

Creating dependency

India's court says handouts are a hindrance

India's top court said on Wednesday that the practice of giving handouts was creating a "class of parasites" that was unwilling to work during elections because of "freebies" offered by political parties, legal news website Live Law reported.

Handouts, including cash giveaways, free power, water, grain and loan waivers have become standard features ahead of elections in India despite the central bank and Prime Minister Narendra Modi warning against the fiscal damage they cause. Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party won elections in Delhi last week in the first time in nearly three decades. **Reuters**