

# 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.

- 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.
- 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".
- SPSC Vocational Education & Employment Facilitation Centre provides access to vocational education and employment facilitation for rural poor youth in Nagapattinam, Thiruvarur District Tamil Nadu and Karaikal District, Puducherry.
- Peace Trust also provides training for Quality Teacher Education and gainful employment to young women from resource poor families in Dindigul and Karur District.
- Peace Trust has also been broadcasting Pasumai FM community radio.
- Peace Trust is actively engaged in building the capacity of youth aspiring for Government, Public Sector, Bank job
- 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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**We partner with**



# **MIGRANTS**

## **MIGRANTS AND GERMANS CAN LEARN FROM EACH OTHER: ANGELA MERKEL**

Chancellor Angela Merkel says newcomers to Germany must learn the country's values and customs, but that Germans can also learn from them. More than 1 million asylum seekers have arrived in the past two years, and Germany's been working hard on integration.

Speaking in her weekly podcast, in a question-and-answer form with a Syrian journalist who arrived as a refugee in 2015, Merkel emphasized migrants need to respect Germany's values of "tolerance, openness, freedom of religion and freedom of expression" and also "be a little curious about our way of life."

On the flip side, Merkel says Germans should be open, and "seize upon it as a possibility to learn and experience more."

Merkel meets with three organizations next week to thank them for their help with migrants.

## **SUPREME COURT JUNKS PLEA SEEKING ACTION AGAINST ILLEGAL BANGLADESHI MIGRANTS IN INDIA**

The Supreme Court has junked a PIL seeking action against illegal Bangladeshi migrants whose influx, the petitioner claimed, has affected the sovereignty and integrity of the country.

A bench headed by Chief Justice J S Khehar dismissed the petition filed by an NGO which claimed that 20 million illegal immigrants from Bangladesh have taken shelter in India.

"Heard counsel for the petitioner. The instant petition has been filed as a cause in public interest. We find no ground to entertain the instant petition under Article 32 of the Constitution of India. The writ petition is accordingly dismissed," the bench said.

The apex court was hearing the PIL filed by NGO Satyamev Jayate seeking action against illegal immigrants from Bangladesh and other foreign territories.

"Direct the Election Commission of India to initiate action to efficaciously and expediently identify and strike off the names of such electors from its rolls who are otherwise disqualified under Section 16 of the Representation of People Act, 1950," the plea said.

The apex court had in March asked the Centre to release funds for fencing the India-Bangladesh border to check cross-border influx into Assam, saying the task has to be completed soon.

It had passed the order after perusing the Centre's status report on the progress made in the works relating to securing and fencing the international border, and said the Madhukar Gupta Committee would "oversee and supervise" it.

## **1M AFRICAN MIGRANTS MAY BE EN ROUTE TO EUROPE SAYS FORMER UK ENVOY**

Warning comes as EU struggles to stem the flow of migrants through the Mediterranean and deal with appalling conditions in detention camps



Migrants gather at the Tripoli branch of the Anti-Illegal Immigration Authority. Photograph: Mahmud Turkia/AFP/Getty Images

As many as one million migrants are already on the way to Libya and Europe from countries across Africa, the former head of the British embassy in Benghazi has warned. The warning by Joe Walker-Cousins, head of the UK's Libya mission between 2012 and 2014 comes as European governments struggle to find a response to the flow of migrants from the Mediterranean, and the appalling conditions in detention camps run by traffickers or the Libyan government.

More than 590 migrants have drowned on the central Mediterranean route in the first three months of this year, and the overall number reaching Italy from Libya has risen. The International Organisation for Migration estimates 21,900 refugees reached Italy in the first three months of this year, up from 14,500 last year. A total of 181,000 refugees reached Italy from Libya last year, and with little sign of an effective unity government being formed in Libya to combat the militia-organised trafficking, mainstream European politicians are facing a massive challenge.

Walker-Cousins said the EU's efforts to train a Libyan coast guard operating in inland waters was "too little and too late along the pipeline". He said: "My informants in the area tell me

there are potentially one million migrants, if not more, already coming up through the pipeline from central Africa and the Horn of Africa.”Last year 179,000 of the 181,000 African refugees in Italy were picked up outside Libyan coastal waters either by the Italian navy, the EU border agency Frontex or by NGOs.

