. Throw all other nonsense to the winds. Spit out your actions, good or bad and never think of them again. What is done is done. Throw off superstition. Have no weakness even in the face of death.

Do not repent, do not brood over the past deeds and do not remember your good deeds; be azad (free). The weak, the fearful, the ignorant will never reach Atman. You cannot undo, the effect must come, face it, but be careful never to do the same thing again. Give up the burden of all deeds to the Lord; give all, both good and bad. Do not keep the good and give only the bad. God helps those who do not help themselves.

"Drinking the cup of desire, the world becomes mad." Day and night never come together, so desire and the Lord can never come together. Give up desire.

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

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

True philosophy is the systematizing of certain perceptions. Intellect ends where religion begins. Inspiration is much higher than reason, but it must not contradict it. Reason is the rough tool to do the hard work; inspiration is the bright light which shows us all truth. The will to do a thing is not necessarily inspiration.

Progression in Maya is a circle that brings you back to the starting point; but you start ignorant and come to the end with all knowledge.

Worship of God, worship of the holy ones, concentration and meditation and unselfish work, these are the ways of breaking away from Maya's net; but we must first have the strong desire to get free. The flash of light that will illumine the darkness for us, is in us; it is the knowledge that is our nature – there is no "birthright," we were never born. All that we have to do is to drive away the clouds that cover it.

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

The present only is existent. There is no past or future even in thought, because to think it you have to make it the present. Give up everything and let it float where it will.

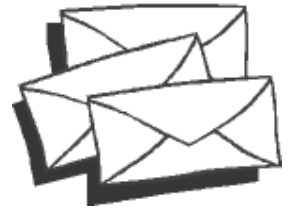
This world is all a delusion, do not let it fool you again. You have known it for what it is not, now know it for what it is. If the body is dragged anywhere, let it go; do not care where the body is. This tyrannical idea of duty is a terrible poison and is destroying the world.

Why wait for heaven? Make it here. The yellow robe of the Sanyasi is the sign of the free. Give up the beggar's dress of the world; wear the flag of freedom, the ochre robe.

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.



Horror shows on television

Dear Sir,

Though the connotation "horror" is associated with deeper shades of meaning, it often triggers seemingly innocuous pranks or a serious misdemeanour.

Devoid of any thematic value, some of these horror shows often implant violence, greed and hatred in the juvenile minds.. Young people often develop a hostile attitude. It is high time the promoters of these mega serials in television ponder.

Chennai

Dr.K.Thiagarajan

Sensible advice

Dear Sir,

Sensible advice have as important a role to play as sensible action.

It is important to recognize that there are many concerned citizens, who have dedicated themselves to various causes in their lives (education, healthcare, performing arts, spirituality, etc) and would hence be in a position to advice rather than act.

There are many concerned citizens, who have a greater interest in and commitment to their chosen vocations, may not be disposed to directly involve in policy making and administration, as elected representatives should directly involve themselves in these.

Chennai

Dr.L.S.Ganesh

We want an Obama like young prime minister

Dear Sir,

In USA, the finance company city group, for better control has been split into two entities, city corp for traditional banking and city holdings for richest investment assets. In 2008 last quarter, a disastrous loss of \$8.29 billion occurred. Vikram Pandit then CEO, City Bank performed the above split to save the company.

Vikram Pandit, now CEO New York based City Corp, which has reported losses to the tune of \$18.7 billion, needs \$45 billion out of \$165 billion set apart for banks as reserve funds by US Government.

Owning moral responsibility, transparency and accountability, the CEO has accepted a salary of 8.3 cents per month i.e. \$1 per year and no bonuses. This is unheard of.

Credit goes to Barrack Obama's crack down on the fat CEO salaries.

What is happening in India, when recession dances aghast? UPA has bribed persons at the helm of affairs by inflating their salaries threefold instead of axing them down to one third to achieve their future goals.

For the sake of prosperity and security, we have to elect an Obama like young Prime Minister. We should never vote for persons above 70, the senile group.

70% of politicians in the country wildly indulge in war of words. The younger generation desires them to mouth words of wisdom.

Chennai

K.N.Narayana Pillai

What does 1 kg of PDS rice really cost?

Dear Sir,

PDS rice is flooded with black elements, husk, seeds of various kinds, ants etc. For consumption of same, the impurities have to be removed.

The buyers have to spend time and money for the work connected with cleaning the rice.

