

NANDINI

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VOICE FOR THE DEPRIVED

Dedicated to the cause of marginalized and downtrodden

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And More.....

THOUGHTS OF KANCHI PARAMACHARYA

GOD HAS CREATED SOME SOULS TO LIVE ONLY FOR OTHERS

Bhavan's Journal was privileged to publish the Kanchi Paramacharya's article several years ago entitled 'What life has taught me'. What Kanchi Paramacharya said was marked by humility, of which he was never tired of speaking.

There breathe on this globe some souls firmly rooted in morals and ethics, who live exclusively for others, voluntarily forsaking their material gains and comforts.

Life bind with intense love for others

Adayapalam Pasupati Iyer was there in Kalavai, when I took Sannyasa Asrama. Later, it became clear that he was determined to help me to mould my life in my youth.

He used to persuade everyday every friend of his to turn his mind to self-introspection and would argue with him freely as to what permanent values he had gained by being materialistic and would bluntly point out to every one of them his points of weakness and ask him to ponder whether the remedies contained in the Upanishads and Sankara's Prakaranas might not be given a trial. He would meet even unacquainted persons in the street and enquire into their worries and woes.

His was a life lived with intense love for others without the least reaction of fear or favour.

Loving sister

On tour in Trichinopoly District in 1923, I halted at a village when I heard a girl of about 12 admonishing her younger brother for his having uttered an untruth. Her advocacy of truth and her love for her brother which prompted her to see that he was not spoiled, far surpassed a saint's direction.

I cannot forget this incident after the lapse of so many years.



Help from an eighty year old man

In 1929, I met a Sannyasi in a border village of North Arcot. He knew only Marathi and Hindi. He was then more than 80 years old. He refused to leave me till 1954 when he attained siddhi.

Soon after he joined us during the Chaturmasya of 1929, I was laid up with malaria fever for about 40 days. Till then, none was in the habit of touching me. But then, I was not able to stand or walk without help. This old man, being a Sannyasi, took upon himself the duty of helping me.

Life has taught me only this. "God has created some souls to live for others only."

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 education



dreamstime.com

Ms.S.Gomathi is a B.Com graduate. She is not able to continue her further studies due to her father's ill health condition. Ms.S.Gomathi requests financial help for her further studies. Contact address: Ms.S.Gomathi, D/o.Mr.V.Shanmugham, 63/12. Thiruvalluvar Veethi, L.V.P. Lane, Kumarapalayam-638 183, Nammakal District. Cell. 8760529257

Need educational support for poor children

Vanavil Blind Trust, Dindigul in Tamil Nadu run by visually impaired persons, is supporting education of poor children, most of whose parents are visually impaired. The trust needs support. For further details, please contact Managing Trustee, Vanavil Blind Trust, 2/331, Keelathippampatti, Kasavanampatti (PO), Kannivadi (Via), Dindigul Dist. 624705, Tamil Nadu. Cell:9962656471

Need support

Mr.L.Henry Daniel, age 66 years lost his right hand and right leg due to paralysis attack. He is not in a position even to buy medicine. Mr.L.Henry Daniel requests for financial help for his survival. For further details, please contact: Mr.L.Henry Daniel , 9/3 A, Patinathar Koil Street, Tiruvottiyur, Chennai-19



Physically challenged lady needs help

Ms.Rajeshwari, is a physically challenged lady and she lost her husband in fire accident. At present, she is running a petty shop for her day to day earnings with great difficulties Ms.Rajeshwari requests financial support. Contact address: Ms.Rajeshwari,42/89, Vinayakar Koil street, Saidapet, Chinnamalai, Chennai-15. Cell No.9940425543



PLEASE FINANCIALLY SUPPORT THE POOR STUDENTS IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD TO CONTINUE THEIR STUDIES.

Readers' Forum



Readers' forum provides space for the 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.