He said it was better to take “capillary action” 1,400 km to the south on Libya’s porous land borders rather than on the coast – which he described as “a stone’s throw from their final destination of Europe.”In a severe blow to Rome, the Libyan supreme court last week rejected an Italian-Libyan memorandum of understanding signed in February that was intended to empower Italy to train the Libyan coast guard to take a more active role by boarding ships and sending back refugees spotted in Libyan coastal waters.

The Libyan court ruling said the UN-backed Libyan Government of National Accord (GNA) did not have the legal authority to sign the memorandum with Italy since it has not been recognised in Libya as a legitimate government. The GNA, theoretically in power in the west of Libya for a year, has not been able to win the support of the Libyan parliament the House of Representatives, a precondition for its legitimacy in the eyes of the court. Although the court ruling is being appealed, the judgment has left a main plank of the EU’s Libyan refugee policy in limbo.

The crisis has also prompted EU leaders to study new plans first to speed up asylum processing in Italy, and then to offer new financial incentives to countries such as Nigeria to take back rejected asylum claimants. Nigeria would also be given a quota of visas for its workers to come to Europe. The new refugee package has been developed by the influential European Stability Initiative (ESI), and is being examined by governments across the Mediterranean. It is in part based on the EU-Turkey refugee agreement signed in March 2016 which has in the space of a year seen a dramatic fall in the number of migrants trying to reach Europe from Turkey through Greece.

Under the plans being submitted to governments in Greece, Malta, Sweden, Germany, France and Italy, new EU-funded reception centres in Italy would process all asylum applications within a minimum of four weeks, as opposed to the current three months or more. Any rejected asylum applicant would then be sent back to their country of origin if that country was deemed safe. Libya would be excluded since it could not be classified as safe.

Studies show that as many as 75% of Nigerians reaching Italy via Libya, the largest group of migrants, are deemed to be economic migrants. The number of Nigerians reaching Italy via Libya has risen from 9,000 in 2014 to 37,550 in 2016. By contrast, nearly 90% of refugees from countries such as Eritrea are being granted asylum.

## **THE MIGRANT SLAVE TRADE IS BOOMING IN LIBYA. WHY IS THE WORLD IGNORING IT?**

ESI chairman Gerald Knaus said: “Unless we do something there will be a record number of people drowning and suffering. There is little that we can do about the root causes of migration from Africa in the foreseeable future.” “We have to ... find a concrete alternative, and the best is based on the EU taking on a responsibility for speeding up the processing of claims in Italy.

Knaus said it was also critical to ensure that Nigeria, Senegal and other countries, after a specific date, agreed to take back their nationals who do not qualify for protection, saying this should be the chief priority in talks between the EU and African countries of origin – similar to the commitment Turkey made to take back without delay people who arrived in Greece after 20 March 2016. Many African countries have been reluctant to prevent the flow of migrants to Europe partly due to the vast remittances migrants send back to their countries.

Specific “take back” agreements between the EU and African countries of origin would focus only on those who arrived in Italy after these agreements entered into force, reducing the impact on current remittance flows. In return the EU would offer these countries concrete benefits, including scholarships and annual visas. The EU has already provided Turkey with more cash than the entire US government refugee program budget, yet the EU has stumped up only \$400m (£318m) for its Africa program.

Many human rights groups have criticized the EU-Turkey deal, partly due to the appalling conditions in the reception centres in the Aegean Islands, the lack of security, the slow processing and the belief that Turkey is not a safe country for refugees to be returned. As of 20 March, only 10,000 asylum seekers had left Greece for other European countries. But the agreement has seen the number of refugees reaching the Aegean islands fall from 2,000 per day in January and February 2016, to 40 per day in 2017.

The number of deaths by drowning has fallen from 320 to single figures. Around 1,000 refugees have been sent back from Greece to Turkey, less than 90 a month. Lawyers for Justice in Libya director Elham Saudi said of the Libya deal: “It is wrong for the EU to enter into an agreement with a country that has no concept of asylum and no refugee protection. The EU knows that torture, rape and killing occur in these camps. Even the basics are not there – there is no registration, there are no records, there is no one counting them, there is no legal process, there is no access to a lawyer, there is no accountability, there is nothing. It is a facade and yet the EU celebrates this agreement which is a way of being complicit in torture.”

