**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 shows interest in skills for youth for addressing social issues like modern slavery, child labour, migrant labour, unemployability of youth. Officials on the Migrant issue. We 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 Non Government Organization working on Child Labour and Bonded Labour issue since 1984. It has also focused on Migrant workers rights issue since 1999.

Skills for Freedom is an answer to Modern Slavery in Tamil Nadu. It is a joint effort for enhancing the employment opportunities of rural youth in Dindigul, Karur, Tiruppur Districts.

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.

The views expressed are not of the donors but a compilation of field realities for the purpose of sharing and action.

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**We partner with**

   

**MODERN SLAVERY**

**MODERN SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

While the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that the world adopted in the year 2000 provided a focal point for governments to develop their policies and provided a rallying point for NGOs to hold them accountable, the MDGs have nevertheless been criticised for being too narrow. The eight MDGs that were adopted then, had no mention of human rights or slavery nor did it address issues of child labour or economic development.

As the deadline of the MDGs is nearly on its completion stage now, around 1 billion people still live in poverty, 1.2 million children are trafficked each year, 59 million children of primary school age are out of school, and 168 million children are engaged in child labour and 5.5 million enslaved.

In September 2015, the world again is going to welcome a new set of universal goals, targets and indicators, often called as ‘Post-2015 Development Agenda’ or ‘Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).’ These are expected to be used as a framework by UN Member States for setting domestic political policies and development targets for next 15 years.

In 2014, when the UN was in the process of conducting worldwide consultation to gauge opinion on what the SDGs should include, Global March along with its partners extensively advocated for strengthening and tightening of the text of Goal 4 on Education, for it to contain access to education for hardest to reach category of children. Global March with other stakeholders also flagged off an annual campaign on inclusion of ‘child slavery’ in sub-Goal 8.7 of the SDGs, which relates to child labour that were amiss in the MDGs. This ECSW Campaign as you may already know from our previous mails, was widely supported and garnered 5, 50,000 signatures for its public petition, wherein 1 person stood for 10 child slaves, and this petition was submitted to UN Secretary General early this year. The campaign laid emphasis on the inclusion and prioritisation of the 5.5 million children in different forms of slavery.

With the arrival of the latest version of Outcome Document of the SDGs early last week, we are happy to announce that through our advocacy efforts, the Sub-Goal 8.7 now includes the phrases “modern slavery and human trafficking”. We at Global March see this new development as a greater success as it now comprises the broader issue of slavery, encompassing child slavery which Global March and others had advocated for. Inclusion of human trafficking in Sub-Goal 8.7 is also commendable given that an estimated number of 2.5 million people and 1.2 million children are victims of trafficking every year all over the world. It is also notable that Goal 5 that deals with ending violence against women and girls, includes child and forced marriages, and trafficking of girls; while Goal 16 includes a dedicated sub-Goal on ending violence and torture against children in all its forms.

We therefore would like to take this opportunity to thank all our supporters who signed our petition, our partners who ran the campaign with us and those who supported us in any other way for the landmark achievement.

The release of United States Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report 2015 this week also commemorates the UN World Day Against Trafficking in Persons and reemphasises the issue of modern slavery which doesn’t exist in a vacuum. Modern slavery in this report encompasses evils like forced child labour, child sex trafficking, sex trafficking, forced labour, bonded labour, domestic servitude, unlawful recruitment and use of child soldiers.

The Report reiterates that “No nation can end modern slavery alone. Eliminating this global scourge requires a global solution. It also cannot be solved by governments alone. The private sector, academic institutions, civil society, the legal community, and consumers can all help to address the factors that allow human trafficking to flourish. But governments have a special responsibility to enforce the rule of law, share information, invest in judicial resources, and espouse policies that urge respect for the rights and dignity of every human being. Human trafficking is not a problem to be managed; it is a crime to be stopped.”

It is also a great matter of pride that The U.S TIP Report also highlights Nobel Peace Prize Laureate 2014 and Honorary President of Global March, Mr. Kailash Satyarthi’s work saying “For more than four decades, Satyarthi has worked relentlessly for the rights of children and waged a peaceful struggle to keep children in school, rather than in the workforce….He has helped to free children trapped in bonded labour, assisted them with vocational training and education, and challenged public discourse in India on child labour and child trafficking…His contributions have not only affected India, but have also changed the world.”

With this note Global March on World Day Against Trafficking in Persons on 30th July 2015, pledges again to fight the grave issue of trafficking and advocate further for the rights of children in alignment with the new SDGs, to bring back dignity of all trafficked and enslaved human beings.