Corruption in educational institutions

Dear Sir,

I liked your assessment that corruption in academicians is the root cause of chaotic education system. (Nandini Voice May 2015 issue)



While there are many honest academics, unfortunately their voice is made feeble by crude power politics in educational institutions, of the sort practiced by our politicians. I am sure same thing can be said about armed forces, business and services sector.

The change has to come from within and envelop all areas of public life ,especially in governance .

Anand

Dear Sir,

We blame govt, politicians, police, teachers- for corruption in educational institutions, but as parents we do not take responsibility. For a while , let us stop blaming others and start taking responsibility--things will begin to look up.

Dayal Maheswari

Smugglers can not be excused as poor workers

Dear Sir,

Please refer your article on police firing on sandalwood smugglers (Nandini Voice May 2015 issue).

What kind of logic is this? Calling smugglers " poor workers" .They knew they were smuggling. There is money in smuggling. Hence they do .

Under the same logic, will you call contract killers " poor killers ?" Someone else is asking them to kill, so they kill for money.

S.Pushpavanam

Cause for suicide among farming community

Dear Sir,

Suicides take place due to depression caused by debts, love tangle, disappointment with one's own performance compared to the peers and breakdown in family relationships. Such could be the reason in the case of suicides by Indian farmers also , with debt being a major cause amongst others.



Indian farming community can be divided into those who own land for cultivation who mostly do not work physically on the field and workers who work as paid labourers.

The suicides are largely seen amongst farmers who own land . The problem is that Indian agriculture is entirely dependent on the vagaries of monsoon. Too much rain or drought cause problems. In one recent case, a farmer committed suicide when it rained heavily and unexpectedly causing huge pest attack in his farm and virtually destroying the crop. With little bank balance left and the debt to be repaid, he saw no hope for himself and his family and ended his life.

Most of these farmers take crop loan from money lenders and not the organised banks, since unlike the banks ,money lenders give money immediately even though the interest is exhorbitant. Money lenders are ruthless when loan is not returned ,driving the farmer to suicide in case of crop failures.

S.Sailesh

Unconvincing protest of Greenpeace and Ford foundation

Dear Sir,

In the past few weeks, Government of India has put the activities of Greenpeace and Ford Foundation , which are funded from abroad for their charity related activities in India on the watch list. There appear to be justification for doing so.

In India, there have been widespread suspicions that the overseas funds routed to India through NGOs have been misused for conversions , launching of anti nuclear protests, whipping up the tribal people against implementation of projects and also to help the international organisations in their business activities in India. Any one in the know of things about such happenings in India will readily vouch that such misuse of funds do take place , which is detrimental to the economic , social and industrial progress of India.



While NGOs have a great role to play in India, it should be admitted that all NGOs in the country are not above board and many of them do not even submit their income tax returns. Many organisers of NGOs live in comfortable life style and with regular fund flow particularly from abroad and many promoters of these NGOs certainly belong to the category of ' five star activists'".

Transparency is a very important aspect in the functioning of NGOs and vociferous protests of Greenpeace and Ford India only lead to suspicion that they have many skeletons in their cupboard.

Name withheld on request

WHEN PEOPLE LOSE FAITH IN JUDICIARY CONSEQUENCES CAN BE ALARMING

Which judge is right and which judge is wrong?

After several years of trial in a killing case, an actor was held guilty by the court and jail term awarded. But, he got bail in a few hours from another judge. After several years of trial in a corruption case, a Chief Minister was found guilty and awarded jail term and hefty fine. But, after a few months, a higher court judge called her innocent and acquitted everyone involved totally. Now, one wonders which judge is right and which judge is wrong.

Rich politicians and cinema actors have the last laugh

While rich politicians and cinema actors seem to have the last laugh, there are thousands of dharidhranarayanans in India who stay in jail for lesser crime for several years without being heard. Are they not as much Indians as the cinema actor driving his car on a pavement dweller and rich politician indulging in corrupt practices ? Are we settling down for this sort of democracy in India ?



Loss of faith in judiciary ?

An average common man in India, millions of whom do not have any political affiliation, have already lost faith in the politicians in power and bureaucracy.