### **KATHIMERINI: GREECE TO ACCELERATE RETURN OF MIGRANTS TO TURKEY AS ARRIVALS PICK UP ATHENS.**

As the inflow of undocumented migrants to the islands of the eastern Aegean rises with the improving weather, the government is planning action to ease the pressure on increasingly overcrowded reception centers, Kathimerini writes. In the coming days, Migration Minister Yiannis Mouzalas is expected to issue circular, banning migrants who appeal against a rejection of their application for political asylum from a voluntary repatriation scheme being run by the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Meanwhile police on the islands are boosting efforts to locate and detain migrants who face deportation to Turkey in line with an agreement signed last year between Ankara and Brussels.

### **TAKE IN MIGRANTS OR LEAVE, EU TELLS HUNGARY AND POLAND**

Brussels wants to relocate 160,000 migrants from southern EU countries MATT CARDY/GETTY IMAGES Germany, France and up to 21 other countries will give an ultimatum to Hungary and Poland this year demanding that they accept their quota of migrants or get out of the EU. Hungary has led a rebellion against the quotas with a challenge in the EU courts and by pushing for a “cultural counter-revolution” against the centralisation of powers in Brussels.

Poland has ignored the European Commission’s criticism and tried last month to veto Donald Tusk, a former Polish prime minister, from being reappointed president of the European Council. Both countries have ignored proposals introduced by the EU in 2015 to relocate 160,000 migrants who had arrived in southern EU countries to other member states to ease the impact of the flood of migrants.

# TRAFFICKING

## SLAVERY IS A BIGGER PROBLEM THAN EVER



Sarah Bond from 3 Strands Global discusses human trafficking during ARC's College Hour. (Photo by John Ennis)

Even with slavery abolished, America still has a slave problem. Today there are currently 21 million slaves in the world, more than ever in recorded history, according to the International Labor Organization. Seven percent of these slaves are from the 'developed economies,' North America, Canada, and the European Union.

Three non-profit organizations have banded together to inform and prevent trafficking. 3-Strands Global, Love Never Fails, and Frederick Douglass Family Initiatives have come together to create Protect.org, a coalition trying to educate on how to prevent this crime.

A speaker from 3-Strands Global, Sarah Bond, spoke and educated on the subject on March 30 during the school's College Hour. UNITE hosted the College Hour.

According to Bond, "3-Strands Global's" vision is to see a world free from trafficking, and their mission is to "combat trafficking through sustainable employment, education, and engagement initiatives. They're doing this because "Human Trafficking is not okay," and "everyone can make a difference," Bond said.

According to the ILO, human trafficking is a \$150 billion dollar industry, with \$9.8 billion coming from the U.S. It is the third largest and fastest growing criminal empire.

One-Hundred Thousand people are estimated to be forced into sexual exploitation in the United States, according to ILO. To put that into perspective, that number of people is about what fills up a football field. Bond said that fifty percent of these people are women, and the other half are children.

Bond said the average age of trafficked victims is between 14-15 years old.

According to Bond, most prostitution cases are forced, and “very few people choose it [prostitution],” she said. Some of the time it’s a case of ‘bonded labor,’ which is where the victim owes their trafficker money, and so they are forced by the trafficker into prostitution for a debt that never goes away, or until they’re life is expended.

Victims have a seven year average life expectancy in sex trafficking, Bond said.

“This is happening all around us,” Bond said. Three of the major Trafficking cities in California are San Francisco, Los Angeles, and San Diego.

According to 3-Strands Global, some of the signs of trafficking include victims avoiding making eye contact, unwillingness to give name, signs of drug use, few or no personal possessions, missing school, a graphic online profile, physical abuse, and presence of an overly controlling partner. For prevention, they advise to be cautious of social outings, “trust your inner voice,” and always tell others where you are or where you are going.

For those looking to help, visit [3-strandsglobalfoundation.org](http://3-strandsglobalfoundation.org), [protectnow.org](http://protectnow.org), or [fdfi.org](http://fdfi.org).

For those looking for confidential help, text HELP or INFO to BeFree (233733), or call 1.888.373.7888 to reach 3SG’s trafficking hotline.

### **RPF RESCUED 68 RUNAWAY CHILDREN IN MADURAI DIVISION**

MADURAI: A total of 68 children who ran away from their homes were rescued by the Railway Protection Force (RPF) across Madurai railway division in 2016-17 and travelling public were asked to alert officials in case they spot children travelling alone in trains. Presiding over the railway child protection committee meeting held here on Wednesday, additional divisional railway manager, P V Muralikrishna said there are several children who run away from their homes for various reasons and use railways as a mode of travel. Such children need care and protection for which the child protection committee meetings are conducted. He also said that railway passengers must inform about missing or lonely children in the coaches with the help of child protection posters and helpline number 1098. Security commissioner, M F Mohideen said during 2016-17, the RPF personnel rescued 68 runaway children and handed them over to their parents/child helpline on 18 occasions.

