

Nandini

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Voice For The Deprived

Dedicated to the cause of marginalised and downtrodden

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**The countrymen
should stop inviting ministers,
bureaucrats, police officers,
judges, politicians,
educationists, business men
and godmen
facing corruption charges,
to public functions.**

THOUGHTS OF KANCHI PARAMACHARYA

TOWARDS MENTAL PURITY

There are a number of simple rites the performance of which will free you from inner impurities. From generation to generation, our forefathers performed them and earned happiness and contentment. We must follow in their footsteps. We do not have to go in search of any new way of life, any new doctrine or belief.

We can learn from the great men of our past who have left us lessons not only in Atmic matters but in the conduct of family and social life. For instance, kinship and friendship in their time were based on high principles. When there was a marriage or obsequial ceremony, all friends and relatives came forward to help. It was cultured behaviour at its best and it was not based on any empty outward show. People then were truly and sincerely interested in helping the needy and the poor. At weddings, they gave a little cash to the bride's parents, five or ten rupees, and the burden of those who conducted the marriage was lightened.

When everybody pays a little to the needy, the donor does not feel the pinch but the donee has a tidy sum with which to celebrate a marriage or perform an obsequial ceremony. Among relatives in the past, there was not much gap between the rich and the poor. And the rich man helped his poor relatives. All this is part of dharma. The man who helps purifies himself more than the man who is helped.

Now things have changed. The well-to-do do not help their poor relatives. Annadana (gift of food) was part of the noble tradition of the past. How is it today? At present too the well-to-do feed people, but with this difference that those fed are also well-to-do like them. When they give parties, banquets, etc, a great deal of money and material is spent in this manner. Where is the room for dharma or mental purity in all this? A party is given not with any noble intention but to promote one's selfish interests. The man who gives it thinks that he is practicing deception on the invitees. But the invitees, however, knew that the host has no true feelings of affection for them. The host and the guest thus deceive one another. Altogether, parties and toasts are nothing but part of modern art of deception and have nothing to do with the cleansing of mind.

If you help a poor man with food or material, you and he are equally happy: there is affection on both sides. In parties,



on the contrary, there is even ill-will. Hatred and resentment are caused in the hearts of have-nots by the parties given by the haves [for the haves]. Among relatives, there should be no distinction between the rich and the poor.

You must not think that only the affluent can help the poor and earn merit. If you are not well off you may serve others by helping them physically. All of you in a locality may join together to dig a pond. All this contributes to inner purity.

How do you deserve the grace of Isvara? By constantly serving others, by being compassionate to all creatures. Your mind, your consciousness, will also become clear. In this pure consciousness of yours, you will see the image of the Lord. Do you see any image in turbid water? We have made our minds muddy with impurities. We must make them limpid by being devoted to the Lord and by serving mankind. Then Isvara will be within our grasp.

NON-ATTACHMENT IS COMPLETE SELF-ABNEGATION



In helping the world we help ourselves. The main effect of work done for others is to purify ourselves.

By means of the constant effort to do good to others, we are trying to forget ourselves; this forgetfulness of self is the one great lesson we have to learn in life.

Man thinks foolishly that he can make himself happy and after years of struggle finds out at last that true happiness consists in killing selfishness and that no one can make him happy except himself. Every act of charity, every thought of sympathy, every action of help, every good deed, is taking so much of self-importance away from our little selves.

Here we find that Jnâna, Bhakti, and Karma — all come to one point. The highest ideal is eternal and entire self-abnegation, where there is no "I," but all is "Thou"; and whether he is conscious or unconscious of it, Karma-Yoga leads man to that end.

A religious preacher may become horrified at the idea of an Impersonal God; he may insist on a Personal God and wish to keep up his own identity and individuality, whatever he may mean by that. But his ideas of ethics, if they are really good, cannot but be based on the highest self-abnegation. It is the basis of all morality; you may extend it to men, or animals, or angels, it is the one basic idea, the one fundamental principle running through all ethical systems.