Our government may kindly ensure good quality rice as much as possible to minimize the miseries of the common card holder.

Chennai

K.N.Narayana Pillai

Are we heading for crisis?

Dear Sir,

I do share your concerns about the state of politics, corruption, etc., But I must admit that I have remained an " Armchair Critic" I have not even tried to become a crusader or activist of any kind because of my poor social and communicational skills. Good intentions alone are insufficient for any task. Competence is more essential and my only training and experience is in heavy engineering!

I have tried to follow issues of social relevance but always felt helpless about being able to do anything

meaningful. Even when committed and sincere individuals stand for elections, my observation is that they don't stand a chance.

Some years ago, three such persons had contested, among them being the late Dr. C V Seshadri (of the Murugappa Chettiar Research Centre in Tharamani -- I had met him once long ago when he was still a Professor at IIT Kanpur. But, I remember that many hurdles were put in their way.

Nearly all my acquaintances (relatives, former colleagues, IIT classmates, etc.,) are of the kind who will not 'waste time' on Gandhian Principles. Perhaps, it is human nature to remain blind to potential problems when one is not immediately or directly affected.

My gut feeling is that no change can come about through 'democratic' means -- at some point the system will collapse in to anarchy and all of us must suffer before the survivors can hope for something better if at all.

At present, some of us who are well off will stupidly keep believing that India is shining. Even in the USA and Europe, some upheavals can take place, because their prosperity has always been directly related to exploitation of weaker nations, either economically or by instigating wars to sell their weaponry.

I know I sound very pessimistic, but I see no point in making goody-goody statements. Most of the time, I

remain silent just to avoid futile arguments. I do admire the many people who made sacrifices and tried to do something about what they feel is wrong in human society. There are a lot of them about whom I read about and only a few get any publicity.

I have also come to the view that the application of science and technology is the root cause of most of the distress in the world, because their misuse is more dominant than their benefits which are in any case concerned by a small minority.

As an engineer, I have to see myself as part of the problem and acknowledge that I don't know what kind of solutions are even possible.

Turning the technological clock back is obviously ruled out. I see our country and the world only headed for more strife over all matters -- material things like water, food, shelter, security, as well as symbolic issues like religious, ethnic, languages and regional differences

You will be contesting the election. Considering what I have written above, I don't know whether I should encourage you. But you certainly have my sincere goodwill -- people like you are preferable to the whole current crop of politicians and thus who are running the system today.

Chennai

Thomas Tharu

Indian democracy

Dear Sir,

Till late sixties i.e. upto Sri.Lal Bahadur Sastry and Sri. Kamaraj, Indian democracy was blemishless to a large extent. Then what happened?

If it was a failure to bring in the right type of young men and women into politics and governance, then we need to urgently address it now.

Why our great constitution laid down by the best brains and patriots could not ensure that good and the best alone enter politics?

The local election system practiced one thousand years ago in Chola Kingdom in Tamil Nadu as found in the Uthiramerur Kalvettu (Ref. as Uthiramerur Sasana) details the ways and means of selecting the candidates and the binding conditions in such an elaborate way, ensuring what our modern constitution could not do now. The full text of this sasana as presented by the

great seer of Kanchi can be read in one of the volumes entitled "Deivathin Kural", a must read for every Indian.

Talking about the silver lining, our armed force need a special mention along with that of active media, election commission and the pockets of excellence like Gujarat, Delhi, the New Bihar etc.

If only our election commission would have declared the recent election at Thirumangalam in Tamil Nadu null and void or cancelled the very process of election declaring the ground condition not conducive, we could have held our heads high as a great democracy. We hope election commission raises its level to such heights atleast in future.

If all good people come together changes will be possible. Let this spirit prevail from now onwards

Chennai

N.Harihara Subramaniyan



Desperate Calls

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

Need support for surgery



Ms. Resham Ansari, age 18 years is suffering from rheumatic heart disease with severe mitral regurgitation with PAH. The estimated cost of open heart surgery is Rs.1,20,000/-



Mrs. Papiya Koner, age 31 years is suffering from congenital heart disease with atrial septal defect with L-R shunt. The estimated cost of open heart surgery is Rs.90,000/-

Mrs. Maheswari, age 38 years is suffering from rheumatic heart disease with the post CMV with severe mitral stenosis with PAH with NSR. The estimated cost of open heart surgery is Rs.1,20,000/-