**CHILD LABOUR**

**RIGHTS OF CHILDREN**

Trying 16-18 year olds as adults and locking them up behind bars erodes the entire premise of human and child rights on which international standards and norms have been founded (“Crime and commensurate punishment”, July 22). The Juvenile Justice Bill denotes a regressive attitude of a political system that is shirking its duty to address the root causes behind the horror of teenage crimes, sexual or otherwise. Poverty, a lack of education and opportunities, or even an absence of the right care, guidance and love throughout one’s life are all that it takes to cause a child to stray. Instead of lowering the age limit for minors, sentencing them to a lifetime of abuse and brutality, and overburdening a system that is already creaking under pressure, it is time that resources are invested in reformation, counseling and rehabilitation homes. It is up to the Rajya Sabha now to prevent a churning out of hardened criminals by laying emphasis on a difference between revenge and reform. It must also lay stress on a complete overhaul of the juvenile justice system and aim for comprehensive, collective and reformative solutions.

Pinki Virani appears to have presented only one side of the story. She should know that advances in a child’s level of understanding, decision-making capability and a sense of right and wrong are progressive. She also appears to be a lot more concerned about the parents of teenagers between the ages of 16 to 18 but hardly so when it comes to the parents of those who have suffered because of loopholes in defining adult age. Has she forgotten the countrywide protests when the juvenile in the Nirbhaya case was almost allowed to walk free only because he was few days short from becoming an adult? Are people like her concerned about juvenile rights only after the government is trying to get over a grey area?

**79 CHILD LABOURERS RESCUED FROM LUDHIANA GARMENT FACTORY, COPS YET TO FILE FIR**

**A local NGO, Bachpan Bachao Andolan (BBA), claimed that the number of children rescued was close to 90.**

Written by Divya Goyal | Ludhiana | Updated: July 29, 2015 1:41 pm

A Special Task Force (STF) on Tuesday rescued 79 child labourers allegedly locked up in a terrace, at a garment factory on Ludhiana’s Rahon Road. The factory is shockingly located right opposite the Meharbaan police station but police said they were unaware it had employed children. A local NGO, Bachpan Bachao Andolan (BBA), claimed that the number of children rescued was close to 90 and alleged that the factory owners presented illegal identity proofs to show that some of the children were over 14 years of age. Majority of the rescued children are aged between 8 and 17 years and were getting paid Rs 50-100 per week. Some allegedly received no wages as they were ‘learners’. When the team — including officials from the labour and factories departments, health department, anti-human trafficking wing, local police station and BBA volunteers — raided the factory, the gates were not opened for more than fifteen minutes.

“What we found was shocking. We estimated 30-35 children to be working here but when the terrace door was opened, almost 90 children were lying on the floor. There was no space and the children had been piled on top of each other and to hide them from us, the owners had put them under bales of cloth,” alleged Dinesh, a BBA volunteer. The children reportedly told the team that they were from Bihar and Nepal and were brought here to work in the factories. “Despite provisions for immediate registration of FIRs in such cases, neither police nor the labour department have taken action against the factory owner,” Dinesh said.

“The Child Labour (Prohibition and Rehabilitation) Act, 1986, calls for one year imprisonment and a fine of Rs 20,000 for the accused. Similarly, the Juvenile Justice Act, 2000, calls for one year jail and Rs 10,000 fine. Even the Bonded Labor Act calls for minimum three years punishment but even when we rescue child getting minimum wages from factories, FIRs are not registered,” Dinesh alleged. The administration, meanwhile, appeared to pass the buck on the issue. Ramninder Singh, SHO Meharbaan police station, said, “We were not aware of so many child labourers working at the factory opposite the police station. The anti-human trafficking wing will take action after the labour department submits a written complaint”. Shamsher Singh, in-charge of the anti-human trafficking wing said, “We can register FIR only after labour department gives us in written the proceedings of the raid.” Mohit Singla, assistant director factories who raided the factory said, “We raided S S Bobby Garments on Rahon road from where 79 child labourers were found. Police can take suo motto action and register an FIR against owner. It is not mandatory for us to file the written complaint”. Ludhiana DC Rajat Aggarwal said, “I will look into the matter on why FIR is not being done and necessary action will be taken”.

**OPERATION MUSKAAN: POLICE PERSONNEL BRING SMILE TO FACES OF 107 CHILDREN, REUNITE THEM WITH THEIR FAMILIES**

These children are taken to Snehalaya at Maloya where they are counselled till the police find their parents. “Some of them, aged between 8 and 10, are annoyed with their parents and so do not want to reveal the names of their parents,” says Inspector Karam Chand.

Under operation Muskaan, cops have reunited 107 children with their families. The Chandigarh Police started this operation in December last as a part of the Women Safety Week to reunite missing children with their families. The teams are visiting many places in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan and interiors of Punjab among other places to trace the parents of these children. “We started the programme in December. Since then a special team of Anti-Human Trafficking Unit of UT Police has been actively working to reunite these children,” said Inspector General of Police R P Upadhyay.