He was thinking that the judiciary is ultimate conscience keeper of the country.

But, when judiciary give judgements with so much of contradiction between one judge and the other and providing bail and relief to the convicted actor and politicians with great speed and with many judges in India already having been accused of corrupt practices in the past, people tend to develop doubts about judiciary too.

What can a common man do ?

Now, what can a common man do , if he loses faith in politicians in power, bureaucrats and judges ? It is alarming to think about such situation and the possibilities.

READERS' VIEWS ON WHEN PEOPLE LOSE FAITH IN JUDICIARY , CONSEQUENCES CAN BE ALARMING

The article on “ When people lose faith in judiciary, consequences can be alarming” was put on the blog and many readers commented. Views of a few readers are given. Almost all of them are critical of judiciary

What is happening in USA ?

I will not speak for India, as obviously I am not qualified. In America, we see this double standard applied to the police as opposed to common people, not to mention the highest of the high, the bankers, many guilty of fraud in the 08 crisis and not one being prosecuted. But I expect the outcome is the same in India as in America.



Eventually over time, there will arise civil unrest. Very gradually and slowly, people will rise against what they perceive as injustice. I personally condemn all violence, but also in America, I think this has resulted in many more police shootings this year. Perceived as being arrested by unjust system, those to be arrested come to believe that the only way out is to shoot their way out. So more police end up being killed.

In only one specific instance, all those police officers arrested in Baltimore were all released on a very low bail, harbouring perhaps a tale of things to come. Normally, a common person has, for the charge of murder, no bail or a bail set so high it can never be met.

So a message is sent. If you are of this class and type, you are treated more favourably than others. So, everyone in Baltimore knows this and if occurrences of violence display by police take place, it may result in riot, destruction and the attempted killings of other police by commoners even in a peaceful society.

Most police are just trying to do their job and are good but they will be caught in the crossfire of this bigger thing. I expect India may be more gradual in this but it will happen anywhere with time. This leads to violence or taking justice into our own hands, as they say.

Again America is not India, but in fact it was a suspect judicial decision which led to the American civil war by more than any other factor, to include the election of a anti slavery president. The judiciary led by a pro slavery chief justice, had decided slavery was a constitutionally allowed thing and any laws against them in even the no slave states was unconstitutional(the Dred Scott decision). It was only a matter of time until all the United States became slave states by this decision. So this forced war.

So, by this example ,the perception of unjust justice, in America did lead actually to civil war.

I again state America is not India, but that serves as perhaps a worst case scenario of the possibility of perceived unjust justice systems....wars and hundreds of thousands dead.

A judiciary is perhaps the most important part of any democracy. They can not exist without them being equal and serving the public good.

Ron Humphries



What people think ?

During the conduct of a study, I interviewed 22 people from rural areas recently.

I found 90% have lost faith in judiciary. They were all aware of the 'Bail within a day' to Salman Khan by Bombay Court judge sitting for additional hours.

Now, some of them again interviewed to know about quick dispensation of justice to Jayalalitha and they further confirmed the same.

Some people had cases pending for long, one even going on for 16 years facing numerous dates given for frivolous reasons.

I had the experience of facing a case for 8 years due to countless dates and frequent change of judges and ultimately ended into nothing except making me too older than I was in actual. This is a purposeful denial of justice.

The system which does not perform the service for it is created, does not stand to have value. Does not this demand an overhaul of the justice system altogether?

Col Dr D S Grewal

Mockery

Judiciary in India has made a mockery of itself. Judges know that there is no one in the governing system who can punish them for all the wrongs.

Jagjit Ahuja

Common man vis a vis judge

If a common man errs, he can lose his job and may be sent to jail, but if a judge errs and his mistake is pointed out by a common man, the common man will be sent to jail for contempt of court.

Vijay Trikha

Pertinent issue

If Judges can give such extreme verdicts contrary to each other and the litigants involved are high profile individuals with abundant wealth, ordinary litigants lose faith in the last bastion of democracy.