Mr. Santosh Choudhury, age 25 years is suffering from rheumatic heart disease with severe calcific mitral stenosis. The estimated cost of open heart surgery is Rs.1,20,000/-

Mr. Abdul Gouri, age 18 years is suffering from congenital heart disease with severe ventricular septal defect with RSOV. The estimated cost of open heart surgery is Rs.90,000/-

For further details, please contact

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

Poor medical student needs support

Mr. Sundar Purushotham, age 25 years (studying final year MBBS in Mahatma Gandhi Medical College,

Pondicherry) is suffering from severe pain after bone grafting surgery in 2007. The doctors advised him to undergo total hip joint replacement surgery in both hip joints. The estimated cost of the surgery is Rs.5.5 lakhs.

Mr. Sundar Purushotham belongs to poor family. He got the MBBS seat purely on merit.

Mr. V.G. Sakthimohan, the father of the patient, requests kind hearted persons for financial help for his son's surgery.

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

Mr. V.G. Sakthimohan
4, Place South Road, Opp. Diamond Cinema,
Karaikal-609 602, Pondicherry State, India

Girl suffering from brain tumour



Miss. V. Akshaya Kalyani, age 11 years, studying VI std in CSI Bain School is suffering from brain tumour. She is undergoing radiation therapy in Bill Roth Hospital, Chennai. The daily expenses for the patient is Rs.15000/-

Miss. V. Akshaya Kalyani's father Mr. E. Venkatesan requests kind hearted persons for financial help for her daughter's treatment.

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

Mr. E. Venkatesan
New No.19, Old No.178
Baraka Road, Ramalingapuram
Nammalwarpet,
Chennai-600 012

Support the association of visually impaired people

College Students And Graduates Association Of The Blind is running a Braille press to bring out text books and valuable books in Braille for the visually impaired

graduate students. Due to financial constraints, the work of bringing out text books in Braille has to be halted.

The association requests for your support and encouragement

Contact address:

Mr.Ponmudi, President

College Students And Graduates Association Of The Blind Thakkar Baba Vidhyalaya,58, Venkatanarayana Road, T.Nagar, Chennai-600 017.
Phone:044-6900439,24348628

Student needs support

Sri.R.Vivekanand is studying I year B.E. (Electronics and Communication Engineering) in Sai Ram Engineering College, Chennai with the aid of educational loan from bank.

But the bankers are not giving loan to purchase text books, examination fee etc.

Sri.R.Vivekanand requests kind hearted persons for financial help for his studies.

The cheque may be drawn in favour of Sai Ram Engineering College, Chennai and sent to the following address.

Sri.R.Vivekanand

S/o.Mrs.Anandavalli,R193, IInd Main Road, Lakshmi Nagar Extn, Porur, Chennai-600 116

Disabled person needs support

Ms.N.Bharati is a poor disabled girl and she has studied upto IX std. Her parents are unskilled labourer.

Ms.N.Bharati requests kind hearted persons for financial help for setting up a petty shop.

Contact address:

Ms.Bharati
D/o.Sri.Nagarajan,
49/38, North Street,
Pannampet & P.O
Villupuram,Tamil Nadu, Pin:605103

Disabled man needs tri cycle

Mr.Suriya Murthi is a poor disabled man.

He requests kind hearted persons for donation of tri cycle to move from one place to other place



Contact address:

Mr.Suriya Murthi, S/o.Sri.Selvam
47, 3rd Ward, Pillur & P.O.Villupuram, Tamil Nadu
Pin:605 103

Hearing impaired boy needs support

Mr.Aniket Sanjay Pawar is studying std KG 4 in Vikas Vidyalaya for the Hearing Handicapped, Mumbai. The doctors prescribed him Siemen Cielo 2SP for his both ears.. The cost of the hearing device is Rs.66,980/-

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

Mr. Aniket Sanjay Pawar

S/o.Sri. Sanjay Hiranman Pawar,
43/735, MIG-1, Kokan Vasahat,
Opposite to Birla College, Kalyan (West)
Dist.Thane, Maharashtra, Pin: 421 301

Poor Boy needs support for education

Sri J.K. Jagadish, hailing from a poor family has completed class XI. He lost his father very recently and needs financial support to continue his education.

Kind hearted persons are requested to help this poor deserving boy.

