



**Vishwa Madhva Sangha**

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November 28, 2005

To:

Mr. Jack O'Connell,  
State Superintendent of Public Instruction and Director of  
Education ([joconnell@cde.ca.gov](mailto:joconnell@cde.ca.gov));  
Mr. Gavin Payne, Chief Deputy Superintendent ([gpayne@cde.ca.gov](mailto:gpayne@cde.ca.gov));  
Ms. Sue Stickel,  
Deputy Superintendent Curriculum & Instruction Branch  
([ssstickel@cde.ca.gov](mailto:ssstickel@cde.ca.gov));  
Mr. Thomas Adams, Executive Director CFIR Division  
([tadams@cde.ca.gov](mailto:tadams@cde.ca.gov));

For the following people - FAX sent at #: (916) 319-0175

Ms. Ruth Green, President State Board of Education;  
Ms. Glee Johnson, State Board Vice President;  
Mr. Alan Bersin; Ms. Ruth Bloom;  
Ms. Yvonne Chan;  
Mr. Donald G. Fisher;  
Mr. Kenneth Noonan;  
Mr. Joe Nuñez;  
Ms. Bonnie Reiss;  
Mr. Johnathan Xavier Williams;  
Mr. Paul Gardner III 2005-2006 Student Member

**Ref: Concerning the proposed adoption of the current Social Studies textbooks  
and Bias and stereotyping of Hinduism in the world history textbooks**

Respected Mr. O'Connell, Ms. Green, and members:

I am writing on behalf of (Vishwa Madhva Sangha, California chapter) about  
the decision pending with CDE to correct the textbooks of biases and  
stereotypes about Hindu Religion and Indian history.

Vishwa Madhva Sangha (VMS) is an international level organization focused on propagation of the Dvaita Philosophy, religion and tradition (including Haridasa tradition) all over the world. We are focusing on increasing the awareness of Madhva Philosophy and make the awareness of Madhva Philosophy in the general public on par with other schools of Vedanta.

We want to improve awareness of the greatness of Madhva Philosophy and Madhva traditions in the Madhvas residing all over the world. Our mission is to focus on educating the younger generation of Madhvas born outside India on the Philosophy and traditions. We are a non-profit organization with several chapters in other parts of USA – Washington DC, New Jersey, Huston, Detroit and here in the San Francisco Bay area. We have a membership of close to about 150 families here in the Bay area. We value the true representation of our Hindu philosophy and Religion to the public and in particular to the younger generation of students here in California.

The issue is very important because it is related to presence of biases and stereotypes in portrayal of Hindu religion and Indian history in the social studies textbooks recommended for adoption by the California Department of Education (CDE).

The followers of Hindu religion are a religious minority. The textbooks should contain nothing to cause discrimination of followers of the Hindu religion.

After due process and diligence numerous changes have been recommended for bias free and non-stereotypic description of Hindu religion and Indian history in the school textbooks. The page 77 to 105 of the document available at the following link lists all recommended edits/corrections/changes/replacements.

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr05/documents/bluenov05item05.doc>

These recommendations were arrived at after due process and diligence. Incorporating them in the textbooks is a step in the right direction. We ask CDE to accept and implement these recommendations.

I request that the CDE and State Board of Education adopts the textbooks free of:

- 1) Unbalanced coverage of Hinduism as compared to other religions
- 2) Negative description of Hindu values and belief system
- 3) Incorrect portrayal of origin of Indian civilization
- 4) Omission of earlier river valley civilization of India
- 5) Teaching of theories as facts and biased teaching of one side of these theories
- 6) Biased description of Hindu and Indian women and their role in society
- 7) Factual inaccuracies regarding the dates of the historical events
- 8) Stereotype description of India as an exotic land

I also request that -

a) The textbooks finally selected must be reflective of latest scholarship and free of all bias, prejudice, distortions, or factually wrong information about any issue.

b) The CDE must not allow or permit ethno-centric views on Hindu religion

and Indian history in textbooks.

Sincerely,  
M.S. Sathyanarayana  
Director and Treasurer

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