Many of these children, said Inspector Karam Chand, in-charge of the operation, are from Haryana. Most of these kids are those who have run away from their homes and parents are looking for them.

These children are taken to Snehalaya at Maloya where they are counselled till the police find their parents. “Some of them, aged between 8 and 10, are annoyed with their parents and so do not want to reveal the names of their parents,” said Inspector Karam Chand. Six children were rescued this month whose parents have been found at different locations and police teams are bringing the parents. Inspector Karam Chand said that there were some children who were abandoned by parents. “We rescued a child about whom we got information on 100. The child was a resident of Burail and his parents were traced after a few days.

The 14-year-old boy was a drug addict and so parents had disowned him. He is living at Snehalaya and is being treated there. His parents refused to take him back,” said the Inspector. He said that there were three such children whose parents had refused to take them back. They were being looked after at Snehalaya. In all, there are 20 teams of policemen who are being sent to various locations to trace the parents. Citing an example, Inspector Karam Chand said, “We traced the family of a child to Hisar. The child had been missing for 10 days and parents did not even get his missing report filed. When we questioned them, they said that someone told them that their son was dead.”

**KERALA CHILD TRAFFICKING: HC ORDERS CBI PROBE**

Kerala has around 1800 orphanages, recognised by the State Orphanage Control Board. Many of these institutions, especially in north Kerala, have several north Indian children as inmates

Acting on a public interest litigation, a division bench of the Kerala High Court on Monday ordered a CBI probe into the trafficking of children from north and northeastern states to orphanages in Kerala.The division bench of Chief Justice Ashok Bhushan asked the CBI to step in despite the state government opposing probe by a central agency.

While saying that all orphanages in Kerala should be brought under the purview of the Juvenile Justice Act, the court added that district administration and child welfare committees at the district-level must ensure that proper legal procedure is followed while bringing children from other states.

Trafficking of children from other states to Kerala orphanages hit the headlines last year when 450 children from Bihar and Jharkhand were brought to a few Muslim-run orphanages in North Kerala. The railway police in Palakkad had then booked the ‘agents’ involved on charges of trafficking children without proper documents and even railway tickets. Subsequently, police and several agencies began investigating the conduct of other orphanages in Kerala.

Two months back, police detained several children in Kochi, who were brought to some orphanages in central Kerala. Kerala has around 1800 orphanages, recognised by the State Orphanage Control Board, and many of these institutions — especially in north Kerala — have several north Indian children as inmates. According to sources, children from other states are in demand because of shrinking enrollment of local students, which threatens to lead to the closure of schools run by orphanage trusts. Some trusts that run schools have actually opened orphanages only to ensure steady flow of students to their schools and to stay in business. Agents, claim sources, find ‘eligible’ children in north Indian villages — in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Assam, Manipur, Jammu and Gujarat — and at the start of an academic year bring them in batches to Kerala. In the past, the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML), an ally of the Congress-led Government, had alleged that the state government was trying to prevent the functioning of institutes meant for destitute Muslim children.

The IUML had then stated that the orphanages were not involved in the sale of children for sexual exploitation or organ trade and the government should desist from oppressing them by pointing out procedural lapses. Orphanages in Kerala, particularly those run by Muslim organisations, have been regularly bringing destitute Muslim boys and girls from other states. Many of these orphanages, like JDP Islam Orphanage in Kozhikode, have over the years grown into hubs of professional and technical institutes, increasing the demand for more inmates.

**SKILL EDUCATION**

**BENEFACTORS OF THE BLUE COLLAR**

Dinesh Goel, a chemical engineer from IIT-Bombay, started working with a multinational bank after he graduated in 2012. Almost a year later, he realised that his house maid was worried about her only son’s job. A watchman at his housing society would ask him about job opportunities for him. These incidences made Goel realise that there was a need of a network for blue collar jobs. Then, he and his friends teamed up to launch a unique recruitment platform for the blue collar class, aasaanjobs.com.

“An able leader,” as his colleagues refer to him, Goel quit his job to dedicate time for the new company. IITians Kunal Jadhav, Gaurav Toshniwal, Kedar Gokhale, Ishank Gupta, Siddharth Das and Vaibhav Chaudhary joined him in the company. Their idea clicked as the blue collar job market is highly disorganised. Today, within a year, aasaanjaobs.com—which has a team of 150 youths, including 30 IITians—has succeeded in providing jobs to nearly 3,000 people, all at a good profit.

Aasaanjobs.com has tied up with around 500 companies like Toyota, Eureka Forbes, ITM, box8, carwale.com and bewakoof.com. They find data entry operators, accountants, receptionists, delivery boys, drivers and office assistants for these companies. Once a candidate registers on the website via an app for free, the company’s team checks its 16 centres across Mumbai for a suitable job for them.