Speaking on the occasion child protection officer, M Viviliya Raja said that child protection office and other members will render all assistance to the railways and requested the officials to grant permission for issuing leaflets to passengers on the station premises and also to stick posters for child protection in trains to create awareness among the commuters.

### **INTERNATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING RACKET BUSTED, THREE HELD**

## **ACCUSED WOULD CHARGE TEENS FROM PUNJAB 10 LAKH TO MOVE TO EUROPE, CREATE FAKE PASSPORTS FOR THEM**

Mumbai: Acting on a tip-off about a gang of human traffickers operating in the city, the Mumbai Police Crime Branch has busted an international racket in which teenagers from India were being sent to Europe under false identities using passports and visas obtained with forged documents. The police have arrested three people and taken four teenagers into custody, and more arrests are expected.

According to crime branch officers, the Anti-Robbery Dacoity Cell received a tip-off that the accused would be attempting to take some minors abroad on either Wednesday or Thursday. Accordingly, ARDC personnel were stationed at the international airport's T2 terminal on both days.

Additional Commissioner of Police (Crime) K.M.M. Prasanna said, "On Thursday morning, our officers saw two men and a woman with four young boys at the airport and stopped them on suspicion. One of the men identified himself as the boys' father, while the woman claimed to be their mother. They said their surname was Pawar. However, when our personnel spoke to the boys in Marathi, they were unable to answer, so they were detained for further inquiries."

### **Punjab-Europe via Mumbai**

During questioning, the suspects confessed that they were illegally taking the four teenage boys to Europe. On being grilled further, the trio, identified as Arif Farouki, 38, Rajesh Pawar, 47, and Fatima Ahmed, 48, disclosed the racket's modus operandi.

Mr. Prasanna said as per the version given by the suspects, an agent based in Punjab would put the accused in touch with youngsters who wanted to go to Europe. The racketeers charged each 10 lakh and would bring them to Mumbai. The youth would be put up in a small room in Kurla while the accused made forged documents under false names for them, and obtained passports and visas using these documents. Once the visas were ready, the accused would take them to Europe, but would always use connecting flights to avoid detection. On Thursday, the accused were going to take the boys to Addis Ababa in Ethiopia and then on to Paris from there.

On reaching Europe, they would leave the boys in the care of their contacts there, or instruct them to go to shelter homes run by Indians for orphans and uncared-for minors. They were instructed to stay there till they turned 18, after which they could apply for citizenship.

“The accused would make sure they took away the boys’ passports and visas after dropping them off and destroy them. We are still verifying if the parents of these youngsters sent them willingly or if they were duped,” Mr. Prasanna added.

The police said Farouki, who is the main accused in the case, runs a still photography studio in Kurla, while Rajesh Pawar is an assistant cameraman in the film industry. Fatima is a hair stylist who claims to have worked with prominent Bollywood directors. Pawar and Fatima were the ‘couriers’ who would take the youngsters to Europe, while Farouki was the mastermind.

The accused confessed to have sent at least 15 to 20 teenagers abroad in this manner. The police are now on the lookout for the Punjab-based agent and are investigating if this racket is active in other cities.

## **BONDED LABOUR**

### **KARKALA WOMAN RECRUITED FOR QATAR, SENT TO SAUDI AS ‘BONDED LABOUR’**

MANGALURU: The Human Rights Protection Foundation (HRPF), Udupi, has appealed to public to be wary and avoid 'unregistered recruiting agents' after they came across a case a woman from Karkala, entrapped for about 10 months in Saudi Arabia, almost working as a bonded labour. Foundation president Ravindranath Shanbhag said Jacinta Mendonca, 46, from Karkala, with three children in their teens pursuing education, landed in Saudi Arabia through a sub-agent, James from Mangaluru, who had assured her a house maid's job in Qatar for a salary of Rs 25,000 per month. She left from Mumbai to Qatar on June 19, 2016, but landed in Yanbhu, Saudi Arabia.

