

# SKILLS FOR FREEDOM

## Newsletter from India

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This electronic newsletter from **PEACE TRUST, INDIA** is addressed to NGO's, Social Activists, Media, Opinion makers, Leaders and Bureaucrats for improving their understanding on skilling the youth for gainful employment and addressing social issues like modern slavery, child labour, migrant labour, un-employability of youth. We also send this to people who we believe are involved in improving the migrant worker's conditions. You are welcome to unsubscribe yourself, if you so choose.

**-EDITOR**

Peace Trust is a Non Government Organization working on Child Labour and Bonded Labour issues since 1984. It has also focused on Migrant workers rights and Anti Trafficking of Person issue since 1999. Facilitating decent employment of youth is taken up.

- o Peace Trust's Skills for Freedom is the only solution to end Modern Slavery in Tamil Nadu. It is on decent and skill based effort for enhancing the employment opportunities of rural youth in Dindigul, Karur, Tiruppur Districts.
- o Reduce the risk for Young Workers - Peace Trust is actively involved in Initiative to "Support School Education, Health Protection, Livelihood Development and Skill Training for Gainful Employment among Vulnerable Young Population in Dindigul District".
- o SPSC Vocational Education & Employment Facilitation Centre provides access to vocational education and employment facilitation for rural poor youth in Nagapattinam, Thiruvavur District Tamil Nadu and Karaikal District, Puducherry.
- o Peace Trust also provides training for Quality Teacher Education and gainful employment to young women from resource poor families in Dindigul and Karur District.
- o Peace Trust has also been broadcasting Pasumai FM community radio.
- o Peace Trust is actively engaged in building the capacity of youth aspiring for Government, Public Sector, Bank job
- o Peace Trust is providing guidance for higher studies to 17+ youth.

The views expressed are not of the donors but a compilation of field realities for the purpose of sharing and action. The News Letter is for academic purpose to understand Human Resources and Skill Education.

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# Migration

## Website to keep a tab on migrant labour in Tirupur

Tirupur: To help police to fortify security and test crimes, the Tirupur Exporters' Association (TEA) has deliberate to increase a web site to handle a database of migrant labourers working within the knitwear trade. The knitwear manufacturing gadgets will upload all details about migrant labourers who have been recruited/relieved by means of them. Though the Tirupur city police will handle a separate database by means of accumulating main points from the gadgets, it is going to seek get admission to to the producers' web site if needed.

With various activity opportunities in Tirupur, the town draws 1000's of migrant labourers across the country. Naturally, it provides an opportunity for people who find themselves fascinated with prison and anti-national actions of their states to hide within the city. This is clear from the hot arrests of a Maoist couple - R Roopesh and Shyna - of Kerala and ISIS hyperlink suspect Mohammad Moshiruddin alias Musha of West Bengal. To stay a tab on the migrant labourers, a few years ago police directed all firms to put up details about migrant labourers whom they have recruited/relieved to the nearest police station. Though this used to be to be achieved on the identical day or the next day to come, most of the firms have no longer been following it.

Hence, city police commissioner P Nagarajan convened a gathering on Tuesday with four major knitwear similar trade bodies, including the South India Hosieries Manufacturing Association (SIHMA), the South India Imported Machine Knitters Association (SIMKA), the Tirupur Thozhil Pathukappu Kuzhu and TEA, to speak about ways to streamline the submission of main points. "The commissioner insisted that the procedure of sending details about the migrant labourers should be followed properly. We suggested that a website which is under construction for maintaining database about the migrant labourers can be utilised by police," mentioned T R Vijayakumar of TEA.

" We will give a unique identification number for each labourer and also create a QR code to register details about them. So whichever company hires him can access his entire record," he added. "We plan to have a system in which details uploaded about the migrant labourers will be sent automatically to the police through email. Besides, we will enable police to access the database on our website," he mentioned.

Nagarajan advised TOI that "As the companies do not share information consistently, we wanted to create a mechanism where they would follow the procedure. It is in the preliminary stage and we plan to have discussions with many of 40 associations in Tirupur. We will seek access to the website which will be developed by TEA. But we prefer to keep the system simple, where the companies submit the details directly."

## Sri Lankan refugees keen on pursuing overseas jobs

### Officials see no parallel with Tibetan refugees' case, say can't facilitate travel

The proposed relaxation of travel rules for Tibetan refugees to visit foreign countries has triggered a debate whether such a move can be extended for Sri Lankan Tamil refugees living in Tamil Nadu.

There are about one lakh refugees in the State, of whom about two-thirds are in camps being run by the authorities. In an incremental way, the refugees are returning home under a voluntary repatriation scheme being administered through the Union and State governments along with the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Between 2010 and June 30 this year, 8,070 refugees went back to Sri Lanka. However, given the kind of educational facilities that have been made available to them in India, there is a growing aspiration among the refugees to go to foreign countries for livelihood opportunities. According to a study made by the Organisation for Eelam Refugees Rehabilitation, Chennai, 2,340 refugees have become graduates in the last 25 years; 185 have become post-graduates and two have completed Ph.D. degrees. One hundred and fifty two students have finished B.E. and 28, B. Tech.

"Even though we get sympathy from the local society, private companies here are reluctant to employ qualified persons from our community. This is why many of our boys are keen on going out," Pathinathan, a Tamil writer and a non-camp refugee, says, adding that the case of the refugees has to be treated on a "humanitarian basis."<sup>2</sup>

V. Suryanarayan, veteran academician, says that perhaps the Sri Lankan Tamil refugees are the only community among refugees all over the world to have made maximum use of education facilities in their host country.

Experts and senior officials of the State government say that what has been proposed for the Tibetan refugees will not be relevant in respect of the Sri Lankan Tamil refugees.

Pointing out that the Central government has waived the visa fee and the overstay penalty for the refugees going back home on their own, the officials say that they can only facilitate voluntary repatriation of the refugees from Chennai to Colombo. Those who are keen on working in foreign countries would have to start from Sri Lanka, the officials say, adding that there is no progress with regard to the proposal for resumption of ferry services from Rameswaram to Talaimannar, a move which may expedite the return of the refugees to Sri Lanka.

## **Trafficking**

### **Police bust child trafficking gang**

#### **Arrest caretaker of a home for orphans, two auto drivers**

Ramanathapuram Town police have busted a child trafficking gang by arresting three persons, including a woman caretaker of a home for the orphans and the differently abled. Acting on a complaint lodged by S. Durai Murugan, District Child Protection Officer, the police arrested J. Banumathi (49), the caretaker of Aathar Trust, a home for the orphans and the differently abled, near the palace here, and two autorickshaw drivers – Boomi Kathiresan and Senthil Kumar – under Sections 80 and 81 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.

The arrested were produced before a magistrate court here on Thursday and remanded in judicial custody, the police said. The trio had recently attempted to sell a one-month-old male baby for 4 lakh to a childless couple from Tiruchi with the connivance of Deivanayagam, a member of Child Welfare Committee. A special police team had been formed to nab Deivanayagam and a woman worker of the District Government Headquarters Hospital here for questioning, the police said.

Banumathi had been involved in giving children in 'adoption' illegally to childless couples for monetary benefits with the connivance of the woman hospital worker, the police said. Their modus operandi was that the woman worker would alert Banumathi when destitute women and women who became pregnant due to illicit affairs gave birth to children and wanted to dispose of them, the police said.