“It helps the client and the candidate. As we assess the candidate’s profile thoroughly, the client does not need to invest time into the process. The candidate also gets a clear idea about the job profile,” says Siddharth Das, head of Business Development.

He says the company’s thrust is on skill development. “We train the drivers in etiquettes and how to converse well. We believe that they should serve their clients gracefully.” The company is in touch with National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and National Skill Development Agency (NSDA) to utilise the funds allocated for skill development.

Aasaanjobs.com takes a part of the candidate’s salary and “on successful placements, the employer pays us a certain percentage of the hired candidate’s CTC only after he/she stays for at least a week,” Das says. The company is growing its four departments: business development, sales, operations and marketing and technology. Job seekers have increased 12-fold in the last four months.

Aasanjobs.com pays `1,000 to anyone who refers it to their friend or relative. It also arranges accommodation for selected outstation candidates for two months, allowing them to concentrate on their jobs instead of running around to find a place to stay in space-crunched Mumbai.

Dipti Pawar, who got a data entry job within two days of registering on aasanjobs.com, says, “They were very helpful. They did a follow-up from my interview till I got my offer letter.”

Chandrakala D N, senior executive (accounts and finance) with Samvad Partners, says, “Getting perfect candidates was a tedious task earlier but aasaanjobs has made it simpler for recruiters who can browse a list of desired candidates and know about their skills.”

**SKILLING DIGITAL INDIA**

Watching the fashion shows taking place in Mumbai with a giant LED backdrop. With the mobiles, I-pads and numerous other gadgets in the hands of the youngsters jostling out to the ramp to capture the fleeting catwalks, I am convinced more than ever before that the new ‘skill policy’ need to combine ‘Skilling India’ with Digital India as an integrated “Action Plan”. As of now, ‘Make in India’ ‘skilling India’ and Digital India are not seen as an integrated platform for economic and social transformation. In fact, today ideation, designing, 3-D visualization and realization have become increasingly digital. Without cutting-edge skills, the designers or engineers now coming out of institute cannot even get and entry level job. The annual increments are also dependents on special skills proven on the job.

A business graduate cannot be moving up the ladder without high felicity in analytical software tools. Marketing and retail professionals cannot achieve career progress without digital marketing and expertise in online-retailing and M-Commerce. ‘Skilling of Digital India’ is therefore about the emerging context and the future. The 2015-2022 period is the countdown to India reaching the milestone of 75 years’ post-independence. And the period 2022-2035 mark the golden spot of ‘Indian demographic bulge’ when the current pyramid shaped ‘demographics’ thereafter begin to take a kite shape, with more ageing population. Thus the skilling challenge would be an ongoing one as a moving target at least till 2035 and beyond. In the period till 2022, the skilling programmes need to fiercely focus on those who are already studying now in schools and colleges so that they become the front engine of ‘skilling India’ through ‘reskilling, upskilling and ‘new skilling; especially in new technologies, RUN should be the motto for Indian Skill Mission, RUN for Reskilling, Upskilling and New Skilling and also ‘RUN to race against time to convert skill deficit to skill dividend.

Currently against the common understanding that the 5th /8th / 10th standard drop outs are the main targets of skill training, it can be seen in reality, across various skill centres that graduates or post graduate are attending 30-45 days threshold level training programmes in various trades in search of wage employment as they have no other options in sight. Another aspect is nearly 82 percent of the candidates undergoing training are women and about 70 per cent are from rural areas in courses like garment making etc. indicating the need for clearer strategies on training of women and rural youth. Are we really having right targets in focus for ‘Skill India; movement with the right courses. Level of soft-life skills and employment linkage close to their habitat?

The newly formed Skill Development Ministry is abuzz with the preparations for the revised National Skill Development Policy. In the ‘Digital India’ for the contemporary youth the titles of courses and job profiles are critical just as the money they earn. Jobs with the highest Aspirational Quotient are those with both higher economic and social value. This is reflected in the changes in nomenclature of various professions in India e.g. earlier Barber is now a Hairstylist while the Bespoke Tailor in new avatar is a fashion designer and a carpenter is often an interior decorator. In India, the manufacturing and other jobs which involve manual work though termed as Vishwakarma’s children whether it by handicraft worker or a weaver or a silversmith are of very low Aspirational Quotient. It has been pointed out not without basis, that the skill development in India has the challenge of 80 percent of the workforce wanting 20 percent jobs which have both “Economic & Social Status”.

