

Dear Editor,

On behalf of Hindu Education Foundation(<http://www.hindueducation.org>), a project representing main stream Hindus from California, I express an anguish about an article written by Percy Fernandez and printed on date March 20th 2006 (US rejects Hindutva lessons). HEF is appalled to see an unprofessional work that compromised an integrity and reputation of "Times of India" and wrongly conveyed that the efforts were rejected.

The article is so one sided that it is nothing but a rework of press releases from a set of biased and anti-Hindu groups. It is unfortunate that your journalist failed to study the following recommendations by the California Department of Education (<http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/documents/hssnotice022706a1.pdf>) which in fact approved as much as 70% of changes proposed by HEF. On the contrary, it is wrongly projected as if California rejected the changes. With a support of main stream Hindus, HEF could get many incorrect and humiliating references removed from the textbooks. We are still concerned about some pending changes. The changes, proposed by scholars and supported by Hindu community, are legitimate, historically correct and consistent with the CDE standard promoting equal coverage of different religions. The one and only motivation or ideology behind our changes are the concerns about negative impacts of the negative stereotyped on Hindu students in California.

We demand an apology from Times of India and your reporter for wrongly labeling us as "Hindu Supremacist" and insulting thousands of parents, more than 40 California temples & organizations and more than 50 academicians who supported changes proposed by Hindu Community.

We demand the Times Of India to be fair, to remove the article from your website and give us an opportunity to explain our side by a op-ed.

Attachments:

1. Press release
2. A list of supporting organizations
3. An analysis of the accepted changes.

Thanks
Khanderao Kand
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California
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