You will find various classes of men in this world. First, there are the God-men, whose self-abnegation is complete, and who do only good to others even at the sacrifice of their own lives. These are the highest of men. If there are a hundred of such in any country, that country need never despair. But they are unfortunately too few.

Then there are the good men who do good to others so long as it does not injure themselves.

And there is a third class who, to do good to themselves, injure others. It is said by a Sanskrit poet that there is a fourth unnamable class of people who injure others merely for injury's sake.

Just as there are at one pole of existence the highest good men, who do good for the sake of doing good, so, at the other pole, there are others who injure others just for the sake of the injury. They do not gain anything thereby, but it is their nature to do evil.

Here are two Sanskrit words. The one is Pravritti, which means revolving towards, and the other is Nivritti, which means revolving away.

The "revolving towards" is what we call the world, the "I and mine"; it includes all those things which are always enriching that "me" by wealth and money and power and name and fame and which are of a grasping nature, always tending to accumulate everything in one centre, that centre being "myself". That is the Pravritti, the natural tendency of every human being; taking everything from everywhere and heaping it around one centre, that centre being man's own sweet self. When this tendency begins to break, when it is Nivritti or "going away from," then begin morality and religion. Both Pravritti and Nivritti are of the nature of work: the former is evil work, and the latter is good work.

This Nivritti is the fundamental basis of all morality and all religion and the very perfection of it is entire self-abnegation, readiness to sacrifice mind and body and everything for another being. When a man has reached that state, he has attained to the perfection of Karma-Yoga. This is the highest result of good works.

Although a man has not studied a single system of philosophy, although he does not believe in any God, and never has believed, although he has not prayed even once in his whole life, if the simple power of good actions has brought him to that state where he is ready to give up his life and all else for others, he has arrived at the same point to which the religious man will come through his prayers and the philosopher through his knowledge; So you may find that the philosopher, the worker, and the devotee, all meet at one point, that one point being self-abnegation.

However much their systems of philosophy and religion may differ, all mankind stand in reverence and awe before the man who is ready to sacrifice himself for others. Here, it is not at all any question of creed or doctrine; even men who are very much opposed to all religious ideas, when they see one of these acts of complete self-sacrifice, feel that they must revere it.

Desperate Calls

You can enjoy your prosperity only if you share your income with the deprived and thus discover the satisfaction that it provides.



School requires support

Hannah John Special High School, Tirukoilur is rendering services to the boys and girls belonging to the lower income group .

The school requests kind hearted persons and philanthropists for financial support and encouragement for their efforts.

Contact address

The Founder

Hannah John Special High School

Teachers Nagar, Asanur Road
(Opposite to Taluk Office)

Sandapet, Tirukoilur-605757

Phone:04153-253015,

Cell:9443618260, 9788893472

Child needs support for medical treatment

Master N.Muthaiya, S/o. Sri.A.Sivakumar, age 5 months is suffering from severe combined immuno deficiency from his birth. He requires stem cell transplantation . The cost of the treatment at Apollo Speciality Hospital is Rs.15,00,000/-

Sri.A.Sivakumar is an unskilled labourer. He has already lost 4 children without knowing the child's problems.

Sri.A.Sivakumar requests kind hearted persons for financial help for his child's medical treatment.

Cheque may be drawn in favour of Apollo Speciality Hospital, Chennai and sent to the following address:

Sri.A.Sivakumar
S/o Sri.Arumugham,
Ka.Mamananthal Village,
55, East Street,
Kallakurichi,
Villupuram District,
Tamil Nadu

Poor physically challenged persons need sewing machines

The following physically challenged persons, belonging to lower income group, desire to self employ themselves. They request for the donation of sewing machines

* Mrs. P.Devi (Visually impaired)

W/o.Mr.M.Pandurangan (late)

14-A, Bharathiar Street,

Pathuvancherry, Agaram (South)

Chennai-600 073

* Sri.C.Marimuthu,

3/29, Kizhpathupattu (post)

Tindivanam, Tamil Nadu

* Sri.L.Mahalingam, S/o.Sri.Loganathan,

55,Karumariamman Koil Street,

Kizhpathupattu (post), Gangai Nagar,

Tindivanam Tk, Tamil Nadu

Child needs treatment for hearing impairment

Baby.B.Keerthana D/o.Sri.C.Bhaskar Varma, age one and half years is hearing and speech impaired girl. She requires cochlear implant . Estimated cost of cochlear implant at KKR ENT & Research Institute (P) Ltd., Chennai is Rs.12,00,000/-

Sri.C.Bhaskar Varma requests kind hearted persons for financial help for his daughter's cochlear implant treatment.