We need a public debate on these issues, so that there is clarity in the minds of the people. Can we forget the thousands languishing in prisons, unable to afford a lawyer, no means of sustenance, no way to pay fat bail amounts ?

Dr. G. Sreekumar Menon

Have lost the trust

The two agencies who need to gain confidence of the people are the judiciary and the police. Both have lost the trust.

Sreema Kasi

Justice is like a product

Justice is logic oriented in India. Just spend money, hire good lawyer or team of lawyers and simply snatch the justice. Justice is like a product in our country. Just spend money and purchase good quality justice.

After appointment of Ex Chief Justice P Sathasivam as Kerala governor, most of the Indian judges eye on the post retirement plan (posting).

If anyone has any objection on these words, please just go to any Indian lower court. You will certainly say that you can get every thing in the courts but you can not get justice.

Hari Govind Vishwakarma

All round deterioration

Every government agency has deteriorated to its worst level. There is no fear of law. You are strong if you have strong political connection. Rest of the people are left to debate who is right and who is wrong - just for mental satisfaction and to prove that they have philosophical brain.

I am proud of my country but shameful of those who are killing values day by day.

Anil Jain



May be there is still hope.

People in India act very slow but, looks like, they eventually do.

Contradictory judgments in favour of the rich and famous make people all over India angry. All of the law makers have to listen to people, eventually.

People are awake and alert now. Gross injustices and their perpetrators will not survive for ever or we hope.

Anand Sharma

Please keep cool

We still believe in one supreme power. He is the chief justice of all chief justices. A day will come and He will judge in the right way.

What we see is power play and money play. We are yet to see the play of the spirit of God. Please keep faith.

John Lopez

WHITHER INDIAN FARMERS – LET POLITICIANS MOVE AWAY

Amongst around 490 million workers in India, around 47% of the total employment is provided by agriculture, largely to the workers at skilled and semi skilled level. Of this 28% are women. When agriculture goes through crisis, millions of workers in the lower income group at vulnerable level are driven to impossible conditions.

.Dependence on monsoon

The problem is that the fortunes of agriculture almost entirely depend upon monsoon conditions and agriculture suffers in the case of excess rain or drought conditions. The government of India and state government during the last sixty decades of independent India have not been able to find a solution for this vulnerable scenario facing Indian agriculture.



More agricultural operations needed and not lands

Modi government appears to think that millions of workers in agricultural sector can be provided adequate and remunerative employment only by rapid industrialisation. Those in the know of things cannot but conclude that Modi government's expectations are utopian.

What is needed by the country today is more agricultural operations and not less, which alone will ensure steady progress, employment generation at various levels and overall growth with equanimity. Industrial growth is needed but it should complement the agricultural growth and not substitute it and cannot be encouraged at the cost of agriculture. It would be suicidal to sacrifice the interests of agriculture for the sake of industrial growth.

Loss of agricultural land

Even without land acquisition bill, India has lost around 16000 sq.mt. or 0.8 % of the cropped area in the last ten year period due to buying spree of agricultural land for various non agricultural purposes. This should stop. The agricultural share in the GDP has declined to 13.7% in 2012-13, which is an extremely disturbing trend.

Unused land

There are around 18000 hectares of allotted industrial land in twenty states, which are lying unused. There are many sick projects in India occupying huge area of land without any operations. There are many educational institutions which possess hundreds of acres of land whereas actual utilisation is less than 5%.

63.85 million hectares in India are now waste lands which remain unused. It is surprising that Modi government has not thought about utilising such waste and unutilised land for industrial and other productive purposes before focussing on land acquisition bill.



Scope for investment in agriculture

There exists enormous scope for investment in agriculture and the sector can be considerably stabilised by improving productivity, optimising seed quality and promoting large number of agro based chemical projects and herbal projects that will give value addition. Government also should give guidelines to the farmers at periodical intervals about the choice of crops for cultivation based on the forecast of monsoon, demand supply and price factors and shape it's supportive policy according to the need.