Contact adderss:Sri. J.K. Jagadish, 68A,
Ramakrishna Colony, Kaithari Nagar, Madurai-625005

Heart Patient needs help for surgery

Smt.G. Devaki, W/o Sri.S. Gopalakrishnan hailing from Arakonam is suffering from serious heart problem and has been advised to undergo open heart surgery at Madras Medical Mission, Chennai. The total hospital expenses is estimated to be Rs.2,15,000/- She belongs to poor family and she needs financial support from the kind hearted persons to undergo the surgery.

The Cheque may be drawn in the name of "The Madras Medical Mission", payable at Chennai and sent to:

Smt.G. Devaki,
W/o Sri.S. Gopalakrishnan
15-A, Arakonam Road,
Nemili Village & Post,
Arakonam Jk.,
Vellore Dist. - 631051.
Tamil Nadu.



PERMANENT FUND FOR PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS THE VIEWS OF MAHATMA GANDHI

Mahatma Gandhi says that a permanent fund carries in itself the seed of the moral fall of the institution.

Source: My Experiment With Truth



My desire was to secure for the Natal Indian Congress in South Africa a permanent fund, so that it might procure property of its own and then carry on its work out of the rent of the property. This was my first experience of managing a public institution. I placed my proposal before my co

workers and they welcomed it.

The property that was purchased was leased out and the rent was enough to meet the current expenses of the Congress. The property was vested in a strong body of trustees, but it became the source of much internecine quarrelling with the result that the rent of the property accumulated in the court.

This sad situation developed after my departure from South Africa, but my idea of having permanent funds for public institutions underwent a change long before this difference arose. And now after considerable experience with the many public institutions which I have managed, it has become my firm conviction that it is not good to run public institutions on permanent funds.

A permanent fund carried in itself the seed of the moral fall of the institution.

A public institution means an institution conducted with the approval and from the funds of the public. When such an institution ceases to have public support, it forfeits its right to exist.

Institutions maintained on permanent funds are often found to ignore public opinion and are frequently responsible for acts contrary to it. In our country, we experience this at every step.

Some of the so called religious trusts have ceased to render any accounts . The trustees have become the owners and are responsible to none. I have no doubt that the ideal is for public institutions to live like nature, from day to day.

The institution that fails to win public support has no right to exist as such. The subscriptions that an institution annually receives are a test of its popularity and the honesty of its management and I am of opinion that every institution should submit to that test.

But let no one misunderstand me. My remarks do not apply to the bodies which cannot, by their very nature, be conducted without permanent buildings. What I mean to say is that the current expenditure should be found from subscriptions voluntarily received from year to year.

These views were confirmed during the days of the Satyagraha in South Africa. That magnificent campaign extending over six years was carried on without permanent funds, though lakhs of rupees were necessary for it. I can recollect times when I did not know what would happen the next day if no subscriptions came.



PRIZE WINNERS IN THE ALL INDIA ESSAY COMPETITION FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS ON “WHITHER INDIAN DEMOCRACY”

Nandini Voice For The Deprived organized a meeting on
“Whither Indian Democracy” on 7th March 2009.

The meeting was addressed by

- * Mr. V.Kalyanam, close associate and Personal Secretary to Mahatma Gandhi
- * Mr. T.S.Krishnamurthy, Former Chief Election Commissioner
- * Mr. B.S.Raghavan, Former Chief Secretary, Government of Tripura
- * Mr. N.Vittal, Former Central Vigilance Commissioner

College students were invited for the meeting and they were requested to listen to the learned speakers and write essay on “WHITHER INDIAN DEMOCRACY”?

Several students participated in the essay competition. Three students were provided cash awards.

Highlights of the views of the prize winning students are provided in this article.

First prize was awarded to

Ms.A. Lakshmi Corporate I Year

**Dr.MGR Janaki College of Arts & Science For Women
Chennai**

Highlights of the observations of Ms.Lakshmi

The society is eternally divided into two groups namely Ruler and the Ruled.

Let us consider the Power Distance Indices (PDI)(The distance between the people and the government) in a few countries

Rank	Country	PDI
1	Malaysia	104
7	China, Iraq, UAE	80
18	India	77
45	Pakistan	55
52	USA	40
56	UK, Germany	35
66	Austria	11

Malaysia and Austria indicate the two extremes. The other countries listed are for a comparison. One can easily see the difference between highly and lowly ranked countries.

India's high position in the table indicates that we are comfortable with unequal distribution of power.