There, she had to look after 10 children of three wives of the Saudi employer and was required to work for over 16 hours a day. In the process her health deteriorated and her pleas of inability to complete the work fell on deaf ears. Shanbhag said on two occasions she was physically assaulted by the employer and his family. Somehow, in December 2016, she was able to contact her children in India with the help of some of the Indian vehicle drivers in the township and inform them of her sad plight. The shocked children rushed to all and sundry, who they thought might help them. In spite of the best efforts of the secretary of Indian Embassy in Riyadh Jacinta could not be contacted over the telephone numbers she had provided her children.

On December 30, 2016, they approached Shanbhag. Though they were able to get the numbers of the sub-agent James and main agent Shabha Khan from Mumbai, there was no much headway. The HRPF lodged with Mangaluru police. Even though the police caught hold of James, no information whatsoever was forthcoming from him. At the end of January, 2017, HRPF contacted the NRI Forum Bengaluru and through them the Indian Embassy in Riyadh once again. This time, they could get the details of the Saudi employer. The employer asserted he had "obtained her services" for two years by paying SAR 24,000 (Rs 5 lakh) to the Indian agent Shabha Khan. The employer said she can be sent back if the sum was refunded to him. The HRPF then sought services of Sushma Swaraj, minister of external affairs on March 28. Within 24 hours of contacting her, a senior official contacted the HRPF and took all necessary particulars. Shanbhag said they are eagerly awaiting action and return of Jacinta, but they don't know when. On speaking to Jacintha, HRPF also got info that with her there were two other women - Jane and Diya - commuting in the same flight whose whereabouts are still unknown. Jacintha also had told Shanbhag that same agents had sent four women in April and five women in May to Middle East whose details aren't known as yet.

Shanbhag said : Almost 15 persons are going abroad every month and there's no registered recruiting agent here. Its akin to human trafficking and government should take a note and bring culprits to book.

## **PEARL ACADEMY TRAINS WOMEN INMATES OF TIHAR PRISON FOR A LIFE BEYOND THE BARS**

How long is a prison term in India? The number of years is immaterial, but the stigma is forever. The shadow of a convict follows him, often rendering him less eligible for a job after spending years in a cell. It doesn't prepare him for a world that has probably changed while he was away. But there are a few rays of hope starting to shine in our country. Pearl Academy along with Tihar Jail has set-up the *Fashion Lab*, which will train the women inmates in various skills to help them cope with life and not return to the confinements of another (figurative) jail.



“Even though there are various programmes going on in the prison like carpentry, candle making, etc, most of these inmates have nowhere to go or nobody willing to employ them once they are released. But we are reaching out to the fashion industry to help them find a job. Even our students have assured us that they will hire them, once they get their independent projects,” says Professor Nandita Abraham, CEO of Pearl Academy. The certificate course, spanning a period of four weeks, trains the women inmates in tailoring, embroidery etc. Nandita also points out that the curriculum has been designed to cater to the needs of the industry and that the lab has been set-up with state-of-the art equipment.

Even though the Fashion Lab was inaugurated in February, the programme has been running for about three months now. The course is mentored by a full-time Pearl Academy trainer; the lab also becomes the stage for one-day workshops held by the students and faculty of the institute. “The trainer also gives them training in life skills like starting a business, setting up a stitching unit, etc, which would be of great help to them in the future,” she adds.

### **38 LABOURERS RESCUED FROM BRICK KILN IN KOLAR DISTRICT**

#### **SPECIALLY AMONG THEM, 32 WERE BONDED LABOURERS AND REMAINING CHILDREN**

In an operation conducted by revenue officials, 38 labourers were rescued from a brick kiln in Lakkur under Malur police limits in Kolar district on Thursday.

A team of officials led by Assistant Commissioner C.N. Manjunath conducted the raid on NBW Brick Factory owned by Srinivasappa and rescued six child labourers and 32 bonded labourers. “All the rescued are from Bolangir district of Odisha. Arrangements are being made to send them

to their native,” Mr. Manjunath said. The raid was carried out by the team consisting Malur tahsildar Girish and revenue inspector Narayanaswamy after receiving a letter by the district authorities from the Chief Secretary of Karnataka.

The brick kiln owner has been accused of harassment by restricting movement of the workers and their families. Damayanthi, wife of a worker, who is in her eighth month of pregnancy, was not allowed to go to her native for delivery. This is a glaring case of how the kiln owner was exploiting the workers, Mr. Manjunath said. Cases under provisions of the Prevention of Bonded Labour Act and Child Labour Act have been registered against the kiln owner. Some of the workers, who managed to return to their villages in Odisha in the past, explained their ordeal to the local authorities there. The Odisha authorities wrote a letter to the Chief Secretary of Karnataka, who in turn directed the Kolar Deputy Commissioner to take action, Mr. Manjunath said.