In the latest case, Banumathi attempted to sell the child of a widow from Kudhakottai near here. The woman, a construction worker, fearing the wrath of her mother-in-law, sought the help of Kathiresan to 'dispose of the baby'. Subsequently, Kathiresan, along with Senthilkumar, approached Banumathi. On coming to know of the child trafficking racket, 'Kallakuruchi' Rajendran of Tamizhaga Makkal Nala Kazhagam laid a trap and alerted the police.

Meanwhile, Thangavel, District Welfare Officer for the Differently Abled, visited Aathar Trust and found that it was functioning with a fake licence. He said Collector S. Natarajan would inspect the home and after the 10 inmates, including aged people and the differently abled, were shifted to some other place, it would be sealed.

## **Skills**

### **Sultans of Skill**

India is poised for an unprecedented transformation in the coming decade. Going by the report of the National Higher Education Commission, it seems there never was a better time to skill the country. The findings of the report put the average age of the Indian population as 29 years in 2020 compared to 40 years in the US, 46 years in Europe and 47 years in Japan—outpacing China as the country with the largest tertiary-age population. With so many young Indian men and women scouting for jobs and industries complaining of appropriately skilled manpower, it warrants a paradox. Fortunately, 28-year-old Kamali who works as a team lead at a call centre at Kollumangudi village in Tiruvarur, Tamil Nadu, has steered clear of this conundrum.

With her father being unwell, her earnings have bolstered the family's finances. That's all thanks to the start-up Desicrew which harnesses professional talent in non-urban areas. Like Kamali, Mumbai resident Ove's life has changed for the better after he got trained as a tour guide with a start-up, Be the Local Tours and Travels. In 2015, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had launched the Skill India campaign to train over 40 crore people by

2022. As if in answer to the government sounding the bugle of change, start-ups have emerged as the answer to India's skilling needs. For every start-up that went bust, there are several others that have fast-tracked their way to unimaginable success.

In this kind of a milieu, there are others whose main aim is to fulfil a particular need working within the society for the society. It could be imparting a particular skill or service so as to empower the have-nots with jobs and livelihoods, thus ensuring that they stand on their own feet. Sometimes, the benefactors are business leaders themselves who want to give back to society, letting their entrepreneurial light shine on and guide the wannabes. Or it could be just about anybody who wishes to make a change in the lives of other less fortunate people.

It always irked Arun Goyat, 36, that more doors opened for students from IITs and IIMs when it came to placements in reputed IT companies. He had studied in a tier-2 college and this had dented his employment opportunities a bit. After a four-year stint in HCL, he started his venture GTS, which did well for five years, but lack of funding led to its closure. Finally, his experiences on the job front and his entrepreneurial flair led him to start Code Quotient in Mohali. "I put forth a proposal to the Kurukshetra University in Haryana, saying that I would train their students and they would have to provide the infrastructure. This went on for about one-and-a-half years with other colleges too asking me to train their students.

This is when Code Quotient came into place," says Goyat, adding that in tier-2 and tier-3 colleges, there is no proper learning and placement facilities making it an uphill task for the students to secure a job. From 9 am to 7 pm, students at Code Quotient occupy themselves with brushing up on the fundamentals and then the latest in web development. The last two months are spent working on software development projects, allowing the students to understand the practical application. "We have a 90-95 per cent success rate as far as placements are concerned with a ratio of three teachers for every four to five students. On getting a job, the student has to part with 20 per cent of the annual pay package. Training is entirely free," reveals Goyat. He cites the case of a student, Rahul, who was unsure whether to go into programming or networking.

We helped him decide, and today he draws an annual salary of ₹8 lakh. Some students drop out as they cannot handle the pace, he adds. Come January, Goyat plans to start 'Super Coder' wherein 30-40 students from tier-2 and tier-3 colleges will be taught about the newest technologies free of cost. There are also plans to go online with a pilot project coming up in several colleges in Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh.

In the case of 25-year-old engineers Pawan Sharma (Noida) and Ayush Agarwal (Gurgaon)—both from farming backgrounds education provided the bulwark to construct their dreams and hopes on. The duo found a way to get back to their roots helping in the bargain hundreds of farmers eke out a profitable living, courtesy 'Kaushal Gram'.

Whenever Sharma got an occasion to visit his village, he saw the pathetic conditions the farmers laboured under and vowed to improve their lot. "Both Ayush and I used to teach at an orphanage which is where I first met him and bound by our mutual interest in farming, we decided to help the farming community at large," says Sharma. They travelled across the villages of Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh trying to understand farmers' dilemma. Later, they researched about the various kinds of farming in the world and combined successful practices from different farming philosophies. "We realised that natural farming was the best and cost-effective too. For instance, farmers who were spending ₹10,000 per bigha on fertilisers and pesticides need to spend just ₹500 by resorting to organic fertilisers," explains Sharma.

Also, crops grown organically would fetch a better market price. However, convincing the farmers was a big task. "We got around that by showing videos of farmers who had adopted natural methods and gained rich dividends, besides training them in the technical aspects of natural farming—how to make fertilisers, selection and sowing of seeds, etc," says Sharma. Through 'Kaushal Gram' on YouTube, they have reached out to 1.5 lakh farmers, besides using technology to impart useful farming information, courtesy SMS to their cell phones, the cost of which is borne by them. Creating a low-cost biogas plant and solar dryer are the other achievements to their credit, pooling in as they do 1/5th of their monthly income to keep the business up and running. Next on their agenda is the tribal area of Chitrakoot in Uttar Pradesh where they want to acquaint farmers with sustainable farming methods.

In Mumbai's Dharavi, local tourism has been inducing winds of change in the lives of financially-strapped students—those moonlighting as tour guides support their education and family. Their benefactor is Dharavi resident Fahim, who employs students in his venture, 'Be the Local Tours and Travels'. Shares Fahim: "We employ students who are financially weak and whose dream is to study well. Our guides are also provided loans at zero per cent interest rate for educational purposes or to meet any family emergency."

The idea occurred to Fahim on account of the struggles he had experienced as a student studying in third grade. His father became mentally ill and the onus of supporting the family fell on him. His dream of getting a BCom degree came to naught and hence Fahim wanted to make sure that other students did not suffer a similar fate. Shan, the company's manager, explains how they quickly skill the students.

"We train the students for only two to six months depending on each one's competence. Knowledge of English being imperative, we give them practical training without going too much into grammar and initially they

accompany experienced tour guides to see how it is all done. I remember once a student asking me the meaning of champagne.” That the enterprise has come as a boon to poor students is hardly surprising. “Razak lost his father at an early age and his mother was working as a domestic help. He has now completed his master’s and is working with TCS,” shares Fahim, beaming with pride. High up in the mountains, another tourism venture is making a positive impact on the lives of the people there.

Spiti Ecosphere, a socially responsible tour operator, focuses on local livelihoods, conservation and sustainable development in the trans-Himalayan valley. Says founder Ishita Khanna, “We plan responsible tours across the valley which means we calculate our carbon footprint per travel and offset it by our green initiatives. After meeting administration expenses, all the revenue earned is plowed back into the community.”

Take, for instance, the sustainable agro practices in the valley where growing vegetables is a challenge. Villagers have to trek all the way to Kaza, the main town, to buy produce. “To solve the problem, we decided to build greenhouses with the families for whom it is built providing the labour, while the cost is borne by us,” says Ishita, adding that people now grow tomato and spinach—a staple in their cuisine—as well as radish and other vegetables. Some 20 solar geysers have also been installed. Another green initiative is simple architectural enhancements made to the local homes called solar passive houses. These are structures insulated with glasses and double walls so as to trap the heat inside as against the practice of burning wood to stay warm. Minus 30 degree temperatures are brought down to 10 degrees, courtesy this method. Snow is the lifeline to Spiti ecology; so they are developing check-dams along the stream at a particular interval so that water starts accumulating behind the dams and forms glaciers, explains Ishita.