The new policy has to necessarily look at the aspirational ladder of Indian youth while forming the new policy and envisaging the training entities and course on offer. It is also important that ‘skilling’ does not become in effect a tool to shrink human creativity and potential by having the lowest possible common denominator. Similar tragedy had befallen the Indian Handloom industry with the introduction of ‘Janata Sarees Scheme’ in 1977 which practically destroyed the weaving traditions in India. Skill at the lowest level if promoted as a policy without any realistic understanding of the emerging career opportunities and tectonic shifts in the manufacturing/ service sectors, the same will have the “Pied Pipe” effect.

On the other hand, India’s future also lies in encouraging large number of entrepreneurs i.e as not job seekers but job providers. Nazzim Nicholas Taleb said in an interview that higher education leads to a ‘slowdown in risk taking. What we need to promote therefore ideally is a sound middle / higher secondary school education focused on domain and soft skills while instilling imagination and entrepreneurship especially removing fear of failure. As Einstein said which is very much true for India, imagination is more important that knowledge.

With make in India now making waves across India and in the world, the biggest question bothering the policy makers and stakeholders is the acute shortage of skilled workforce in various key sectors which stunt the growing domestic economy. Analysis reckons that the prime minister’s campaign Make in India can create fresh job opportunities for 100 million youth in India. In the backdrop of the Davos Summit where India had put-up “hoardings” with a call “whatever you want to make, Make in India, from satellite to submarines from pharma to bi-tech, the troublesome question is well we ever have the suitably skilled works force for manufacturing to back this call for action promise in an NSDC report indicates around 110 million additional skilled workforce being required in 24 key sectors such as construction, retail, transportation, logistics, automobile, textile-garments by year 2022 when India turns 75, to train such a huge number of youth and women, there needs to be a pragmatic policy of really understanding the target-groups coming to the fore in the next few years especially till 2022 for making skill mission successful on the ground. The training institutions need to have well researched training contents and tool to develop skills and competencies required by both manufacturing/ service industries. The policy masters need to have an eye on the synergistic socio economic transformation through aspirational skilling to come out with a futuristic one to Make in India and served from India to actually materialize resulting in wealth creation.

**SKILL EDUCATION SCHEME FOR STUDENTS NAMED AFTER APJ ABDUL KALAM**

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday announced that the government’s Higher Education and Skill Education Guarantee Scheme will be named after former President A P J Abdul Kalam, who passed away in Shillong on Monday. The scheme, under which the government will stand guarantee for student loans of up to Rs 10 lakh, will be named ‘Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam Higher Education and Skill Education Guarantee Scheme’. Paying homage to Kalam, the CM said that he was known for his extraordinary teachings for the youth and for school children, and he encouraged them to make it their mission to take India ahead.

**TRAFFICKING**

The question of human trafficking needs to be addressed from a social and economic angle (“In search of freedom”, July 30). Offering allurements to the poor in the name of employment is a common trap. The issue should be tackled only by enhancing the economic status of the poor and empowering them socially. Without addressing the cause, trying to eliminate this social issue will be akin to groping in the dark.

A.G. Rajmohan,

Anantapur

Human trafficking, which is the ‘third most profitable trade’ in the world, has reached the scale it has only because of global negligence. Though there has been some action, a full-fledged effort to curtail it institutionally has never been realised. The only concrete actions have been through the actions of committed NGOs which have been mainly to empower those who have been lucky enough to be saved from such ordeals. The government should strive to prevent trafficking and work towards empowering women and children with basic facilities. Strong laws are to be put in place that act as deterrents to anyone participating in such illicit businesses.

Yashus G.,

New Delhi

Even after nearly seven decades of Independence, we appear to be perpetuating a different form of slavery in the country — child labour, human trafficking and bonded labour. We still find a large number of the destitute at our railway stations, metros and even places of worship.

The government should take the responsibility of setting up of orphanages, hostels and rehabilitation centres for the deprived along with populist schemes and help them out of their plight. They must be made aware of their fundamental rights.

J. Noah Rakshan,

Kadapa, Andhra Pradesh

**US BLACKLISTS THAILAND 2ND YEAR IN A ROW OVER HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

By: AP | Bangkok | Updated: July 28, 2015 4:02 pm

Thai authorities are upset about being blacklisted by the U.S. for the second year in a row for failing to do enough to combat modern-day slavery. The State Department said Monday that labor abuses in the Southeast Asian country’s seafood sector are persistent, abusive and largely ignored by the government. Those abuses have been widely documented in a series of stories this year by The Associated Press which tracked the supply chains of major U.S. retailers to Thai processors selling slave-caught seafood. Those reports have prompted rescues and repatriations of more than 800 men this year. Thai Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha said Tuesday that Thailand was working on solving the issues and that the assessment was made when his administration, which took over after a military coup last year, was beginning to address the problems.