After becoming independent, our leaders were quick enough to distant themselves from the common people. Why do our elected ministers are residing in palatial houses and are surrounded by innumerable 'orderlies'?

Our politicians come into power with votes given to them by the people. They are humble and friendly till they come to power. Once there, they become inaccessible. With maximum probability, your local minister is seen in your locality only once when he come asking for support.

How many of our political leaders are not rich? It is a mystery how they become rich so fast!

India may believe it is the toast of the world, but several experts have some words of caution for India's democracy.

If India wants to improve its democracy, it must create stronger institutions that allow for horizontal accountability. India needs a counter-corruption commission, that should be set up like the election commission.

The general public should not support leaders who are only money oriented and selfish. If we are not going to change democracy, who knows may be even our democracy will fail like in the neighbouring countries .

Second prize was awarded to Mr.R.Karthik Raman,IRT Perundurai Medical College.Perundurai.

Highlights of the observation of Mr. R. Karthik Raman,

There are four basic characteristics of democracy.

The first one is all people are equal before law. This equality between people has to be maintained at any cost.

The second one is that people are the real masters. However, there are certain loopholes through which at certain times, it is seen that people are not given the due respect which they ought to be given.

The third is that civil services are instruments to carry out the orders of higher authority and not blindly follow them. This tenet is not being practiced here, as we have seen many examples in the past where the civil services are not playing the role expected of them

Last but not the least is that military forces are to be used only against external agencies and not within the country.

I always had a doubt in my inner self whether India is a withering democracy. But some rosy hogs of limelights and silver streaks of hope are seen amidst the dark world of politics.

The election commission in India can be rightly called as the eighth wonder of the world. The enormous amount of umpteen, yeomen services which it has rendered is incomparable and I am sure that its function in the future years would definitely be a role model for other democracies to function in a flaw less manner.

As Winston Churchill said, "Till you start comparing with other forms of government, democracy is a waste".

Third prize was awarded to Ms.J.Shruthilaya,Sri Venkateswara College of Engineering, Sriperumbudur.

Highlights of the observations of Ms. J.Shruthilaya

Our power-hungry politicians come with folded hands at the time of elections promising heaven on earth, but once elected they come to gain ransom.

The politician-bureaucrat-criminal nexus has sucked the hard-earned money of the masses and has made a mockery of the national economic system. The government's revenue does not reach the downtrodden, but go elsewhere. We still remain one of the poorest nations of the world even after many years of independence.

Needless to mention that the foreplay of money and muscle power as witnessed in the recent Tirumangalam elections, where the entire procedure of the ballot box was a sham and the voice of the people was completely ignored. It is a shame that liquor had been offered as incentives to voters in some of the states like U.P, Punjab, Haryana and Bihar.

Thanks to our boisterous media, people in power better be prepared for the verbal attack by young Indians.

That our judiciary has a free play is a clear indication of our thriving democracy. There is no denying the fact that several atrocities await trial but, it does reinforce confidence in our minds when the guilty are not spared. Justice Sri Krishna's report on the recent clash between the Madras High court advocates and the police is an elucidation of the self correcting process in our democracy.

We may say our democracy is passing through a bad phase. It is only natural that nations pass through such phases that are often seemingly bleak. But they say misery in the nation is not due to the brutality of the bad, but due to the silence of the good!

We may falter, even rock dangerously in the beginning, but with the ideals of our nation and the ideas of our leaders acting as a strong mast, we are sure to sail high, soar to greater heights. We will naturally cast way anachronic narrow ideas that cloud the nation to more pressing problems of poverty, education, sanitation, energy utilization to envision our democracy as a completely developed nation. The young breeze will soon begin to blow.

One fine day, you might wake up to see the contents of your Swiss locker in the hands of the more deserving poor farmers down the lane, and that day, don't blame us for not sounding the warning bells! It is coming like a tsunami whose effect you will know, only when it hits your shore, We foresee it!

FRACTURED VERDICT OR GLASS PIECES?

Contributed by Dr. Susheela Kaushik
Former Professor, Political Science, Delhi University

Each state to itself ; each party to itself looks like a repetition of 1967 when big parties and groups split and divided the votes and seats. The end result was the beginning of the era of coalitions and political instability in the states.

With the realisation that such a split may lead to instability in the centre, the parties joined up and formed alliances. This resulted in some stable governments in the states and centre from 1996 to 2009.

2009 – looks like a year of breaking up of alliances and back to individual identities of parties.