The timeless heritage of Indian art and crafts might find itself on its way out, but for the effort of countless organisations, which are championing its cause vigorously. Rangсутra is one such company, comprising artisans spread across Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. “Our goal is to ensure sustainable livelihoods for artisans and farmers, by creating top quality handmade products based on the principles of fair trade. Profits earned from sales go back to ensure a better life for the communities, as producers are shareholders in Rangсутra,” says founder Sumita Ghose, who was always keenly interested in the welfare of the underprivileged ever since she was a young girl growing up in Mumbai.

Sanjoy, who was to be her husband later, was studying for a degree in rural development at Elphinstone College and it was no surprise that their career trajectories coalesced. Sanjoy started the URMUL Trust whose activities encompassed community health, nutrition and clean drinking water. During the 1987 famine, a wool-spinning project was started to provide income to rural women, which later turned into an income-generating project for spinners and weavers in western Rajasthan. Village sangathans (collectives) accelerated the growth with several URMUL organisations in place all led by local people.

After Sanjoy’s death at the hands of ULFA militants, Sumita started Rangсутra being funded by the artisans themselves with 1,000 of them pooling in `1,000 each. The company now has 2,000 artisans who are shareholders and Sumita works with them closely, from the point of creating designs to selling the end products to the consumer. “A company share, framed and prominently displayed on the wall of an artisan’s hut in rural Rajasthan, signifies a small but important transformation taking place in the lives of craftspeople,” says an elated Sumita.

Similarly, Banka, a small town in Bihar, which once boasted a great weaving tradition and whose weavers had been reduced to penury, was put on the international map, thanks to the efforts of Udyan Singh, a civil engineer-turned-social entrepreneur. Says Singh: “Banka lost its sheen in the face of mounting debts faced by the artisans and hardly any government recognition. Each weaver would work with a middleman and the finished product would be sold as a one-off item without a distinctive trade identity to back it up.”

Riding piggyback on the once famous Banka name, Singh started Banka Silk in 2015 providing the artisans an instant identity boost. Next, the products were displayed at various exhibitions, trade fairs and fashion shows to create awareness and build the Banka brand. Now, a handloom cluster is to be put into place—an ecosystem that focuses on handloom research, design and creation and training of the local artisans and craftsmen in Banka. “I source out designs that will make the products suited to the contemporary market, finance the buying of raw material for the weavers and link them to the market,” says Singh.

Artisan Tarzan is all praise for Singh who he says put an end to the woes of the weavers. “Earlier middlemen profited from our labour; now we work directly for the customer. The visibility and recognition that Banka Silk has received has meant that the government now gives us benefits,” he shares.

A BPO flourishing in the rural sector with women forming the mainstay of the organisation—that is not a pipe dream, rather it pans out as a lucrative business model with tremendous societal impact. That’s Desicrew, founded in 2007 with its base in Chennai and delivery centres in rural Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. Co-founder Ashwanth Gnanavelu says, “We route the work to the rural centres situated in tier-2 towns and villages, and working in shifts ensures that we cater to global clients round the clock.” Desicrew employs rural youth with a minimum qualification of 12th pass with free training provided for shortlisted candidates. They are absorbed into the company depending on the training outcome, shares Ashwanth. For most Process Transitions,

'crewmates' have been certified by the clients. "The rural team members even worked on a GIS activity, which involved plotting data on digital maps.

Though they had not travelled outside of Tamil Nadu, they ended up working on over 75 countries," smiles Ashwanth. Women form 70 per cent of Desicrew's workforce, handling all functions across the management and being critical to the operations. "They have shattered several local barriers such as working across shifts, travelling on-site for training and being a reliable workforce. We have young homemakers, college freshers most of whom are first-generation knowledge workers. With the incomes generated, the marriageable age of girls has come down considerably," he says.

Some 1,000-km away from Chennai, in the beautiful Sunderbans region of Kolkata, another organisation is striving to create digital livelihoods for youth from impoverished communities. That's Anudip Foundation, established in 2007 with its first three centres being set up in Sundarbans, Joynagar and Joka in West Bengal's South 24 Parganas district. Anudip's CEO and founder Dipak Basu shares, "Our first centres were teaching prototypes launched in partnership with community NGOs, with Anudip providing faculty, training equipment, student mobilisation, training and placement services." Now, Anudip runs its own centres, all 150 of them, spread across West Bengal, Jharkhand, Odisha, Bihar, Delhi/NCR, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, and has expanded to Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra.

More than 70,000 students have benefitted from Anudip's market-aligned training. Explains Basu, "We first examine the education levels in at-risk communities along with the skill needs of the new-age employees in the internet company. Feedback and recommendations from the employers help us customise our curriculum to help job-aspirants fill the skill gap. Using latest technologies, the company offers best-of-class affordable skilling courseware ranging from basic IT skills, concept of hardware and software, MS Office applications, social media, mobile apps, analytics, cloud computing to financial and digital literacy."

English, personality development and entrepreneurship training are also thrown in for good measure. Later, the students are placed in various companies. Anudip has a tie-up with 300-plus employers from all over the country and organises monthly recruitment drives called DISHA. "In the past five months, 1,000-plus students have been shortlisted and given job-offers from multiple employers at DISHA," says Basu. Anudip, which completes a decade this year, has now embarked on a three-year strategic initiative called Digital Inclusion of Young Aspirants (DIYA) so as to digitally equip 100,000 students by 2020.

When a global philanthropic network has community improvement on its mind, you can be sure of good tidings all around. That's SVP International, which is seeking to bring about a transformational change in philanthropists, leaders and communities with 40 SVP-affiliated organisations in nine countries. Each SVP invests in its local community, but is linked to the global movement perpetuated by SVP International. SVP India was started five years ago with convener for SVP Pune, Ganesh Natarajan (former Vice-Chairman and CEO of Zensar Technologies), having been invited to join the international board last year. On SVP's India presence—now centred in Mumbai, Pune and Bengaluru—Natarajan threw light on the Million Jobs Mission, an endeavour to bring together global partners with expertise in design, funding and implementation so as to create an ecosystem to train and empower one million people in the country by 2020. "We have already started identifying 15 NGOs with plans to create 1,000,000-plus sustainable livelihoods each in the next five years," says Natarajan, whose successful corporate career is well matched by social triumphs such as family foundation, Natarajan Education Society, and other ventures such as 5F World and Global Talent Track.

Skilling India might well be all that it takes for India shining to be a reality.

### **IKEA to set up first Indian store by 2018**

Swedish home furnishing major IKEA is set to open its flagship store in India by Spring 2018, while it scouts for more land parcels in select cities. Work on the 1,000-crore facility located in the IT hub of Hyderabad, has gathered pace, so has the firm's efforts to step up sourcing from India.

Taking media persons through IKEA's journey in India and the upcoming store site, Patrik Antoni, Deputy Country Manager, IKEA India, said: "Apart from Hyderabad, we have acquired land in Mumbai and Bengaluru, and are scouting for land in Delhi-NCR, Pune, Ahmedabad, Surat and Kolkata. While the Hyderabad store will be ready by Spring next year, work on the Mumbai project will commence in November." IKEA is in the process of setting up a 250-seater contact centre in Hyderabad by November. Simultaneously, it is working to set up the country's first experience zone in Forum Mall here, he said.