Release certificates will be issued to the workers and their wages will be settled. They will be sent to Bolangir by train on Friday morning, he added.

## **NITI AAYOG TO PRESENT NEW APPROACH**

### **THE FIVE-YEAR PLAN FOLLOWED FOR MORE THAN SIX DECADES ENDED IN MARCH WITH THE 12TH PLAN**

Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi will chair the meeting of the governing council of NITI Aayog on Sunday, where a new three-year policy action plan to replace the old system of five-year plans will be discussed.

Besides the new planning process, the council is likely to take up for discussion issues such as increasing farmer incomes and urban development. According to a senior government official, the three-year action plan will also include a strategy to spruce up the law and order situation.

“This is the first time that an economic policy document will also focus on judicial reforms and how to improve law and order and the police system. There will be an entire chapter dedicated to it,” the official added.

The Aayog’s Governing Council will meet at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on Sunday. “A presentation will be made on the three-year action plan which has been sent to the Prime Minister,” the official said, adding that the Aayog’s Vice Chairman Arvind Panagariya will apprise the council of the activities undertaken over the past year by the Aayog.

The practice of five-year plans, being followed for over six decades, ended with the 12th Plan that concluded on March 31 this year. NITI Aayog which was set up in December 2014 after

abolishing the Planning Commission, will now come out with a 15-year vision document that is to be supplemented by a seven-year strategy and three-year action plans.

The Council, that includes all chief ministers as members, will be presented with “detailed plans on doubling of farmers’ income.” The Prime Minister had in February last year urged all state governments to give priority to boosting the agriculture sector with a target of doubling farmers’ income by 2022.

“For the short-term, the Aayog is likely to recommend measures such as direct purchase from farmers by private players, direct sale by farmers to consumers, to allow farmers to get the larger share of the prices that the end consumer pays. One of the long term strategies will be to encourage farmers to move to high-value products such as Animal Husbandry and Fishery,” the official said.

#### Report card

The Aayog is also likely to place before the council a report card on its two years as an institution. “NITI Aayog is a new institution and should be seen that way... The Planning Commission wrote and implemented five-year plans. We don’t. We will soon put out three-year action plan and a 15-year vision document,” Mr. Panagariya said on Friday.

“It has a different way of thinking. The Planning Commission used to also allocate funds to the states.... Our relation with the states is more equal,” he said.

# AWARENESS

## AIDS AWARENESS PROGRAMME

A timely needed programme was specially organized on 07.04,2017 by FLAME TRUST and PEACE TRUST Dindigul to promote proper awareness among the students of PEACE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION and PEACE ITI and for providing proper guidance to youth regarding killer disease HIV/AIDS, in the presence of the Chairman, PEACE TRUST and the principal, PEACE ITI. Fr. Sahaya Doss Director of FLAME TRUST, Dindigul, displayed a short play through power point about the root courses of AIDS and how to combat this faceless epidemic. The guest invitees enlightened the students in detail as summarized as follows, that everybody knows HIV/AIDS is spreading all over the world sporadically, and further explained that it is more dangerous than any other diseases just because of its incurability. They added also that it is a grave thing that adolescents are becoming more vulnerable for HIV/AIDS. It is also explained in detail by the guest speakers about the symptoms of AIDS, Methods of spreading and prevention of spreading, precautionary methods of AIDS and its warning signals. Since this epidemic strikes relentlessly at people in the prime of their life, it can be overcome and defeated only if we work together at all levels without fear. It is also vital to offering refusal services and to cope with the treatment of HIV patients instead of being scared and remaining shrouded in ignorance, social relations to people with AIDS remain shocking and enlightened that an individual affected by cancer or heart disease is a "PATIENT" deserving sympathy, while one afflicted with HIV is always a "VICTIM", that is why the adolescent with scientific information, knowledge and life skills to protect themselves from HIV infection. The special guest speaker Mr. Lenka explained about the preventive measures of this killer epidemic through story telling. Finally, Mr. Babu Dasan. Project coordinator of FLAME TRUST, with his team mates, motivated the students with nativity art of "Bommallattam" (Doll Dancing) with songs and conversation about this killer epidemic.