Cheque may be drawn in favour of KKR ENT & Research Institute (P) Ltd., Chennai and sent to the following address:

Sri.C.Bhaskar Varma
No.4,3rd Street
Thulasi Flats,North Jaganatha Nagar,
Villivakkam,Chennai-600 049

Poor person needs support for renal treatment

Sri.R.Balamurugan, age 35 years is suffering from chronic renal failure. Presently, he is undergoing haemodialysi support thrice in a week at PSG Hospitals, Coimbatore. He has to undergo renal transplantation . The cost of the surgery is Rs.2,00,000/- . The expenditure for medicines after the surgery for one year will be around Rs.3,00,000/-

Sri.R.Balamurugan is an unskilled labourer He requests kind hearted persons for financial assistance for his surgery and medicines.

Cheque may be drawn in favour of PSG Hospitals, Coimbatore and sent to the following address:

Sri.R.Balamurugan

S/o. Sri.S.Ramachandran

1/133, Thangamman Koil Street,Aandipatti Post, Via Alangulam, Tirunelveli Dist, Pin:627 851

Heart patients need support for medical treatment

Baby Ridisha Samanta, 2 months old is suffering from congenital heart disease. Estimated cost of the open heart surgery at Fortis Hospitals, Bangalore. is Rs.1,50,000/-

BabyK J Jithin , 3 months old is suffering from congenital heart disease. Estimated cost of the open heart surgery at Fortis Hospitals, Bangalore. is Rs.1,50,000/-

Miss G.Usha Sri, 37 years is suffering from CHD with A S D with L to R shunt. Estimated cost of the open heart surgery at Mallaya Hospital, Bangalore. is Rs.90,000/-

The cheque may be drawn in favour of concerned hospital and sent to the following address:

Secretary, Save Poor Lives, No.22, Perumal Koil Street, Aminjikai, Chennai-600 029

Student needs support for education

Master. S. Balaji, age 12 years is studying 9th std. in Sri.Vishwa Vidyalaya Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Vandalur, Chennai. He has to pay Rs.10,350/- towards school fees and book fees for the forthcoming academic year.

Mrs.S.Jayanthi, his mother lost her husband. She and her two sons are living with her father in law who is a pensioner. She is working in the same school as Hindi teacher for small salary.

Mrs.S.Jayanthi requests kind hearted persons for financial help for her son's education.

Cheque may be drawn in favour of Sri.Vishwa Vidyalaya Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Vandalur, Chennai and sent to The Editor, Nandini Voice For The Deprived.

Patient needs financial support for surgery

Sri.Shekhar Suresh Ambre, age 30 years is suffering from tumour in stomach . The doctors advised him to undergo surgery and 3 cycles of chemotherapy. The estimated cost of chemotherapy for three cycles is Rs.1,00,000/-

Sri.Shekhar Suresh Ambre is working in a private company. His salary is not even sufficient for running the family.

His family consist of his parents, one brother and sister and wife. He is the only bread winner in the family.

Sri.Shekhar Suresh Ambre requests kind hearted persons for financial support for his treatment.

Cheque may be drawn in favour of Jaslok Hospital & Research Centre, Mumbai and sent to the following address

Sri.Shekhar Suresh Ambre

Chawl No.1, Shiv Sundar Chawl, Wagari Wada, Datta Mandir Road, Vakola Bridge,Santacruz (East), Mumbai-400 055

Student needs support for education

Sri.S.Sathya is studying 6th std in Sri Sitaram Vidyalaya Mat.Higher Secondary School,Chennai

He has to pay Rs.4,400/- towards first term fees.