There are many appropriate projects like algae, which has around 40% oil content, which can be cultivated in thousands of acres of waste land in India. Algae needs only waste water, sun light and carbon dioxide to grow. Bio fuel, methane gas and power can be produced from algae farms and this can be a game changer. While millions of dollars are being invested in USA and other western countries in algae sector, nothing has been done in India. Several suggestions submitted on this to government of India do not seem to have been heard.

It is high time we realise that the recurring crisis of Indian agriculture can be overcome only by adopting innovative and appropriate technology practices in tune with India's strength and ground realities. Government should focus on this, instead of diverting national attention to land acquisition bill, which is proving to be counter productive now.

Sadly, instead of technologists and scientists discussing about agri problems and government listening to them to find solutions, we are only hearing politicians talking about agri crisis. with the obvious intention of getting sympathy of the agricultural workers who could be a big vote bank for them.



Need for innovative appropriate technology

It is high time that the politicians should be told to move away and let the space be filled by knowledgeable farmers, scientists and technologists, who can lift Indian agriculture to it's potential, if they would be facilitated to do so by efficient government and bureaucracy.

WORLD CONSCIENCE SILENT, WHILE LONE TIBETANS FIGHT FOR MOTHERLAND

China has now urged the exiled Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama to “put aside his illusions” about talks on Tibet’s future. China accused him of pushing for independence for Tibet. China has further said that “the only sensible alternative is for the Dalai Lama and his supporters to accept that Tibet has been part of China since antiquity, to abandon their goals of dividing China and seeking independence for Tibet.”

With sort of arrogance, China has further said that China occupying Tibet is irresistible historical tide.



The sad ground reality is that with it’s military power and expansionist mindset, China sent it’s troops to unarmed Tibet and occupied the Tibetan territory, with least consideration for fairness in dealing with neighbour and with total disregard for world opinion. Thousands of Tibetans were slaughtered by China during the process of occupation and the respected Buddhist spiritual leader the Dalai Lama had to run away from Tibet fearing arrest, torture and humiliation by the Chinese troops. Fortunately, India gave asylum to the Dalai Lama. However, China became the successful occupier of Tibet.

The claim of China that Tibet is part of China historically is as untrue and mischievous interpretation, similar to it’s claim that Arunachal Pradesh in India is part of China. Past world history highlights several instances of aggressors claiming some other territory as their own and then sending the troops to conquer the area. What China has done is no different. If China’s logic for over powering Tibet would be acceptable ,then no country in the world could be safe and many countries can twist the history to claim the territory of the neighbours.

Has evil succeeded in Tibet?

China’s act in Tibet is a case study to show that violence and war has succeeded and the protagonists of peace and fairness in the international relationships are mere paper tigers, who can only roar but cannot bite and fight. China now has the last laugh as the world conscience remain silent, indicating that the evil has triumphed over good in the case of Tibet.

Indifferent world

What is highly distressing is that no country in the world including India had the will and determination to fight against the injustice done to Tibet by China.

USA and western countries ,who claim that they swear by the democratic governance, rule of law and freedom, just made some cosmetic protests and then have conveniently chosen to remain silent, as China defied the world opinion to aggressively enter Tibet and occupied the country. The countries around the world remained impotent and silently watched as the aggressor China succeeded in it’s acquisition of Tibet and the peaceful Tibetans were left to themselves to suffer or die or submit themselves to the military power of China.

WORLD CONSCIENCE SILENT, WHILE LONE TIBETANS FIGHT FOR MOTHERLAND

Obviously, the so called free countries like USA and several west European nations, who shout from the roof tops about their free governance credentials, are primarily interested in their own economic and industrial interests. In such circumstances, the plight of Tibet highlights the fact that the claim of western countries about commitment to free governance around the world is made in vacuum and are hollow.

Let not Tibetans lose hope



India had been under British rule for around two centuries when a man known as Mahatma Gandhi came on the scene to galvanise the submissive Indians and start a unique freedom movement that finally made Britain give independence to India and leave the country.

