



Foundation for Restoration of National Values

Newsletter

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Dear Friends of FRNV,

Delhi played the host to the 19th World Book Fair, considered to be the second largest book fair in the world. What a momentous occasion for the city of Delhi to play host to visitors from different parts of the world and provide an opportunity to the book lovers in Delhi.

Unfortunately, the organizers (ITPO and NBT) failed to make an impact. The organization and coordination of the fair – the infrastructure arrangement, the services, the cleanliness, etc. – all left much to be desired.

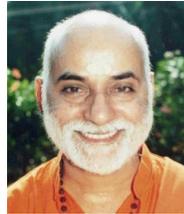
Organizations which take on coordinating such events have a great role to play in shaping the value-orientation of the people. They should set high standards of service and ethics. Their attitude to service has the ability to inspire the people towards emulating and imbibing values, and at the same time raise self-esteem of our countrymen and women.

Let us hope organizers of events like this one, take great care in ensuring that their services reflect the spirit of '*atithi devo bhava*'. This event may have turned out to be a World Book "Unfair" for the participants and book lovers.

Editorial Team

Values Enshrined in our Independence Struggle

In our protracted struggle for Freedom, what held the leaders together was the deep, age-old **cultural bond** they commonly cherished. It enabled them to muster abundant inner strength, resolve and inspiration, to lead the masses despite all odds and persecutions. This aspect must be critically **evaluated and emulated**.



People saw how the strong spirit of nationalism, emerging from the subtle bond of cultural values, engulfed the land like a huge river in spate. The goal of the historic struggle – the non-violent movement – was victoriously achieved, without bloodshed.

Our **national flag** is a shining symbol of our eternal values and commitments:

- The ochre on top is a powerful call for inculcating a '**fire-like**' spirit of sacrifice. Though every one pursues a life of varied possessions, in reality, 'unselfishness and dispossession' alone can bestow human fulfillment.
- The white in the middle is a call for purity and peace. This central treasure in our being should radiate genuine love for the whole of humanity.
- The green colour beckons all to be vigilant in preserving our earth with its abundant greenery, so that the planet can continue to provide ample food and nourishment for the future generations as well.
- The wheel at the centre represents the great '**Cosmic Wheel of Activity**' that Nature has set in motion. It depicts how everything in the world has a cyclic course, as Mother Earth herself has, infusing transitoriness and freshness alike. Every individual on this earth is but a cog in the Cosmic Wheel of Activity. And hence, each has the bounden duty of conforming to its revolution with unflinching dedication. In fact, this is the rhythm that persuades Nature to preserve and promote life on this planet.

Swami Bhoomananda Tirtha
Inspiration & Guide, FRNV

Ethics in Governance

Good Governance in itself implies strict observance of ethical standards. It could

even be said that governance without ethics is akin to a human body without a soul. In a democracy such as India, maintenance of ethical standards in governance is all the more important, since democracy is rule by the people, of the people and for the people. It goes without saying that those whom the people elect to manage their affairs should observe the highest standards in their public and private lives. If they do not do so, then they betray the trust that people have reposed in them. No true democracy can function effectively unless politicians and administrators, who are charged with the responsibility of ensuring the maximization of common good and welfare of the people, are seen as observing ethical standards in behaviour. It, therefore, follows that there should be a **Code of Ethics for ministers and officials**, and all their actions will have to be monitored, scrutinized and evaluated in accordance with this Code.

The Second Administrative Reforms Commission (2nd ARC) has submitted a report – the 4th Report – on Ethics in Governance. In doing so, the Commission has made far reaching recommendations on Ethics in politics and administration. Strangely enough, Government of India (Department of Personnel, Training and Administrative Reforms or DOPT in short) has shot down most of these recommendations. True, this may not be the last word on the subject, and Parliament will have to debate on the reports of 2nd ARC and finally decide on them. However, Government's viewpoint on these recommendations does not augur well for these reforms and since Government is formed by a party in majority in Parliament, these well meaning and crucial recommendations are bound to be consigned to the dust bin of history. It is, therefore, essential that sufficient public pressure should be brought on the Government and the Members of Parliament to see reason and not let this golden opportunity to write a fresh chapter on governance slip away.

In order that public pressure is energized, it would be necessary to discuss some of the main recommendations of the 2nd ARC on Ethics in Governance and advance reasons why they should be accepted without any delay.

One of the main recommendations of the ARC pertain to the setting up of a Code of Ethics for Ministers, in addition to the Code of Conduct, in order to provide guidelines on how Ministers should observe the highest standards of constitutional and ethical conduct in performance of their duties. The Government's response on this crucial recommendation is that no such Code of Ethics is required, as the Code of Conduct already exists and having another Code will amount to mere duplication and will not serve any purpose.

On another recommendation of 2nd ARC for having a Code of Ethics for civil servants, the Government's response is that they agree with this recommendation, even though civil servants are governed by Conduct Rules and Regulations. So what is sauce to the goose is not sauce to the gander! The intention behind the ARC recommendation is to set standards for Ministers, Members of Parliament and Legislators and monitor them through a dedicated team in the Prime Minister's office and Chief Minister's office and bring them on public domain. Government of India has apparently no intention of making Ministers and Legislators accountable for maintenance of ethical standards for reasons best known to them. Why should there be hesitation in accepting these recommendations which are aimed at setting standards of ethics?

....to be continued in future issues.

Dr. Gopal Ganesh
Vice President, FRNV

News

Talk on “Wholesome Leadership” to IAS Officers

On January 8 morning, Poojya Swamiji addressed (through video-conference) the participants of a 6-day programme “**Ethics in Public Governance**” held at Asia Plateau, Panchgani, Pune.

It was part of a special programme for Indian Civil Service Officers conducted from Jan 4th to 9th. Twenty-eight Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers, holding key positions in various Ministries and other Government

Organizations, took part in the event. The objective of the programme was to provide a unique opportunity for the IAS officers to i) tap their own and each others' inner resources for inspiration and learning, ii) evolve a paradigm of Ethical leadership and Governance, iii) discuss case studies and research on Civil service issues, and iv) explore the balance between family and professional life for wholesome living. The last shloka of the Bhagavadgeeta (18.78) was used as the theme-statement for the event.

Poojya Swamiji addressed the participants on **"Wholesome Leadership, Wholesome Life – Inspiration from Wholeness"**. The inspiring talk was followed by question-answer session that lasted for nearly 2 hours. The discussions focused on mind and its potentials, role of intelligence in shaping ethical behaviour, genesis of unethical conduct, methods to generate and maintain motivation, purpose of life, spirituality indispensable in ethical governance, etc.

After the highly motivating interactive session, Poojya Swamiji, at their request, administered a pledge to the officers, to stand together for providing the country a corruption-free governance, and to strive for preserving National values and prestige.

Mumbai Regional Chapter Meeting:

A meeting was held in Mumbai of the Regional Chapter, on 27th January in the office of the Transworld Group. Sri Bharat Wakhlu, General Secretary, FRNV, Sri V. Ramnarayan, Director, Mumbai Regional Chapter and other special invitees participated in the meeting. The discussions focused on the need to collectively work towards setting up ethical standards for the leadership in our Nation.

Upcoming Events

We are happy to announce that a Meeting of all the Friends of FRNV in Delhi will be held on 27th Feb 2010 at M-75, Greater Kailash Part - I, New Delhi – 110048. (*Further details will be sent over email.*)

We are keen to receive your suggestions & feedback. Please send an email to frnvindia@gmail.com