At present, his father Sri.S.Saundararajan is unemployed.

Sri.S.Saundararajan requests kind hearted persons for financial help for his son's education.

Cheque may be drawn in favour of Sri Sitaram Vidyalaya Mat. Higher Secondary School,Chennai and sent to the following address:

Mr.S.Sathya,

S/o.Mr.S. Saundararajan

4/39, Nagathamman Koil Street, Mettupalayam, Chennai-600 033

Readers' forum

Readers' forum provides space for the enlightened readers to give expression to their views on a variety of socio economic issues that is of relevance to the society.

Further enrichment of the journal with your thoughtful inputs would certainly go a long way in promoting the cause that the journal seeks to espouse.



Post poll reaction of poor people

I spoke to cross section of people in the lower income group across Tamil Nadu to know their post poll reaction.

While almost all of them said that the freebies would continue irrespective of the party coming to power, they said that alcoholism and rowdyism will also continue.

In places like north Chennai, small shops and hotels close down their shutters after 4 p.m. on Sundays fearing demand for mamool by rowdies. Particularly in rural areas, women rarely stir out after 4 p.m. fearing drunken men. The task is cut out for the new government.

Chennai

K.A.Mahesh

Congress Party's role in PAC

The members of the Congress party virtually disrupted the proceedings of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), without bothering about how the country men would view their behaviour.

Obviously, the Congress party has moved far far away from the lofty standards set by Jawaharlal Nehru.

Congress party members should have allowed discussions to go on and should have insisted on voting which is the democratic way.

When the chairman left, one of its members occupied the chair, unconcerned about the new low standard that he is setting up. I wonder as to why Dr. Manmohan Singh allows all such behaviour by his party men. He should be concerned as this ultimately reflects on him.

Thanjavur

K.Ramaswamy

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Women's Day

The article on the Women's day (Nandini, April, 2011) is indeed a great eye-opener.

This is a mere rhetoric, without any relevance whatever to the millions of "below BPL" women labourers and homemakers and their children. These so called low class women, in contrast to the high society career women, have mostly no

voting rights, ration cards, fixed place of residence (being migratory workforce/domestic servants), health care or insurance benefits, education/skill development opportunities or even really right to live. Subject to utter poverty, they are compelled by the society to become sex workers and repository of AIDS etc.

The expensive government ads., high profile career-building NGOs' publicity and collection drives, huge grants given to the latter by the govt., are all meant for "self help"- for attending conferences at home or abroad and going on foreign trips!

When a whole nation is hypocrite and corrupt, it would be better if such things are not celebrated. One really wonders, what is the Union Ministry of Women doing for the targeted poor people they are supposed to serve?

New Delhi

C. JYOTI

SRI SATHYA SAI BABA "THE SAVIOUR"

Sri Sathya Sai Baba the Great Saint

Rightly stands foremost as a Spiritual Giant

Infusing in everyone who beseech His Benediction

Spirit of Social Service, Love and Affection!

Although the Savant is not with us today bodily

The compassion of Baba for the needy will continue verily!

How can one forget the ever smiling suave face

Yearning always to confer on people its Divine Grace?

All the activities of Baba were purely philanthropic

Solace and succour being the sole aim to be specific

As vouched in the installation of Drinking Water Supply Projects

Institution of Educational and Health Care Centres!

Baba has left us a tradition to imbibe and follow

As a panacea for all the earthly sorrow!

Baba the Cedar Tree though withered and gone forever

A consolation remains that its fragrance will continue to guide us with fervour!

Chennai

S.Sanjivi

Tele : 2492 3645

THE LAUDABLE EFFORTS OF ELECTION COMMISSION

Restored confidence amongst the average voters about the purpose and fairness of Election Commission



Sri. S.Y Quraishi, Chief Election Commissioner

The Election Commission should be complimented for its efforts in conducting the election in Tamil Nadu in a fair manner, with great sense of commitment and determination.