Sooner or later, perhaps sooner than later, some one will emerge in Tibet who has the courage and conviction to stand by the cause for Tibet and restore Tibet as an independent and sovereign country that it once was. Tibetans have to keep their hopes and faith and wait for their day.

ALL INDIA ESSAY CONTEST ON

HOW TO PREVENT FARMERS' SUICIDES IN INDIA ?

Nandini Voice For The Deprived, (nandinivoice.com) is organising All India Essay contest on "How to prevent farmers' suicides in India?"



The objective of the essay contest is to provide an opportunity to the citizens of India to provide suggestions on how to prevent farmers' suicides in India.

The highlights of the suggestions would be submitted to the Prime Minister and leadership of various political parties all over India.

All Indian citizens living in India or abroad can participate in this contest, Essay can be written in English, Tamil or Hindi with maximum of 1500 words, Essay can be sent by email to nsvenkatchennai@gmail.com or by post Nandini Voice For The Deprived, M 60/1, 4th Cross Street, Besant Nagar, Chennai -600090 [Tel:- 91-44-24916037](tel:91-44-24916037)

Five of the best entries would be selected for award of prize, Last date for receipt of the essay is 31st May, 2015

EMPLOYABILITY AMONGST FRESH ENGINEERS A MATTER OF CONCERN

With more than one lakh engineers passing out every year from one state Tamil Nadu alone , the number of unemployed and under employed engineers passing out of the colleges are now increasing at alarming rate.

At the same time, several employers particularly in the core sector, complain that they are unable to get adequately competent fresh engineers even for posting as trainees.

Obviously, the un employability issues concerning fresh engineers and the state of engineering education needs careful scrutiny and investigation.



Falling standards of students

Today, in Tamil Nadu , for example , there are more than 550 engineering colleges and with more than two lakh seats in various branches . Thousands of seats in different colleges remain unfilled due to want of students. In such scenario, anyone with minimum pass marks and with enough money at command to pay the fees etc. can get into engineering college.

It is seen that several engineering colleges now go for massive advertisement campaign and some are reported to be even employing middle men to entice the students to join the college. Therefore, the average quality of the intake of students into engineering colleges have suffered enormously.

Shortage of faculty members

With the starting of so many engineering colleges in a few years , there is huge shortage of qualified and experienced faculty members to teach the students. There are even cases where fresh engineers are straightaway appointed as lecturers and even as assistant professors.

In some colleges, even the super annuated professors , sometime in the age group of 70 and above, are retained as full time or part time faculty members, perhaps to hoodwink the inspection team visiting from All India Council of Technical Education, as well as advertising about the quality of faculty members employed !

In the process, the students suffer, unable to grasp the lessons in the absence of quality teaching.

Politicians / businessmen as educationists

With many business men and politicians setting up engineering colleges and some of them as deemed universities , the relatives of the promoters are given plum administrative positions, who have no particular experience in the education field.

HIGHER

EDUCATION ?

How colleges are wasting our money and failing our kids and what we can do about it.

In some of the deemed universities , the senior most member of the promoter family become chancellor, pro chancellor, vice chancellor considerably tarnishing the administrative culture that should prevail in quality educational institutions.

There are many complaints about the emoluments paid to the faculty members in such institutions and it is even reported that in the case of business group operating more than one engineering college, the same faculty member is often asked to take classes in more than one college.

Failure of AICTE

All India Council of Technical Education is primarily responsible for creating such dismal scenario, as new engineering colleges and number of seats in various engineering courses are accorded permission , obviously without adequate investigation of the job potential for fresh engineers in various courses and the capability of the institutions to provide quality education.

Plight of poor families

In the last few years, several poor families have admitted their sons and daughters in engineering colleges with the eagerness to see engineers in their families. They run from pillar to post to find money for the payment of the exorbitant fees demanded by the private institutions. Many poor families have been driven to debt in the process.

When the passed out engineers do not get jobs with decent salary , the poor family's burden of debt and interest become very severe.