### **1,000-seater restaurant**

"When the store gets launched, out of the more than 10,000 items in it, more than 800 will be India-specific. We will also have a 1,000-seater restaurant, our biggest in any IKEA store across the world," said John Achillea, Managing Director, IKEA Telangana.

“We have embarked on a recruitment drive for the store and expect to induct about 800 people for the Hyderabad store in a phased manner. “The restaurant will serve both Swedish and Indian dishes, including the meat and veggie balls popular among IKEA store visitors worldwide. To provide the visitors with the authentic local touch, IKEA also plans to serve biryani and other Indian dishes,” Achillea said.

Explaining about IKEA’s over 32-year-long association, Antoni said: “Even though we are setting up our first store in the country only now, we have been sourcing a number of products for our global operations.”

#### **Local sourcing**

“The regulations mandate that local sourcing should be about 30 per cent, we will start with initial 4-5 per cent and gradually ramp up as we develop a chain of suppliers. We recently added two new suppliers, including a mattress maker, whose products are now being sold through stores in several other markets,” Antoni said.

The company has been making home visits in India, as it does in other global markets. During such visits, it seeks to understand and offer products that suit local requirements. In tune with its plans, IKEA expects to offer metal plates, tavva and other kitchen items, bamboo furniture and textiles that are made according to the Indian taste.

### **Facebook aims to train 5 lakh people on digital skills by 2020**

CHENNAI: In a bid to help entrepreneurs start and scale up businesses besides imparting digital skills to job seekers, social networking giant Facebook said it would train some five lakh people in India on digital skills by 2020.

It unveiled two programmes on Wednesday, Facebook digital training and Facebook startup training hubs. “India is poised to have a digital economy worth \$1 trillion by 2022. We believe the best way to prepare India for this digital economy is by providing tools, knowledge, and skills people need to succeed,” said Ritesh Mehta, Facebook’s head of programmes, India and South Asia.

According to him, these tools will help people learn digital skills and enable entrepreneurs and small and medium businesses in digitising their business. Apart from these two, Facebook also runs offline training programmes as well as Blueprint (free online training for advertising on Facebook). “Through all these initiatives, we hope to train more than half-a-million people in India by 2020,” he said adding that more than 51,700 SMBs have been trained by Facebook in India, including 12,000 women entrepreneurs, through Boost and SheMeansBusiness. Facebook is working with organisations like Digital Vidya, EDII, DharmaLife and StartupIndia to develop the curriculum that is designed to work in low network strength regions as well. The digital training hub of the US-based company will provide free social and content marketing training for anyone – from students to business owners, who is looking to develop digital skills.

The curriculum includes social media basics, how to build and create an audience, how to create content, how to measure online activity and how to stay ahead of the curve. It will also help people learn skills such as personal branding, digital storytelling, consumer behaviour and reputation management. On the other hand, the start-up training hub will help developers and tech start-ups build better products and businesses. It will cover a range of subjects including how entrepreneurs can protect their ideas, how to hire, how to go about getting funding, regulations and legal hurdles an entrepreneur needs to consider, among others.

### **PMO orders review of 34 game-changer schemes stuck in pipeline**

NEW DELHI: The slack pace of implementation of the 34 game-changer schemes promised in this year’s Budget appears to have unnerved the government, which has now decided to tighten the screws. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has ordered a full review of these projects.

Sources said there were at least nine schemes where action had not yet been initiated. The ministries concerned have been asked to prepare a detailed power point presentation on the status of the proposals, which will be examined by the PMO and the Cabinet Secretariat soon.

Top sources in the PMO said the purpose behind the exercise was to arrest the policy paralysis that seems to have crept in certain Central departments. Around 20 proposals floated by the government last year will also come up for scrutiny.

Documents accessed by the *New Indian Express* revealed that at least 19 schemes promised by Modi since the BJP came to power in 2014 are still in the pipelines.

On top of the review list is the proposal for jobs and skill training of youth, which has been a matter of concern for the government for some time. The Skill Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement (STRIVE) programme was proposed at a cost of Rs 2,200 crore, with focus on improving the quality and market relevance of vocational training.

The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has been directed to submit a detailed response on its progress. The Cabinet had last month approved STRIVE along with SANKALP, which aims to provide market relevant training to 3.5 crore youth. The second proposal to be reviewed is on creation of five special tourism zones by the Ministry of Tourism in partnership with the respective states to generate more employment.

The Ministry of Railways has been asked to update the PMO on the plan to list on the stock exchanges the shares of railway PSEs like the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC), the Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) and IRCON so as to unlock the true value of these companies.

Also up for review will be a Ministry of Social Justice scheme for the uplift of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, where little headway has reportedly been made though the government had provided Rs 52,393 crore in the Budget, an increase of ` 13,000 crore from earlier allocation.

The ministry was also expected to launch a pilot project for issuing Aadhaar-based Smart Cards to senior citizens containing their health details. The status of the project, to be launch in 15 districts by the year-end, will come up for discussion, too.

The PMO and Cabinet Secretariat will discuss the new law to confiscate the property of economic offenders who flee India. The government is keen to ensure the passage of the draft Fugitive Economic Offenders Bill 2017, which was recently cleared by the Ministry of Law, in the upcoming winter session of Parliament.

At least five projects of the Railways will also be reviewed. These include safety works on unmanned railway crossings, 70 projects being developed in partnership with 9 states, redevelopment of 25 stations by the year-end and feeding about 7,000 stations with solar power.



## **‘EAC has clear road map to create jobs’**

### **PM’s economic advisory council also working on an economy tracking monitor**

The Prime Minister’s Economic Advisory Council said on Friday that it had spelt out a ‘clear road map’ for the government to ramp up job creation and infrastructure financing avenues while investing more resources in health, education and skill development.

While it did not reveal any details of the roadmap, the Council headed by NITI Aayog member Bibek Debroy said in a statement that it had also begun work on designing a new tracking monitor for the economy that would link economic growth indicators with social indicators, as well as improving the country’s National Accounts.

Taking the idea further, the Council also sought to set a similar tone for the Fifteenth Finance Commission which would recommend the formula for sharing taxes between the Centre and the States and the allocations that each State would receive, for the five-year period between 2020 and 2025.

“It formulated far reaching recommendations to guide the evolving framework for the Fifteenth Finance Commission, including the incentivisation of States for achieving Health, Education and Social Inclusion outcomes,” the PMEAC said in the statement.

#### **‘Evolving initiatives’**

The Council also did not share any assessment of the present state of the economy, but said it ‘took stock of the economic and social analysis done by the theme groups and evolving initiatives’ led by its different members. Key issues, strategies and recommended interventions in respect of these themes were discussed, the statement added. “Innovative steps for unlocking growth, exports and employment potential were also deliberated upon — including through transformation of India’s gold market,” the Council said.

While it was set up in September and met on Friday for only the second time since its inception, the Council said its “unique feature is turning out to be its ability to link economic growth with social aspects, with greater last mile connectivity.” “Its value addition as an independent institutional mechanism for providing informed advice to the Prime Minister is increasingly being recognised, with focused time-bound recommendations to move from policy to practice, benefiting from consultation with a wide spectrum of experts and stakeholders,” the Council said.

The Council’s chairman stressed on the need for according high priority to infrastructure financing and made a presentation on the issue with a focus on developing new mechanisms for a risk coverage umbrella, the statement said. Another NITI Aayog Member Vinod K Paul is said to have highlighted strategies for achieving ‘Swastha Bharat’ by 2022 at the meeting attended by other Council members Surjit Bhalla, Rathin Roy, Ashima Goyal and Shamika Ravi and Ratan P. Watal. Mr Watal, who is a former finance secretary, made a presentation to ‘demystify’ issues related to the current account deficit and the gold market.