With the politicians of most leading parties in the state, unconcerned about the means adopted to win elections and attempting to bribe the voters with their ill gotten money on such wide scale, the task of election commission in Tamil Nadu became extremely difficult. While it has seized several crores of rupees of cash meant for bribing the voters, perhaps it has not been able to seize several more crores of rupees that have been distributed to the poor people for buying their votes by the unscrupulous politicians.

The Election Commission has done its best and carried out intense campaign to create awareness amongst the people of Tamil Nadu that they should not sell their votes. This is a great initiative which should be recognised and applauded. It has certainly restored credibility of the institution of Election Commission and created fear amongst the politicians that they would be taken to task if they indulge in misbehaviour. The positive steps of the Election Commission has generated new hope amongst the common men that the rule of law will assert itself.

While the Election Commission has done its duty marvellously, it is now the duty of the citizens of Tamil Nadu to carry on the fight against the malpractices and corruption indulged in by the politicians.

Letter from Mr. S.Y Quraishi, Chief Election Commissioner acknowledging the role of civil society

Dear Shri Venkataraman,

This is a belated response to your mail of April 13 in which you had complimented the Election Commission of India for its efforts in conducting the elections in Tamil Nadu in a fair manner.

I would like to say that the support of the civil society helped us enormously in discharging our duty with commitment and determination.

You have shown to the world that an awakened civil society is the answer to unfair practices in elections and otherwise.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

S.Y. Quraishi

WHITHER ANNA HAZARE'S ANTI CORRUPTION MOVEMENT ?

Anna Hazare should remember Mahatma Gandhi's assertion that a man of truth should also be a man of care. Obviously, Bhushans have not been careful.

When Anna Hazare went ahead with his fast demanding Lokpal Bill to strengthen the anti corruption movement, he caught the mood of the country men and many gave him unstinted support.

Anna Hazare was hailed as Gandhian and many saw in him a ray of hope for the country. However, today, many feel concerned that this well intentioned movement may get derailed and certainly the concerned Indians are praying that it should not happen.

Obviously, the corrupt political leaders and business men do not want this movement to succeed and will leave no stone unturned to ensure that the anti corruption movement would wither away.

This is a critical movement for the country and Anna Hazare should not fall into the trap by resisting the demand for resignation of Bhushans from the panel to draft the Lokpal Bill.

Anna Hazare did not follow any consultative process in recommending the members of the panel, which appears to be based on his judgement.

Certainly eyebrows were raised even amongst many pledged admirers of Anna Hazare when he appointed father and son as members of the panel. It is a well recognized fact that family members like father and son in a political party or any committee can lead to vested interests and several political leaders in the country today are accused of building family tree in the political parties, which are called as dynastic rule.

In any case, the fact is that serious allegations have been leveled against Bhushans. Even if 1% of the allegations are found to be true, Bhushans should resign from the panel as only persons with impeccable character should be in the panel representing the civil society.

Even if Bhushans feel that they have been sinned against rather than sinning, many feel that Bhushans should still resign voluntarily and prove their innocence in the court of law and take their critics to task, who may be leveling motivated charges. Bhushans will have the support of the country men for such crusade.

Anna Hazare should remember Mahatma Gandhi's assertion that a man of truth should also be a man of care. Obviously, Bhushans have not been careful.

Without losing further time and playing into the hands of corrupt elements who are bent upon spoiling Anna Hazare's movement, Bhushans should give their space to other equally eminent constitution lawyers and social activists and Bhushans can certainly give their guidance from outside.

Bhushans will be in a much stronger position to fight the forces of corruption by voluntarily walking out of the panel at this stage, so that the panel may proceed with the job in a smooth manner.

Perhaps, if the corrupt elements in the country would again level some motivated charges against the new members of the panel who would replace Bhushans, the corrupt elements making such charges would certainly stand exposed and Bhushans would emerge as the chief fighters against such people, which is the need of the day.



CITIZENS' VIEWS ON CONTINUATION OF BHUSHANS IN THE LOKPAL DRAFT COMMITTEE PANEL

Nandini Voice invited views on Anna Hazare's anti corruption movement and controversies concerning Bhushans. Views of a few persons are given in the article.