Advice by Minister in Singapore government

Recently, a senior minister in Singapore government has exhorted the Singaporeans not to rush for degree level courses for their children but take up courses that will help them to acquire skill in various trades to improve their employability. This is an advice appropriate for the present Indian situation.

Today, we have no dearth of fresh electrical engineers awaiting jobs but there are huge shortage of quality electricians and even for doing jobs such as motor winding etc. Similarly , there are large number of electronic engineers passing out but technicians to repair cell phones, television , computer hardware etc. are in severe short supply. This is so in case of every branch of engineering.

Need for corrective action by AICTE

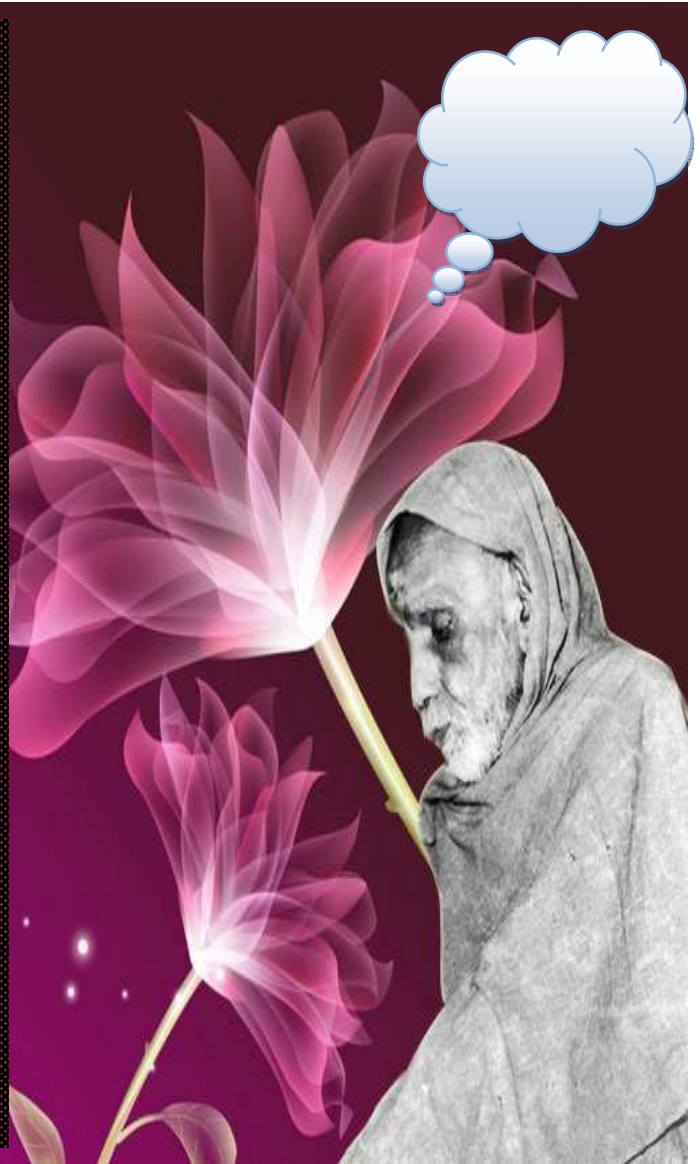
As yet another academic year will shortly commence, an advisory must be given to the students by the All India Council of Technical Education and state governments about the level of joblessness amongst fresh engineers .

Steps should be taken urgently to reduce the number of seats in engineering colleges in tune with the assessment of number of fresh engineers required and the minimum marks required for admission in engineering colleges should be raised.

" It is true that if one does not practice love and compassion himself and thinks that Bhagawan should show him compassion, it will be of no use whatever puja, yaga, etc., he may do.

If he does not have love, consideration, pity, etc., towards others like him, what right has he to expect that Bhagawan should show him mercy ? "

Kanchi Paramacharya



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We look forward to your support and encouragement.

NANDINI VOICE FOR THE DEPRIVED

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