“We just have to keep working and not to worry. It’s an issue of international rules, so we’ll have to follow,” he told reporters. “Don’t worry too much. Their assessment was up to them as they were the ones assessing, not us. We just do our job. What they said in the assessment, we fixed every part of it, but some issues are quicker to fix and some are slow.” The State Department said Monday that Thai, Burmese, Cambodian, and Indonesian men are still subjected to forced labor on Thai fishing boats. “Some men remain at sea for several years, are paid very little or irregularly, work as much as 18 to 20 hours per day for seven days a week, or are threatened and physically beaten,” the report said. The Royal Thai Embassy in Washington, D.C. denounced the assessment, saying Thailand has made substantial efforts with concrete results to stop human trafficking. “Significant progress has been made across the board,” the Embassy said in a statement, stressing the State Department report “does not accurately reflect the reality and fails to take into account significant efforts undertaken by the Thai Government.” Those efforts include amending laws and rules, ensuring better law enforcement, streaming legal processes, prosecuting offenders and protecting victims, the Embassy said. A coalition of 25 human rights and labor organizations, including Human Rights Watch and the AFL-CIO labor federation, said blacklisting Thailand, along with criticism from the European Union and high-profile news exposes, have put needed pressure on the country. “This decision comes at a vital time for leveraging change from the Thai government in its anti-trafficking efforts,” the coalition said in a letter to Secretary of State John Kerry. Thailand, along with Iran, Syria and Zimbabwe, were among 23 countries receiving the lowest ranking in the annual U.S. assessment of how 188 governments around the world are fighting the flesh trade and other forms of exploitative labor. The report is the State Department’s key weapon for combatting human trafficking, and comes in a politically charged annual ranking in ‘tiers’ – Tier 1 is best, 2 means more could be done, and 3 is a blacklist that can spark sanctions. The State Department moved Malaysia and Cuba off the blacklist and up to Tier 2 this year, drawing criticism that politics, not human rights, were a factor. Malaysia is one of 12 nations negotiating the Trans-Pacific Partnership, the key economic plank of Obama’s Asia policy, but could be banned from participating if blacklisted. And the U.S. has recently patched relations with Cuba. Republican Congressman Chris Smith of New Jersey said the report, in its 15th year, “has careened off into a new direction where the facts regarding each government’s actions in the fight against human trafficking are given almost no weight when put up against the president’s political agenda.”

**MIGRANT LABOUR**

**2,100 MIGRANTS TRY TO STORM EUROTUNNEL SITE IN FRENCH PORT**

An official said police arrested 200 of the migrants. She said it was the largest such attempt by migrants to enter the site.

About 2,100 migrants tried to storm the area surrounding the Eurotunnel early Tuesday before being repelled by police, an official in the northern French port of Calais said. The official, who spoke on condition she not be named because she wasn’t authorized to speak publicly, said police arrested 200 of the migrants. She said it was the largest such attempt by migrants to enter the site. Calais is a key port for sea and land crossings to Britain. In recent months, thousands of migrants from Eritrea, Sudan and beyond have camped out around the city, and some try to sneak across the English Channel by getting onboard trucks and freight trains.

The encampments have soured relations between Britain and France, which blame each other for failing to cope with the crisis. On Tuesday, British Home Secretary Theresa May announced that her government has agreed to provide an extra 7 million pounds ($10.8 million) to boost security at the Channel Tunnel railhead in Coquelles. May disclosed the extra funding following a meeting between British and French officials. “We’ve had a very constructive meeting,” she said. “The French and U.K. governments are working in close collaboration and cooperation on this issue which affects us both.”

Last week, the company that operates the Eurotunnel asked France and Britain to kick in 9.7 million euros ($10.6 million) to cope with an influx of migrants in Calais. Britain has also said it’s creating a “secure zone” in Calais for British-bound trucks to tackle the problem of migrants stowing away in the vehicles. Spokespeople for Eurotunnel and the police weren’t immediately available for comment.

**WITH MIGRANT WORKERS, HINDI SETTLES DOWN AMONG KERALA LOCALS**

**Retail traders in small towns and villages have started to display their price lists in hindi too, besides putting on display essential bits of information in that language.**