In order to get more tickets/seats for themselves, the regional/state parties are breaking away from the national alliances. Every regional party is working out its own arrangements in the states of its own birth and regional ideology. The result is bound to be a huge split in votes and seats.

The alliances which got broken will have to reappear and the process may become confusing, delaying, unwholesome and ugly. The neat and organized and polarized way of NDA and UPA giving two clear alternate to the voters will be missing. One shudders to think of May-June 2009 and the process of government formation.

Equally missing will be idealism, regional ideology and commitment to regional advancement; more is being heard of the regional leaders, aspiring to be the Prime Minister.

But one outcome may be the testing of each party's true worth and popularity. It will not be a national election for one prime minister but a series of regional/state elections which may throw up a motley crowd of prime minister aspirants.

Fortunately, for the Congress, economic recession and terrorism will not be the issues. Crime and corruption will not figure . What will be the choices before the honest committed and conscious citizens/voters? Very dismal picture indeed.

Obviously, this is lost on the new and upstart political parties, which do not think of themselves as more than a mere regional, sub caste based , language limited, lobby groups. with no political agenda or objectives around.

The short longevity of these issues would make these parties extinct or short lived, unless they would enlarge their vision, extend their base and compete for

national space. But none of them have been able to do that. At the same time, they have also understood that their regional issues and caste based backwardness cannot be resolved, unless they would become part of national issues with national social and economic base and solutions. Hence, the need to become national parties or align with the national parties. The SP. and NCP have tried and failed.

All over the world, in all liberal democracies, a stable sustained and effective government and governance has been mainly possible, only due to the two party system. Each one acting as a check on the other, they have been able to give a leadership to the system. This is true, even if each of these parties have been part of a coalition of regional, racial and ideological (conservative and liberal) variations of the nation.

The regional parties (or groups) have no choice but to join or align with national parties. The Congress I , BJP and CPI (M)-CPI alone can claim to be national parties. Willy nilly the national parties will have to choose among the regional parties as senior partners.

The regional parties (or groups) should think of enlarging their issues, vision and base. There is no point in dreaming to be forming the national government or becoming the Prime Minister, unless they would first become national parties on the basis of national issues, including foreign policy, defense, security and economic development.

Will the new allies help to bridge the loss from the old? Will NDA or UPA get appreciably more seats than others so as to help decide the ruling party that can lead to a coalition?

It looks that the fractured verdict will be full of small pieces that they can not be pasted together even with a quick fix.

LET THE TRUTH BE TESTED

Desia Paadhugaappu Kazhagam (National Protective Party) a registered political party has decided to contest in the forthcoming parliamentary elections under the leadership of Mr. V. Kalyanam , age 87 ,a close associate of Mahatma Gandhi and his personal secretary during the last five years of Gandhiji's life.

In recent years, the electoral battle in India have more focus on political bickerings and personal ambitions of politicians and their family members, which have made the common man in the country feel unhappy and helpless.

In a democracy, the elections give great opportunity to the citizens to express their choice and have a quality of government that they would desire. For this to happen, it is necessary that in the elections , the concerned citizens who understand the seriousness and severity of the issues facing Indian democracy should come out openly and contest the elections to set right the conditions.

Clean politics is vitally necessary for healthy democracy, that would protect the interests of the deprived and downtrodden in particular. Politics can not be cleansed without clean people getting into it.

Further, it is sad that the Gandhian philosophy of ahimsa, truth, probity in personal and public life have not been highlighted as the principles by any political party in the country. Looking at the All India scenario, one wonders as to whether any political party swears by Gandhian ideals at all.

It appears that there is fear in the minds of many people that in the absence of money power and muscle power , it would be impossible to win elections in the present scenario. But, we are yet to give a try for honest people to get into the

electoral fray and provide an opportunity to the citizens to choose them amongst the various contenders. Perhaps, if concerned and honest people contest elections, people may support them and provide some surprise to the politicians who seem to think that only manoeuvring and corrupt practices and alliances even if unprincipled can win elections.

More than winning or losing in the elections, the important fact is that when concerned people swearing by Gandhian ideology in personal and public life would contest in the elections, it would give a sense of hope that the tide of corruption and dishonest dealings would be stemmed. The dishonest practices would be challenged even if they would not be defeated totally and immediately.

Concerned persons like Mahatma Gandhi and Jayaprakash Narain were able to do positive things and create an atmosphere that gave confidence to the people about probity in public life. But, today, the intellectuals and concerned people largely remain as armchair critics. This appears to be the real issue.