## **Environment**

### **It’s time to make deep emission cuts**

#### **The prospect of limiting global warming through ‘negative emissions’ is bleak**

Human activities, the collective choices we have made to deploy fossil fuels and change land uses, are responsible for the release of greenhouse gases (GHGs) and associated global warming. In 2016, the earth’s temperature was 1.3°C warmer than in pre-industrial times — as warm as in the Eemian interglacial period some 125,000 years ago — when sea levels were 6-9 metres higher than they are today. More dishearteningly, even if countries take the action they promised at the Paris climate change conference in 2015, the world would be about 3°C warmer by 2100, well above the 2°C temperature guardrail to avoid dangerous climate change.

#### **Negative emissions**

Clearly, the current pattern of increasing emissions (which reportedly grew at the rate of 2.6% per year during 2000-2015) needs a rapid phase down. But the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) indicates that the earth can stay below 2°C. Closer examination reveals that many of the integrated assessment models used to study future scenarios and emissions assume that the world would somehow make use of significant amounts of ‘negative emissions’. These are ways to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, or even change the earth’s radiation balance through geoengineering. These negative emissions in the models are used in addition to increasing use of renewables and improving the efficiency of energy services.

## **CO2 emissions must be nil by 2070 to prevent disaster: U.N.**

Some of the approaches that could remove or absorb carbon dioxide in the atmosphere are better agricultural practices that leave carbon in the ground, use of biochar, undertaking afforestation and reforestation. One method that is widely discussed is bioenergy for fuel in combination with carbon capture and storage (BECCS). This involves the use of plants as fuel. The released carbon dioxide is then captured and safely stored indefinitely. However, due to competition for land for food and other purposes, and due to technological limitations, this approach is believed to be inappropriate for extensive use.

Other methods to suck carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and increase carbon dioxide absorption by the oceans are also being explored, but their long-term implications are not clear. Some scientists have been discussing the possibility of injecting cooling aerosols at a large scale in the atmosphere, but these geoeengineering technologies pose huge risks and are also not long-term solutions.

Many scientists have voiced concern about over-reliance on BECCS and other large-scale engineering strategies, noting that these reflect political expedience rather than knowledge. If BECCS and other approaches for negative emissions fail, we are likely to see a 4°C increase in global temperatures. In their recent Climate Policy article, Alice Larkin and her colleagues estimate that the cost optimisation models being used for these analyses are overly optimistic about negative emissions in the future.

These models also fail to consider equity dimensions and social and technological barriers. As a result, they pose a severe risk to society, especially to the poorest countries, which will experience the worst impacts of climate change. The irony is that these poor countries have emitted the least amount of GHGs.

India's greenhouse gas emissions up by 4.7% in 2016

There is also fear that policymakers do not fully recognise that widespread deployment of negative emissions is a central assumption in many climate models and the scenarios that are now being advocated to keep to a 2°C rise. A society that places most of its eggs in the negative emissions basket will likely face catastrophic choices. Negative emissions also create a moral hazard problem, where we expect (future) others to bail us out while we continue to lead profligate lives.

This situation complicates an already immense problem and implies that near-term reductions in GHG emissions should receive more and immediate attention. If negative emissions become feasible in future, they could help the world stay on course in reducing warming, but this cannot be assumed while we are running short of the carbon space available to dodge dangerous climate change.

## **Peak emissions**

Another critical scientific finding is that even if global emissions were to go down to zero by 2050 through some Herculean feat, there would be considerable amount of warming that the world is already locked into. The adverse effects of these would be severe and difficult to adapt to. This is already in evidence all over the world with several seasons of intense storms, droughts, floods, fires and their aftermath, meaning that any further delay in reducing emissions would put at risk many more lives, livelihoods and investments for decades to come.

According to Kevin Anderson and Alice Bows, the elephant in the room is that economic growth as usual cannot be reconciled with climate impacts, especially as Earth continues to warm. Scientists, they urge, need to speak openly and freely about the dangers of climate change without leaning on euphemisms. Climatologist James Hansen has also brought up the dangers of scientific reticence in the past, particularly in the context of sea level rise.

Policies therefore need to support practices that successfully keep carbon in the ground, prevent deforestation, support agricultural practice that sequesters carbon and promote sustainable land use practices that reduce emissions. We also need a carbon tax — various models for these have been discussed. 'Lifestyle' and other consumption activities that may have hitherto been outside the radar of climate policy because they disturb the status quo or are difficult would have to be considered. Policies should nudge especially the more prosperous communities towards less carbon intensive lifestyles, either through taxes or incentives or both. Otherwise, today's largely policies would merely shift current problems on to the shoulders of future generations.

# Child rights

## Islamic schools in Pakistan plagued by sex abuse of children

Kausar Parveen struggles through tears as she remembers the blood-soaked pants of her 9-year-old son, raped by a religious cleric. Each time she begins to speak, she stops, swallows hard, wipes her tears and begins again. The boy had studied for a year at a nearby Islamic school in the town of Kehrore Pakka. In the blistering heat of late April, in the grimy two-room Islamic madrassa, he awoke one night to find his teacher lying beside him.

"I didn't move. I was afraid," he says. The cleric lifted the boy's long tunic-style shirt over his head, and then pulled down his baggy pants. "I was crying. He was hurting me. He shoved my shirt in my mouth," the boy says, using his scarf to show how the cleric tried to stifle his cries. He looks over at his mother. "Did he touch you?" He nods. "Did he hurt you when he touched you?" "Yes," he whispers. "Did he rape you?" He buries his face in his scarf and nods yes. Parveen reaches over and grabs her son, pulling him toward her, cradling his head in her lap.

### "Infested" with sexual abuse

Sexual abuse is a pervasive and longstanding problem at madrassas in Pakistan, an AP investigation has found, from the sunbaked mud villages deep in its rural areas to the heart of its teeming cities. But in a culture where clerics are powerful and sexual abuse is a taboo subject, it is seldom discussed or even acknowledged in public. It is even more seldom prosecuted. Police are often paid off not to pursue justice against clerics, victims' families say. And cases rarely make it past the courts, because Pakistan's legal system allows the victim's family to "forgive" the offender and accept what is often referred to as "blood money." The AP found hundreds of cases of sexual abuse by clerics reported in the past decade, and officials suspect there are many more within a far-reaching system that teaches at least 2 million children in Pakistan. The investigation was based on police documents and dozens of interviews with victims, relatives, former and current ministers, aid groups and religious officials.

The fear of clerics and the militant religious organizations that sometimes support them came through clearly. One senior official in a ministry tasked with registering these cases says many madrassas are "infested" with sexual abuse. The official asked to remain anonymous for fear of retribution; he has been a target of suicide attacks because of his hard position against militant groups. He compares the situation to the abuse of children by priests in the Catholic Church. "There are thousands of incidences of sexual abuse in the madrassas," he says. "This thing is very common, that this is happening." Pakistan's clerics close ranks when the madrassa system is too closely scrutinized, he says. Among the weapons they use to frighten their critics is a controversial blasphemy law that carries a death penalty in the case of a conviction. "This is not a small thing here in Pakistan. I am scared of them and what they can do," the official says. "I am not sure what it will take to expose the extent of it. It's very dangerous to even try." His assessment was echoed by another senior official, a former minister who says sexual abuse in madrassas happens all the time. He also doesn't want his name used because he too has survived suicide bombings due to his stance on militants. "That's a very dangerous topic," he says. A tally of cases reported in newspapers over the past 10 years of sexual abuse by maulvis or clerics and other religious officials came to 359. That represents "barely the tip of the iceberg," says Munizae Bano, executive director of Sahil, the organization that scours the newspapers and works against sexual abuse of minors.

