

# The lost Metaphor...

There are many who look forward to the festival of lights for celebrations, while some others look towards exchanging gifts. With the world economy at its lowest, India seems to be adding a little more to the ruined state of environment and much more.

The celebration of victory, of good over evil and of Ram having returned victorious seems all lost amongst the smoke and wastage of electricity. Ignorant to the fact that we no longer have to fight villains how Lord Ram had to, we blindly go on distorting the concept of Diwali, whilst chanting the Hindu god's name in vain, instead of working towards killing the evils that surround us today.

With the changing times, not only have people forgotten the real meaning of these festivals that provided a metaphor that we must constantly fight evils that surround

us, but have elevated the festival to just a celebration of materialism.

"Instead of spending money on buying fire crackers and sweets if only people would contribute half of that to the education of the girl child, the result can be overwhelming," says Karan Agarwal, a film writer.

Sponsoring a child's education costs an approximate of Rs 200 per month while a pack of fire crackers could easily cost thousands of rupees for what thrills the people get for hardly few seconds. We've lost the metaphor and just like all of western world's holidays are programmed by hallmark, Diwali has become like Vijay Sales initiative that helps them get rid of their products that would have been sold in clearance sales under the pretext of the 'Diwali Bumper Sale'.

What is sad is every festival in

## This festive season, spare a thought, on what possible good can come from creating pollution, philandering money and splurging on electronic goods?

some way or the other keeps contributing to the increasing pollution level. Ganapati causes a ridiculous amount of water pollution along with increased use of plastics. The threat of Global Warming that looms large over our heads will only worsen in the coming weeks. As for those sensitive to noise pollution, such as hospitals, the aged and animals will have to leave the city for mere survival. Excessive lighting uses enormous amounts of electricity, while areas in our own country have yet to see a bulb light up. Instead of blowing up money on gifts why not contribute it to eradication of social issues that need it. So this Diwali instead of investing in creating pollution and adding more diabetic cases in India, let's make an effort to say NO to firecrackers, sweets, gifts and remember the metaphor that

brought about Diwali and contribute in our little ways so as to kill the villain or the present day evils that have our future generation as a hostage.

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# Who is at loss

## Bankruptcy, one more option for the financial institutions

Ruling for more than 150 years in the financial sector, the fallout of Lehman brothers has rendered many jobless. It is one of the biggest petitions for bankruptcy in history. The Lehman brothers filed a Chapter 11 petition with the US Bankruptcy court in Manhattan on 15th September 2008. This sinking has affected the global markets to a great extent. More than Rs 2000 crore has been wiped out from Lehman's India investment from the market value in which the US financial major has made equity investments.

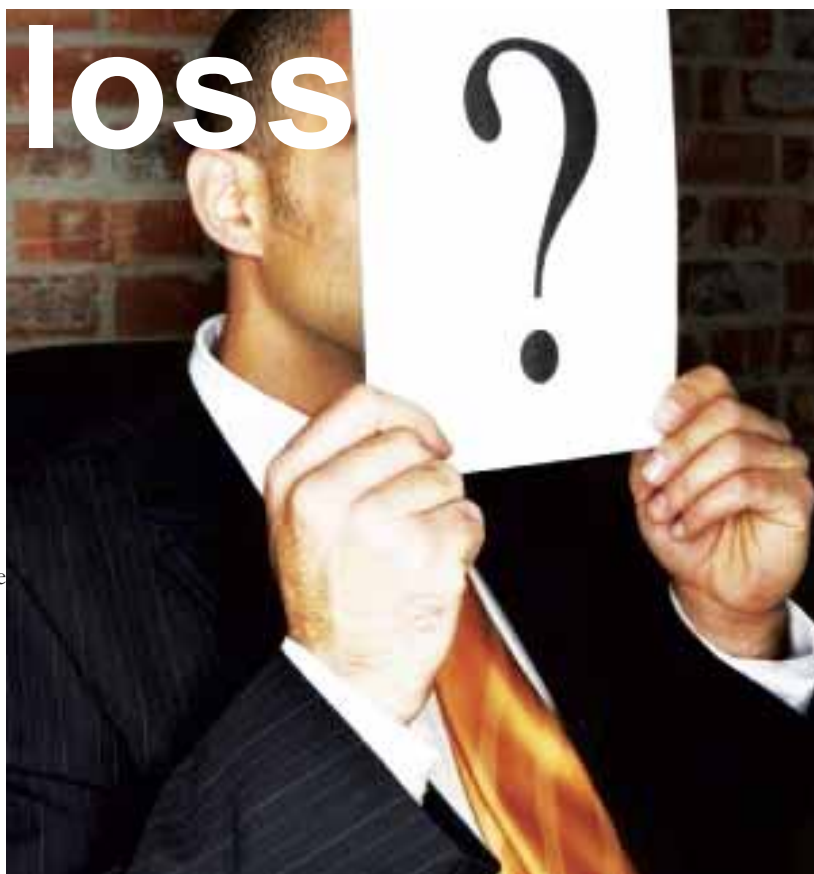
"Lehman's CEO Dick Fuld did not protect the firm's brokerage clients or the shareholders. He made wild bets on mortgage securities and risky real estate. Fuld did not have any strategy for what would happen if his risky bets went bad. Fuld was essentially like a guy at the craps table at a casino who puts all his chips on the number six and then seems surprised when seven is rolled before six. It looks like the brokerage depositors at

Lehman knew what they were doing when they decided to take a walk" says Fred Grubnik, a comment in the New York Times.

In India, Lehman was one of the highest recruiters for the Indian Institute of Management (IIM's). The pre placements of the management institutions are facing a big hit. The bankruptcy has left many people thinking as to what will be next?

"I have done my hotel management and now I am preparing for my MBA entrance exams. After knowing the current situation I have no clue where it will lead us," says Vidhi Vachhrajani, an MBA aspirant.

"I am in the final semester of my MBA specializing in Finance. The placement procedure has started in my institution since one month, but hardly anyone has come and if at all any company enters the campus they set the parameter so high that none get placed," says Tejas Soni, an MBA student.



"Lehman brothers had taken a huge amount of money from the market where they had a lot of inter dealings with other companies, banks etc. The global economy is already at a downfall and when they declared bankruptcy the other companies who invested with them went into a fix. This resulted in jobless people,

reduction in the annual packages and a freeze on new recruitments. The recruitments in the financial sector have almost dropped to 80 per cent," says Mr. Anil Sharma, a recruitment consultant, Path Providerz.

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