This special programme has awakened the students to realize for bringing a healthier and stronger society free from all deadly diseases, especially AIDS, in future. By conducting awareness programmes like their AIDS, the deadly disease will have to be eliminated to the level of "GETTING TO ZERO" in our country very shortly.

Minutes of Lecture on Justice P.N. Bhagawathi Endowment Lecture held on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at Gandhigram Rural Institute, Dindigul.

Prof. Dr. G. Palanithurai, Welcomed the members, and all the speakers, and participants actively participated in the Endowment Lecture. He highlighted the purpose of the Indian Institute of Academic of Law and Human Rights. He gave more importance to that, and he presented the

awareness about environment and also highlighted the important aspects He told that Dr. E. M. Sudharsana Natchiyappan donated worth about Rs. 6, 00,000 to 10, 00,000 for opening the computer lab in Gandhigram Rural University.

Dr. S. Natarajan, Vice Chancellor, Gandhigram Rural Institute, To welcomed all the guests and also shared about Dr. E.M. Sudharsana Natchiyappan who donated the huge amount to Gandhigram to open a Computer lab, Students Class Room, Students hostel

And Peace Trust Chairman Dr. J. Paul Baskar explained in detail about the functioning of Pasumai FM.

### **Orientation on TET:**

One day Training program held on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at Peace College of Education, Vitalnayakkanpatti, and Dindigul. This has been conducted by Dr. J. Paul Baskar, Peace Trust.



Mrs. Prema, the Vice Principal of Peace College of Education, welcomed the members and all the who attended the programme.

Mr. Samadharna Pandian, Section Officer, Food and Consumer Protection Department, gave special input to Peace College of Education students on TET pattern. B.Ed in 2016-17 Peace College of Education and Young Workers Project

Dr. J. Paul Baskar, Chairman, Peace Trust, outlined that every candidate has the basic rights to live free from violence and discrimination with their legal benefits. This program is really evolved a good response among the candidates with positive approach is being transformed in their minds.

Finally the Chairman wished all candidates for their bright Future and honored the Chief Guests. Mr. V. Nandhakumar, IRS, Inaugurating the small session at 12.00 PM was on guidance to the

candidates participating TET Exam. The highlight of the forenoon session addressed by motivational speakers and also candidates. Mr. Nandhakumar, IRS, who explained the candidates about neutralizing the problems which they face in their academic and personal life.

The Afternoon Session started with the address of Ms. K. Ramani Vijayakumar, she showed the Power point presentation which contain the preparation and guideline for TET Exam.

Finally, Mr. A. Srinivasan, Project Manager, Young Workers Project of Peace Trust, to proposed vote of thanks.

### **Seminar on HOW TO PREPARE GOVERNMENT EXAM:**

One day Training program held on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2017 at Peace College of Education, Vitalnayakkanpatti, and Dindigul. This has been conducted by Dr. J. Paul Baskar, Peace Trust.

Ms. Pavithra, Young Workers Project Team, Welcomed the members and all the Speakers and Participants and to actively.

Mr. Samadharna Pandian, Section Officer, Food and Consumer Protection Department, Proposed cost free Training Program for candidates, who have finished any degree attempting to cater to a wide range of students appearing for all sorts of examination. According to the class Training Program and lunch was sponsored by Young Workers Project Team.

Dr. J. Paul Baskar, Chairman, Peace Trust, facilitated the function. There are plenty of coaching centers are available for competitive exam for preparation. This program is really evolved a good response among the candidates with positive approach is being transformed in their minds.

Finally the Chairman wished all candidates for a bright Future and Honoring the Chief guests.

Dr.V.P.B. Paramasivam, MLA of Vedasandur, when inaugurating the long session said the candidates to work had for GOVT Exam and Employment opportunities available in the present. The highlight of the forenoon session addressed by Mr. Paramasivam, MLA who will explain to the candidates and neutralizing the problems and they face in their academic and personal life. This is why I thought there should be a platform where students preparing for the exam. I realized that there would be many others like larger peer group and get their doubts clarified in an easy manner, so, it helps that, these people who have successfully attempted the exam.

The Afternoon Session started with the address by Ms. K. Ramani Vijayakumar, and most of the college and school visit only leads students to select their workplace and she explained the candidates about how to prepare for GOVT Exam, which was presented as power point presentation. Finally, Ms. Kohila, Young Workers Project at Peace Trust, proposed vote of thanks.