In 2004, a Pakistani official disclosed more than 500 complaints of sexual assaults against young boys in madrassas. He has since refused to talk, and there have been no significant arrests or prosecutions. Religious Affairs Minister Sardar Muhammad Yousaf dismisses the suggestion that sexual abuse is widespread, saying such talk is an attempt to malign the religion, seminaries and clerics. He says he was not aware of even the cases reported in the newspapers, but that it could occur occasionally "because there are criminals everywhere." Yousaf says the reform and control of madrassas is the job of the interior ministry. The Interior Ministry, which oversees madrassas, refused repeated written and telephone requests for an interview.

The case of Parveen's son was one of at least three within a month in the towns of Kehrore Pakka and Rajanpur in Punjab province's deep south, according to police reports. Another incident involved the drugging and gang rape of a 12-year-old boy asleep on his madrassa rooftop by former students. And the third was of a 10-year-old boy sodomized by the madrassa principal when he brought him his meal. The cleric threatened to kill the boy if he told. The AP is not naming the children because they are victims of sexual abuse. The fear of clerics was evident at the courthouse in Kehrore Pakka, where the former teacher of Parveen's son waited his turn to go before a judge. A half dozen members of the radical Sunni militant organization Sipah-e-Sahabah were there to support the teacher. They scowled and moved closer when an AP reporter sat next to the teacher, who was shackled to a half dozen other prisoners. The whispers grew louder and more insistent. "It's too dangerous here," said one person, looking over at the militants nearby. "Leave. Leave the courthouse, they can do anything here." The teacher had already confessed, according to police, and the police report said he was found with the boy. Yet he swore his innocence in court. "I am married," he said. "My wife is pretty, why would I do this to a kid?"

### **How madrassas work**

There are more than 22,000 registered madrassas or Islamic schools in Pakistan. The students they teach are often among the country's poorest, who receive food and an education for free. Many more madrassas—small two or three-room seminaries in villages throughout Pakistan—are unregistered, opened by a graduate of another madrassa, often without any education other than a proficiency in the Quran. They operate without scrutiny, ignored by the authorities, say residents living nearby. Parveen's son, for example, went to an unregistered madrassa.

Madrassas are funded by wealthy business people, religious political parties and even donors from other countries, such as Saudi Arabia. The teachings of the madrassas are guided by schools of Islamic thought, such as Shiite and Sunni. However, unlike the Catholic Church, which has a clear hierarchy topped by the Vatican, there is no central religious authority that governs madrassas. There is also no central body that investigates or responds to allegations in religious schools. "Basic responsibility, when something happens, is with the head of the madrassa," says Mufti Mohammed Naeem, the head of the sprawling Jamia Binoria madrassa in the city of Karachi.

There are between 2,000 and 3,000 unregistered madrassas, Naeem says, which makes central oversight even harder. The government has launched a nationwide effort to register madrassas. The "keepers" of madrassas are also notoriously reluctant to accept government oversight or embrace reforms, according to IA Rehman of the independent Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, which makes sexual abuse harder to prevent.

"This is one of those things, you know, which everybody knows is going on and happening, but evidence is very scarce," he says. He adds that the power of the people who run the madrassas has increased over the years. As the religious right has grown stronger in Pakistan, clerics who were once dependent on village leaders for handouts, even food, have risen in stature. With this rise, reporting of sexual abuse in madrassas has trickled off, said human rights lawyer Saif-ul Mulk. Mulk has police protection because of death threats from militants outraged by his defense of a Christian woman sentenced to death for insulting Islam. "Everyone is so afraid of the mullahs today," he says.

### **Police help the mullah**

The fear that surrounds sexual abuse by clerics means that justice is rare. The payoff from offending mullahs to police means that they often refuse to even register a case, says Azam Hussain, a union councilor in Kehrore Pakka. And the families involved are often poor and powerless. "Poor people are afraid, so they don't say anything," Hussain says. "Police help the mullah. Police don't help the poor. ... Poor people know this, so they don't even go to the police." This is particularly true in Punjab, Pakistan's largest province, where more than 60 percent of its 200 million people live. Even Pakistan's own Punjab provincial anti-corruption department in a 2014 report listed the Punjab police as the province's most corrupt department. Police say they investigate when a complaint is made, but they have no authority to take a case forward when the family accepts money, which often happens. The family of a boy who says he was repeatedly assaulted sexually by a cleric in a Punjab madrassa talks about their tussle with police.

## **Dalit boy abducted and killed**

### **Police arrest father-son duo and their accomplice**

In a shocking incident, a 17-year-old Dalit boy was beaten up, abducted and killed allegedly by a caste Hindu family at Vaikom Periyar Nagar near Silaiman here on Wednesday. Though Silaiman police initially registered a case of kidnap on Wednesday, they subsequently altered the case as murder after the body of the deceased, A. Sekar, was found near the area with multiple cut injuries and bruises.

According to the police, Sekar and his family, which now resides at Ellis Nagar in Madurai, were previously residing at Vaikom Periyar Nagar. The family shifted to Ellis Nagar allegedly after an issue broke out between his family and the family of S. Muthupandi (23), a caste Hindu, who was in love with Sekar's sister, the police said. Meanwhile, when Sekar went to Vaikom Periyar Nagar reportedly to see his friends on Deepavali day, Muthupandi's family picked a quarrel with him. As the family allegedly started beating him up in public, some of the residents in the area alerted the police. Muthupandi and his family, however, fled the spot in a vehicle, taking Sekar along with them.

N. Manivannan, Superintendent of Police, said his body was later found by the police with injuries caused by some sharp-edged stones. The police have booked Muthupandi, his father P. Samydurai (48) and B. Selvakumar (25) for kidnap and murder based on the complaint by Sekar's father S. Arockiadoss. Mr. Manivannan said all the three accused had been arrested

## **Minor girls raped by man, son rescued in Tirunelveli**

Tirunelveli: In a shocking case of incestuous rape, officials from the district child protection unit (DCPU) rescued a 12-year-old girl and her nine-year-old sister who were raped on multiple occasions by their father and 16-year-old brother near Uvari here. The police arrested the father late in the evening and were quizzing him while efforts were on to nab the boy.

District child protection officer (DCPO) B.S. Dev Ananth told TOI that the father had raped his elder daughter many times over the last four months. Last week, his son who had watched his father's act, started raping his younger sister. The incident came to light when the DCPU got a call on Tuesday morning from a villager near Uvari, 70 kilometres from the city. On the advice of the DCPU, the villager rescued the girls when the man and his son were not at home and took them as well as their deaf and dumb mother to a rescue home. DCPU team members who reached there were shocked to hear the girls narrate their ordeal before taking them to the Uvari police station. The women members of the rescue team gave counselling to the traumatised girls before taking them to the Tirunelveli medical college and hospital as they had suffered external injuries. Inquiries revealed that theirs was a family of five and that their 47-year-old father was a mason. Their son dropped out of school after completing ninth standard and was working in a fancy store in the village. The victims were studying in sixth and third standard respectively at a private school in the locality and had not gone to school regularly from the beginning of this month. Dev Anand said that the family lived in a single room rented house where initially the man used to sexually abuse the mother in the presence of the three children.