Kerala has started to warm up to Hindi, a language that hadn’t so far caught on in the state. Police and traders have been taking lessons to communicate better with migrant workers from North India, who number 25 lakh according to a government estimate. Although migrant workers settled in Kerala for decades have learnt to speak Malayalam, there are also a large number of seasonal workers who do not feel that necessity. Locals who hire or deal with them, therefore, have been learning a little bit of Hindi to be able to communicate with staff on buses, hotel workers, sales staff and those working in the service sectors. Again, police have occasionally picked up migrant workers, sometimes for involvement in crime and sometimes for being found on the streets at odd hours. The workers have rarely been able to explain themselves, with few policemen conversant in Hindi. Of late, a few police stations in Kerala have hired teachers for basic lessons in communicative Hindi. Says Abdul Raheem, inspector at Meenachil police station in Kottayam district, “To question migrant workers from North India, we felt that police should learn to speak in Hindi. In many incidents, we faced a language barrier when the migrant workers were involved in cases. Hence, I sought the help of a local Hindi teacher to train police in some basics of communication in Hindi. At times, we have had to seek the help of retired defence service personnel to communicate with migrant workers.” Prof A U Varghese, who teaches Hindi at Bharat Mata College at Thrikkakara, near Kochi, says he has given training in Hindi to policemen at the local station. “I have held classes on how to elicit responses in Hindi on basic details from a complainant or an accused . All the policemen at the station were very keen to learn Hindi for basic communication,” says Varghese. Retail traders in small towns and villages, many of which have settlements of migrant workers, have started to display their price lists in Hindi too, besides putting on display essential bits of information in that language. “If we traders don’t know Hindi, we are going to lose our business with migrant workers,” says M Mohiydeen, a cellphone-cum-footwear trader at Payippadu village in Kottayam. “If we do know Hindi, they will feel comfortable in the locality, prompting them to stay and buy from us.” Mohiyudeen knew no Hindi until migrant workers started arriving at Payippadu village. “I took the help of a relative who knows the language.” At a hotel at Payippadu, the owner-cum-supplier takes orders from a client and passes on instructions in Hindi to the kitchen staff. Traders in Perumbavoor near Kochi, which has one of the earliest settlements of migrant workers from North India, have made themselves conversant with Hindi. The owner of a medical shop here says many migrant workers approach the sore to deal with various ailments. “They describe the ailments and we give them medicine. Had we not learnt Hindi, we would have simply lost the business from that segment.” On buses in many places, the staff can be heard speaking to migrant workers in Hindi. With workers’ settlements having come up in several areas, buses are also displaying destinations in Hindi. Migrant workers are in several skilled and semi-skilled jobs. Many of them have become waiters, hotel room boys and workshop mechanics, and the need to learn Hindi has forced itself on Kerala’s own people seeking those services in their home state. Besides, some migrant workers have married local women, giving Hindi a permanent residence in Kerala.

**SOME STATISTICS THAT SHOW WHY MIGRANT LABOURERS ARE FLOCKING TO KERALA**

Kerala Thursday, June 18, 2015

Is Kerala becoming the 'gulf' for domestic migrant labourers? Even as the state debates if the increasing influx of domestic immigrants is a welcome trend, data released by the Labour Department of India explains why Kerala is becoming the favorite destination for migrant labourers. According to the data for the month of April 2015, Kerala paid the highest wage to both men and women labourers in almost all daily wage jobs in agricultural and non-agricultural sector. Kerala’s average wage is nearly double the average wage of the country. For agricultural work like ploughing and tilling, the average daily wage in Kerala was more than Rs 713, followed by Tamil Nadu at Rs 515. The lowest wage being paid in the country was Rs 187. States like Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat and Odisha paid wages in the vicinity of Rs 200.

After Kerala and Jammu Kashmir, Tamil Nadu is the state with highest wages in India. The wages for non-agricultural work is also much higher in Kerala. Carpenters and plumbers get wages which are two times the national wage average for their profession. The data shows that while the average wage ranges between Rs 200 and Rs 300 for different professions in states across the country, Kerala does not pay below Rs 600 for any job.

On the other hand, however, National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) data shows that Kerala has the highest unemployment rate in the country. According to the last NSSO Survey (2011-2012), in the category of major states, Kerala has the highest Unemployment Rate (UR). Kerala’s unemployment level is at 7.4 % , while in other states it is below 4%.

Even though the rate has declined over the years, a whopping 50 lakh people are estimated to be unemployed in the state. The unemployment rate is lowest in Gujarat, at 0.5 per cent is in Gujarat. However, Gujarat is a low paying state on daily wages. Reading the two reports together, one can infer that while migrant labours are attracted by the daily wages, the natives are not opting for these jobs. Literacy and higher levels of education too has contributed to this.

**REPORT BY GAUTHAM.P**

**DEPT OF DEVELOPMENT AND ADMINISTRATION**

**GANDHIGRAM RURAL DEEMED UNIVERSTIY**

I communicated the Chairman, Honorary Managing Director of Peace Trust Dr. J. Paul Baskar about my interest in Internship programme. Then, when interviewed by him, I came to know about duties, responsibilities, dignities, development and Peace that which each and every individual needs at that trust. From the day of 23rd May up to 30th June, 2015, that which was the days of Summer Internship at Peace Trust were excitable and innovative at every moment.