With the objective of restoring Gandhian ideology as the central theme in the forthcoming parliamentary elections, Mr. V. Kalyanam, a close associate of Mahatma Gandhi and his personal secretary has come forward to give a lead to the nation by supporting good and committed citizens, capable of meeting the Gandhian standards in private and public life to contest the elections.

POLL CAMPAIGN THEME OF DESIA PAADHUKAAPPU KAZHAGAM

APPEALING FOR VOTES IN GANDHIAN WAY

LET THE TRUTH BE TESTED

Candidate for South Chennai Parliamentary Constituency

Mr. N.S. Venkataraman, a Chemical Engineer by profession and Founder Trustee of Nandini Voice For The Deprived, will be contesting in South Chennai Parliamentary constituency as nominee of Desia Paadukappu Kazhagam.

Mr. N.S. Venkataraman is a social activist and has been involved for the last several years in working for the welfare of the poor and upholding ethical values in public life.

He is running number of free computer schools at different centres in Tamil Nadu for the benefit of the boys and girls from lower income group. He works closely with the physically disabled people and encourages them to acquire skill and self employ themselves. He has organised a number of public sensitisation programmes on the problems of the deprived and downtrodden. He has also provided financial support for education of hundreds of poor students.

Mr. N.S. Venkataraman also edits a journal espousing the cause of the downtrodden and swears by Gandhian ideology of truth, non violence and courage of conviction.

The standards of politics and political debate have considerably deteriorated in the country during the last few years. There is urgent need to elevate the country's politics to Gandhian standards, where the political opponents argue but do not hate and destroy each other.



TEN PROMISES OF DESIA PAADHUKAAPPU KAZHAGAM

1. Restore Political decency

We will conduct our campaign at least expense and with great dignity and under no circumstances, we will use offensive or vituperative language against anyone. We will contribute to bring down the political temperature in the country drastically by our good will towards one and all, so that the atmosphere of fear and violence will go away once for all.

2. Strive for clean politics in India.

The countrymen feel that adequate laws do not exist to prevent corrupt people /criminals from contesting in the elections for Assembly, Parliament and Civic bodies.

We will demand that a law should be enacted that would prevent a person from contesting in the election, if the case against him for corruption or criminal acts would be admitted in the court for hearing.

3. Demand prohibition in the entire country :

Mahatma Gandhi stressed on the importance of prohibition policy in the country. With the widespread liquor consumption amongst the citizens now increasing at alarming rate, the moral fabric of the country is getting distorted, apart from the economics of poor families being wiped out. The sufferings of the women have increased manifold.

We will demand that prohibition policy should be implemented in the entire country immediately, whatever may be the loss of income to the exchequer.

4. Quality education for children from lower income group

The children from lower income group start their life with great disadvantages, since quality education is often denied to them. The government is unable to provide quality education in the government owned schools. On the other hand, private sector is able to do a better job in providing quality education.

We will demand that the government should issue order reserving atleast 20% seats in private educational institutions for students from lower income group, irrespective of caste and community, who should be provided free education in such private institutions. Government can extend subsidy support to such private schools for admitting students from lower income group.

5. Employment generation for lower income group :

30% of the Indian population (more than 30 crore people) are surviving in below poverty line. This means that they would not know as to where their next meal would come from. Most of such poverty stricken people live in villages and rural areas, where adequate opportunities do not exist for employment or skill acquisition.

We will demand that Gram Swaraj concept should be promoted, by encouraging self contained villages, which is possible by encouraging the setting up of tiny and small employment generation activities in tune with the prevailing situation in particular areas. Skill acquisition opportunities for such activities must be built in rural areas around the country. The services of NGOs should be utilized in a big way, so that there would be emotional participation of people in such activities.

6. Adoption of visually impaired women :

There are 17 lakhs of disabled people in Tamil Nadu alone, consisting of orthopaedically disabled, hearing / speech impaired, visually impaired and mentally ill persons. Of this, around 9.5 lakhs are visually impaired persons with around 4.5 lakhs of visually impaired women amongst them. 90% of these people belong to lower income group.

We will demand that the government should entirely look after the visually impaired women in the lower income group and treat their welfare as the total responsibility of the government. Such visually impaired women should be given free accommodation and food life long by constructing hostels around the country.