"Then he started raping the elder daughter while the other members of the family watched. He beat the mother when she tried to intervene and stop the inhuman act. However, her disability prevented her from sharing her trauma with others. The 12-year-old said that her father used to come home only once a week and sexually abuse her. She said that her father used to come with jasmine flowers and this was a hint that she will have to suffer that night," the DCPO said. Seeing him, the minor boy has been raping his nine-year-old sister over the last four days. Uvari police who probed the case said that cases would be registered against the man and his son under sections of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

## **Child rapes up 82% in 2016, UP records a 400% jump**

NEW DELHI: Instances of child rape increased by 82% in 2016 in comparison to the previous year. Uttar Pradesh registered a four-fold increase in such offences with the number of child rapes going up from 596 in 2015 to 2,115 last year, according to the latest report of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

The report, released Thursday, showed that 19,920 children were raped last year in comparison to 10,934 in 2015. Overall crimes against children saw the highest rise of 13.6% in 2016. Such crimes have been continuously on the rise over the past three years. "Crimes against children have shown increasing trend over the past three years with significant increase of 13.6% (1,06,958) in 2016 over (94,172) in 2015. Kidnapping and abduction of children accounted for 52% of the cases followed by cases under POCSO," a release issued by the home ministry said.

POCSO stands for Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, which came into effect from 2012. Maharashtra reported the highest number of child rapes at 2,467 in 2016, followed by Madhya Pradesh at 2,292. The report also shows an over 50% rise in cases of abduction and kidnapping in 2016 in comparison to the previous year. In a first, last year's crime report has included feticide cases, which were at 144. It's not just crimes against children which saw an increase, but also number of crimes committed by juveniles increased during 2016 by 7.2%.

Rapes by juveniles increased from 1,688 in 2015 to 1,903 last year, an almost 13% jump. Similarly, the number of murders, kidnapping, abduction and thefts increased last year, the report shows. The MHA release said: "20.6% (7,369) of cases under juvenile in conflict with law were reported in MP followed by 18.4% in Maharashtra (6,606) during 2016."

According to the report, 9,932 juveniles held guilty last year were released on probation and placed under care of parents or guardians, while 10,019 were sent home after advise or admonition. More than 60% children who went missing in 2016 were girls, most of them in Bengal (15.1% out of 1,11,569). Across states, police had traced 55,944 children by the year end.

## **SENIOR CITIZENTS**

### **Tamil Nadu has 2nd highest number of elderly murdered in country**

CHENNAI: In November last year, Chennai woke up in shock to the news that two elderly women, both living alone, had been murdered in their homes in separate incidents. While the motives were different, they highlighted the vulnerability of senior citizens in the city and the state to crimes, a fact proved by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) statistics for 2016, released on Thursday.

NCRB figures show Tamil Nadu is one of the least safe for the elderly in the country, accounting for 13.5% of all crimes against senior citizens and placing third in the pecking order. While 174 senior citizens were murdered in the state in 2016, second highest in the country, 117 robberies were reported against senior citizens. The number of total crimes fell from 2,121 in 2014 to 1,947 in 2015 but again soared to 2,895 in 2016.

While these figures are alarming, figures show TN has a higher percentage of senior citizens compared to other major states. While senior citizens comprise more than 10% of TN's population, Maharashtra, which leads the country in crimes against senior citizens (4694), has less than 10%. Madhya Pradesh, second on the list with 3,877 crimes against senior citizen, and has an elderly population of less than 8%. Based on the crime rate, defined as crime per one lakh of population, TN comes eighth among states. But many elderly here say policing isn't enough.

Senior Citizens of Besant Nagar (SCOBN), a group of elderly in Chennai, meets regularly to discuss security issues. The group also launched an emergency panic button for elders on October 25. From 2012-2016, the senior citizen helpline (1253) received more than 50,000 calls but less than 1% were referred to police for action, figures from Right to Information (RTI) petitions filed with the Chennai police show. Police say they

have strengthened patrolling and all city police stations have been directed to collect details of senior citizens living alone. "Beat officers have to visit the homes of senior citizens and get their signatures. Visible policing helps reduce crime," an officer said.

A senior police officer said beat patrolling personnel were assigned to enumerate the elderly in their neighborhood after the murder of psychologist Emma Gonsalvez at her in Egmore apartment. However, he said, "We don't get enough cooperation from senior citizens despite trying to build a good rapport and sharing the numbers of beat police personnel." Very few among the elderly seem keen on seeking police help, preferring to stay indoors and interacting with people of their age in the neighborhood.

## **PEACE ITI SKILLS FOR FREEDOM**

### **Children's Day Function:**

On 16<sup>th</sup> November Children's Day celebration was organized. A special address was given the Principal of Peace ITI, Ms. Josephine Mercy Baskar. She recalled the wonderful memories of the inaugurated year of ITI and its constant growth from each course. She asked the students to uplift our institution fame by keeping the morality. A speech competition was conducted and prizes were distributed to the winners.



### **CPP (Child Protection Policy) Programme:**

A CPP committee meeting was arranged for the first time on 17<sup>th</sup> November. This CPP committee purpose is to bring code of conduct among students and to hear their issues and if the issue is negligible then they can solve through the committee leader or else they can take to their CPP Staff leader who is Ms. Poopandiammal. For each trade a leader was selected. The second meeting was conducted on the 24<sup>th</sup> and they were asked to discuss about their issues also we planned to conduct this meeting twice every month to aware the students about their own issues and to follow the ethics.



### **Industrial Exhibition:**

An Industrial Exhibition was organized by JCI in the PVK Mahal, Dindigul for 3 days ie., November 17 to 19. Our students of ITI were taken to the exhibition on 17<sup>th</sup> November and they got a big exposure through this by seeing all the industrial stalls.



## **YOUNG WORKERS PROJECT**

### **Children's day programme**

Project has organized children's day programme in all the 6 clusters. Young workers project celebrated Children's Day programme in Panchayat Union Primary School of Sokkalingapuram village of Nathapatty Panchayat on 14-11-17. All the speakers have highlighted the consequences of hazardous working condition on the young people. Members of the community support group of Sokkalingapuram requested the students not to go to mill work under Sumangali scheme or in any other tactic scheme. Later cultural programme and sports were conducted. Prizes were distributed to the children at the end of the programme.



### **Curriculum Development Training-Short Film "Priya Call me"**

A short film on young mill workers was shown to the members of the community girls and CRC volunteers in Kurumbapatty village. They made a review of the film after the show they commented that the sexual harassment to the girls working in the mills. People happen to see this film would not send their children to mill work. On the whole this film is more educative on the real problems of girls working in mills

### **Training for working support group members**

Two Meeting on ICC & health and safety was organized in spinning mills such as L.P.K.Lakshmi and D.P.N. The objective of the awareness sessions was to make the workers aware of safety measures in their occupation and ways to protect and promote their health conditions. Mill workers Internal Complaints Committee Meeting in 2 mills was conducted. They were given training on ways of reconciling their problems facing them in and around mill.



### **Workshop on action research**

Workshop on IDS Action research was organized for 3 days (20-22 November) at PVK Hotel for the 2 field staffs and 4 community members.



### **Community Support Group meeting**

The monthly meetings for the members of the community support group in all the target 40 villages regularly organized during this reporting period. Members have made door to door visit to families whose children are toiling as laborers' and motivated them to send their children again to school.

### **Field visit in Pudukottai**

Mr.BalaMurugan, Mrs,Thiruppurasundari Program Managers Geneva Gobal, Ginny Baumann, Senior Program Officer, Freedom Fund visited the project on 16<sup>th</sup> Nov. Team Visited Pudukottai village, met adolescent girl mill workers, school going adolescent girls.