At the end at that interview, I was granted some several works according to my skills, knowledge and talents at various sects.

On 5 June 2015, the organization planned to organize a programme based on the theme of “World Environment Day”.

Fortunately, the opportunity was given to Internship members. We are directed to organize the programmed at June 5, 2015 at the conference hall. Ultimately, I was selected to lead the organizing committee. Therefore, we all planned and well-organized, prepared, equipped with many things and tools for the seminar combined awareness programme. It was all done in crystal clear clean manner.

It is also happened in the “World Day against Child Labor” awareness programme with me, the B.Ed students of Peace College of Education, SBM College of Engineering and Gandhigram Rural University Institute students there.

With their cooperation and the coordination of all, direction of delegated and honorary people were encouraged us to do the job as an enjoyable one. Rather than the work, it is correct to say as duties fulfilled with new learnings.

From all the personals and staffs of the administrative lines such as from top level to low level management. I learned several things as much as I can. The process of administration, management, computing, translation, coordinating a programme and managing several affairs in that decision making at all the levels, to utilize the resources effectively, management of time, properly and resources, skills etc.

I learnt many things rather than mentioned above. So, I wish to thank the Peace Trust for offering me a valuable Internship period.

**TRAINEE TEACHERS AT PEACE TRUST**

**INTRODUCTION:**

On May 21 2015, Internship started and orientation was started. We introduce ourselves and we came to know about Peace Trust and the problems in the society and the steps taken to solve it.

**FUNCTIONS OF NGO:**

Then from the next day, we were made to discuss about the NGO functions and about modern slavery and Leadership quality. We discussed about these topics and got an idea about this. Then we were made to form in to groups according to the Internship topics. We started using Library and we gained reading practice from this session.

**ANNUAL REPORT PRESENTATION:**

We started reading newspapers and collected data related to skill training and social issues. Then we were trained how the subject syllabus is formulated for the academic year. We worked as assistant to Ruba madam’s and helped her for the preparation of annual report preparation. So we have collected many of the college broacher’s model and it helped to get new ideas in preparing an annual report.

**WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY:**

We celebrated “World Environment Day” in Peace Trust Campus on June 5, 2015 in the topic of “Sustainable Consumption”. We have participated in the seminar and shared our thoughts. The speech by Dr. J. Paul Baskar, Mr. Thangapandian and Mr. Walter Kennedy was very useful to know the current environmental situation of our Country.

**OFFICE MANAGEMENT:**

We went to villages like, Ulampatti, Karukkampatty and we explained about the importance of teacher training. And we were also trained how to manage the newly admitted students. Then, we learned the office management such as college functions and meetings from our staff Mrs. Jeeva.

**CONCLUSION:**

Finally, the Internship was very useful to learn about many useful things such as leadership, seminar organizing, meetings and preparing a report etc.

We thank Dr. J. Paul Baskar and the other staffs who had guided us during this internship period.

**REPORT BY M. NARAYANAN**

**GANDHIGRAM UNIVERSITY**

Dr. J. Paul Baskar, Chairman of Peace Trust and NGO management encouraged the students and the other Internship members.

**ORIENTATION:**

Introduction for all Internship students were done. Then office maintains and management for the training for the students was held. On second day, Questions related to NGO works and teacher training were given by the management and we answered it. We were given orientation about Peace Trust. Then we analyzed the annual reports of Peace Trust and so we could get a clear idea about the projects done by Peace Trust.

**PROJECTS DONE BY PEACE TRUST:**

We came to know about Child Labour, Child Marriage and Bonded labour, Sumangalithittam projects done in Peace Trust. Then we were instructed to organize the seminar for World Environment Programme, in Peace Trust, Conference Hall.

**WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY:**

So we have arranged for the programme and we participated in the seminar and registered our idea about the environment in that programme. We made use of the library, learned more about the issues related to environment. We were made to read the daily newspapers and collect data and to collect articles from the magazines.

**WORLD DAY AGAINST CHILD LABOUR**

We have participated in World day against child labour on June 12th, 2015. We shared our views about the Child Labour & migrant labour and marked now it could be stopped / controlled. Dr. J. Paul Baskar shared many of the ideas and his experience from the Peace Trust’s project and his field experience in Project Migrant Labour issues in Sivagangai district. He explained the origin of Child labour and the role of NGOs and government like in preventing the child labour & Migrant Labour issues.

**MY VIEW ON CHILD LABOUR ISSUE:**

The B.Ed students from Peace College of Education have shared their thoughts about the child labour and the steps to be taken to prevent them. The child labour prevention should be done from the parents side only. Our government also should take the needed steps for preventing child labour.

**CONCLUSION:**

We have learnt more social issues in Peace Trust and I thank Dr. J. Paul Baskar for providing this opportunity for this Internship.