7. Reservation policy for disabled persons :

Around 3% of the national population consist of disabled people and this is more than the population of several countries in the world. The disabled people suffer from huge unemployment problem.

We will demand that the job reservation of the disabled people in government departments and public sector undertakings should be fully implemented.

We will demand that compulsory reservation of jobs for disabled people in private sector should be enforced.

8. Ban on conversion of agricultural land for non agricultural purposes :

India is an agriculture oriented country and we should be proud of this. Thousands of areas of land meant for agriculture are now being converted for industrial and housing activities, which is detrimental to the progress of agriculture economy and is creating unemployment in the rural areas. This would also reduce the production of agricultural products and destabilize the national economy.

We will demand total ban on the conversion of agriculture land for industrial and housing purposes. We will demand for recognition of the fact that strong growth of agriculture by technological measures would contribute to the growth of national economy and welfare of the people, much more than the use of such land for industrial and housing purposes.

9. Counter productive globalization measures :

In the name of globalization and liberalization, the multi national companies are being encouraged to dump their consumer products in the country, which are affecting the native production units particularly in the tiny and small scale sector. Allowing multi national companies to get into retail marketing outlets is totally unnecessary and it is affecting the thousands of small scale retailers in the country.

We will demand that the globalisation measures should be selective and appropriate to the need of the country. We will oppose mindless globalization with the objective of attracting overseas investments without considering the national needs.

10. Link the national rivers :

We will demand that the national rivers should be linked, so that it would lead to avoidance of wastage of water and equi distribution of water amongst all states. This will also lead to huge employment generation in the next ten to fifteen years and contribute to the creation of all round prosperity. This will also promote nationalism, which will be stretched beyond mere saluting the national flag and standing in attention when national anthem would be sung.

**PRIZE WINNERS IN THE ALL INDIA ESSAY COMPETITION
FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS
ON
“PUB CULTURE IN INDIA – SHOULD IT BE CURBED?”**

Nandini Voice For The Deprived organized an All India Essay Competition for college students on “Pub Culture In India – Should It Be Curbed?”

Students from all over India participated in the competition

Following college students were awarded cash prize:

- | | |
|--|---|
| * Ms.S.Devi,
2 nd Year B.Com (EVE)
Guru Shree Shantivijai Jain College For Women
Chennai | * Ms.S.Shanthi
M.Ed.(General)
Avinashilingam University, Faculty of Education
Coimbatore |
| * Mr.K.P.Muthupandian
3 rd Year ECE
R.V.S.College of Engineering and Technology
Dindigul | * Mr.V.Raja
B.Tech., Final Year
Coimbatore Institute of Technology
Coimbatore |
| * Ms.S.N.Selva Priya
1st Year B.A.English Litt
Sree Ayyappa College For Women
Chungankadai, Nagercoil | * Ms.M.Erulayi
2 nd Year B.Sc., (Soft ware)
Madurai Sivakasi Nadars Pioneer Meenakshi Women’s College
Poovanthi, Sivaganga Dist |
| * Mr.P.L.Baskaran
2 nd Year B.Sc., Computer Science
Alagappa Govt. Arts College
Karaikudi | * Ms.R.Monica
I Year B.A. English Lit.,
Lady Doak College
Madurai |
| * Ms.Subashini Gunasekaran
Final Year ECE
Kumaraguru College of Technology
Coimbatore | * Mr.Raghav Mohan
3 rd Year B.Tech., Mechanical Engg.,
Amrita School of Engineering
Coimbatore |
| * Ms.S.Yaazhini
I Year, BE (ECE)
Dhanalakshmi College of Engineering
Chennai | * Mr.S.Mohamed Ansari
5 th Year Bachelor of Law (BABL)
Government Law College
Coimbatore |

Nandini Voice for the Deprived thanks the panel of Judges for evaluating the essays and providing grades. Nandini Voice particularly acknowledges its gratitude to Dr.J.D.Ramanathan Ph.D., a distinguished scientist, for the support in the fair choice of the prize winning students.

The students have laboured hard to give their considered views on the subject. While the media report says that the youth is in favour pub culture, the ground reality appears to be different. Large percentage of students , particularly women students have deplored the pub culture and termed it as un Indian and counter productive that would upset the age old traditions of the country, leading to chaotic conditions.

GAAR ADVT.



**Let us try to bring
cheer in the country
by promoting fairness
and ethical values**

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N.S. VENKATARAMAN, Chief Editor

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