### **Field visit done in Kurumbapatty**

Mr.BalaMurugan, Mrs, Thiruppurasundari Program Managers Geneva Gobal, Freedom Fund and Lush foundation team members visited the project on 29<sup>th</sup> Nov. Team Visited Sinduja spinning mills and, met adolescent girl mill workers, school going adolescent girls members discussion with Film based curriculum training.



# PEACE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

## SHAKESPHERE CLUB

Shakesphere club was organized on 18<sup>th</sup> November. The head of the English Language Panel Ms. Thilagavathi highlighted the main purpose of the meeting is to discuss on the yearly activities which the panel should carry out to improve the mastery of English language among the student Teachers.

The matters arising are,

- ❖ To make an aware on mass media for the development of language.
- ❖ Make a relationship between mass media and oral communication.
- ❖ The importance of mass media in the state of teaching language in the class room.
- ❖ LSRW (Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing – Basic fundamental of language) skills and its date to day usage.

Notable elements in the club are Quiz, some games and Macbeth story



## INFINITE CLUB

On 25<sup>th</sup> November Infinite club was organized. Ms. Mebila, student of Infinite club ( Maths Major) has coordinate the event. Mr. Xavier Selva Kumar, Asst. Prof. in Physical Science, the Chief Guest of this programme has notified the importance of Maths in present competitive world. Some fun games like, Make Triangle, Find me, Balloon Pushup etc., were conducted. Finally, prizes were distributed to all the winners.



## **THOPPU SAPPADU**

On 25<sup>th</sup> November we celebrated the occasion “Thoppu Sappadu”. We decided to conduct the event on every fourth Saturday of the month to engage our students in some other motivational element apart from Education. Our teacher trainee cooked the food and served to all the trainees. Unity is the ultimate aim of this programme and it was reached through this event.



## **SPSC VEEF CENTRE, NAGAPATINAM**

The two project which were launched in this month for our VEEF centre to support the youth are,

### **DDU GKY (Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Koulshaya Yojana):**

Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) is the skilling and placement initiative of the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India. SPSC VEEF Centre had submitted a proposal for 3 Trades and finally one trade, namely, Basic Automotive Servicing 4 Wheeler (limited modules of existing Two and Four wheeler Mechanic course with more focus on Four Wheeler mechanic) is sanctioned to train 200 students duration of 3 months. In Tamil Nadu, only a few NGOs got selected for DDU-GKY based on their performance and track record and we are one among them.

The program has been scheduled to commence in the first week of December 2017. One hundred youths have been shortlisted for the first batch.

### **HSBC Skill for Life Program :**

SPSC VEEF centre submitted a proposal to HSBC (Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation) under HSBC Skill for Life program. The aim of the project is to provide Capacity, Vocational Skill and Entrepreneur Development Training to underprivileged adolescents from a rural background to be skilled and to

become self reliant. Promoting livelihood options for the rural youth employment generation is one of the important objectives of the present project for the sustainable development.

The project got sanctioned with a target of 480 underprivileged youths from rural and urban background in Nagapattinam, Tiruvarur districts of Tamil Nadu and Karaikal District of Pondicherry, to provide skill training in Beauty & Wellness for 240 trainees and Training on BFSI (Banking, Financial Services and Insurance) for 240 trainees.

## **Skill Training (Skill Yathra) Awareness Program**

On October 04, 2017 the officials from TamilNadu state Rural Livelihood Mission and DDU - GKY Skill Training Centre, Velankanni at 10.30 am inaugurated the Skill Training Awareness Campaign Vehicle. The vehicle was decorated with flex banners of the program including fitment of lights and audio equipment. This vehicle was flagged off by the Collector to make awareness programs of Skill India in 73 Panchayats of the District. This will give a wide coverage to our skilling programs within the rural populace. IEC materials in the form of leaflets have been printed by the collectorate for distribution in the rural areas.



Now the plan is to spread awareness in the villages by conducting daily blockwise meeting. People of all panchayats of Nagapattinam District will be covered. These meetings are mandatory in order to increase the enrolment percentage. The cluster coordinators will coordinate the enrolment process. On October 12, 2017 a Skill Mela was held in the Skill Training Campus in which the collectorate staff attended. This gave a boost to enrolment of youths in Skill Training. With a wider awareness amongst the rural populace, enrolment increased to make the program effective.



## **Skill media at DDU - GKY Skill Training Centre campus:**

ON DECEMBER 12, 2017 The DDU- GKY Skill Training Awareness Campaign was flagged off by the Collector of Nagapattinam District from the Collectorate on October 04, 2017. This Campaign vehicle visited all the 73 Panchayats of the district. The Campaign culminated by conducting a Skill Mela at the DDU - GKY Skill Training Centre from 9am to 5pm on December 12, 2017.

The candidate alongwith their parents assembled at the venue. DPIU - Nagapattinam and Peace Trust welcomed the participants. A four tier method of registration was done for the candidates which includes filling up of KaushalPanjee, an online portal. The total of 63 youths were enrolled from various Panchayats includes Vedharanyam, Thalainayaru, Keezhaiyur, Nagapattinam, Thiruvarur and Thirumarugal.



## **Pasumai 90.4 FM**

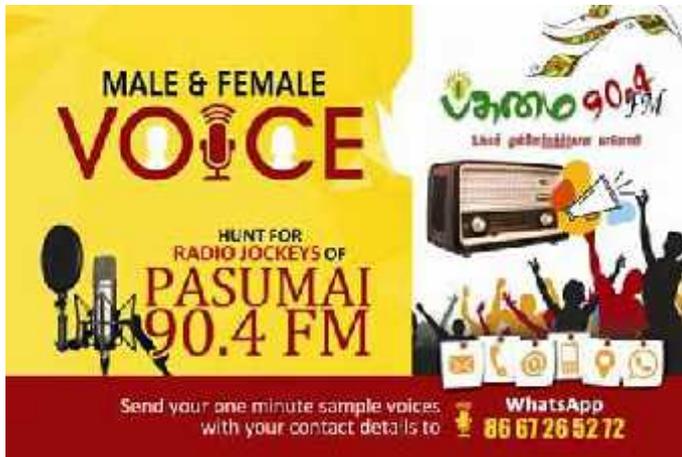
On 18<sup>th</sup> November a live programme of the Fancy Dress competition held at VidhyaParthi School in Dindigul was broadcasted in the pasumai FM. Many students eagerly participated dressing like famous personalities and roles also they gave interview on our Pasumai FM with their pretty little voices.

On the same day Parvathi Anugraha International School had conducted a skill based competition. A personal interview was conducted with all the students, correspondent and teacher and the interview was broadcasted. They focused this competition for the talented skilled students to be thrown on light and their aim came true by the presence of enthusiastic talented children who showed their skills in multiple ways and that are presented in Pasumai FM by which they got a great fame among the Dindigul listeners.



## New Venture:

**Pasumai FM** is giving an opportunity for the young talented dynamic voices. The selected candidates will be given one month training. If there are any known persons they can be nominated by contacting us. This is a great opportunity for the aspirants who are in the aim to become an Audio Jockey in our Dindigul. The aspirants can send their one minute audio clipping to our whats app number which was mentioned in the advertisement.



We are also giving an opportunity to become a Video Jockey for young vibrant aspirants in our new great launch of **Pasumai TV** in Dindigul. We welcome Fresher also. Any known person can be nominated for this opportunity so that the needy can use by sending their sample video clipping to the whats app no. mentioned in the advertisement.