Bhushans must resign .

D.K.Oza

* * * * *

I consider it as a subversion of democracy. The so called members from the civil society have replaced the opposition. Whom do they represent? Is the opposition irrelevant in a democracy? Where are we heading? This is communist ideology - who want to throw democracy with "people's power".

First, it was the extra-constitutional NAC, with members from suspicious NGOs. Now, this Joint Drafting Committee, neglecting the opposition. This is a dangerous trend.

P. Deivamuthu

* * * * *

It is true that there is no doubt about the integrity or honesty of Anna Hazzare. The question is neither the team led by IAC did any consultation with the like minded nor the governmrent sought any opinion from public before announcing the committee.

Atleast now, they should do it and a revised committee should be formed .

A.Subramani

* * * * *

Anna Hazare 's efforts are very praiseworthy in the fight against corruption.

However, it must also be realized that incidence of corruption in a vast society of India's size, has many aspects, forms and dimesions. Nor is the fight against corruption a one time issue. Such efforts need to be duly institutionalized for a long-term effect. With contnuing changes in economy, polity and society, newer forms of corruption are bound to keep coming up. We have also to keep striking a dynamic balance between regulation and freedom.

As regards the Drafting Committee, it is felt by many that the whole approach of the 'civil society' group has been highly personlized and odd, to say the least, from the start itself. Tthe issue is not only of the question marks that are arising about the Bhushans. How can someone

holding an important public office like that of 'Loka-Ayukta' be a nominee of a highly personalized NGO group? Will this mean that the Lok Pal will also be an entity committing such indulgences?.

Those who want greater integrity in public life must project an image of integrity which is obvious to the public at large without bringing in protracted legal explanations. Self-righteous assertions must be avoided, and self-centred attitudes have just no place in such movements.

YP Anand

* * * * *

The so called concerned citizns whose 'consensus' you seem to be highlighting are obviously playing into the hands of the detractors of the movement.

How else do you explain the timing of the 'allegations' against Bhushans who are because of their experience and expertise are assets for the drafting committee!.

We all are solidly behind Anna and his judgement. Please stop making such backdoor attempts at shaking peoples' faith in the civil society team.

Today, it is Bhushans, tomorrow it 'll be other members and the whole momentum shall be halted. This is what the corrupt politicians whose invisible hand is behind these smears want. Why does an NGO like yours want this!

N.Nojah

* * * * *

The effort to fight corruption at individual levels may have some good and a lot of pit falls as the really competent people may not be handling these issues at the highest level. Our MPs have been clever at not taking any decision on very important matters for decades. And those who have a massive clout with money eventually take the lead in leading our leaders.

There is no easy answers , as there are wheels within wheels which do not work with precision like in a wrist watch.

A non political movement like a citizens forum, with funds from subscription may have to be considered to pick

CITIZENS' VIEWS ON CONTINUATION OF BHUSHANS IN THE LOKPAL DRAFT COMMITTEE PANEL

the right citizens of high level of dedication, honesty and commitment.

Then how do we measure these qualities, with what yardstick?, Eventually power corrupts those who may be good leaders upto a point of time.

Then, will all these Citizens' Forums formed at Village levels and Urban levels form a 'Federated Organisation'? It is too complex to think..

K V S Krishna

* * * * *

What is of concern is the fate of Lok Pal Bill. A view is that the draft Bill requires a lot of changes because those who have drafted it lack administrative experience. Secondly, it has to be followed by Lok Ayuktas in the States. Thirdly, it is important that all important posts, particularly Constitutional or those of Commissions etc. are filled up by persons of integrity and those who have no political leanings by a Committee or Panel by consensus.

We need not be unduly worried about the composition of the drafting Committee. The timing of the allegations against Bhushans may be noted.

Naresh Gupta

* * * * *

Shanti Bhushan was the lawyer who, representing Raj Narain, defeated Indira Gandhi in 1971 and got her disqualified for six years. This later led to the imposition of emergency.

It is an indisputable fact that the Bhushans have long years of fighting legal battles in the Supreme Court. Therefore, their names are anathema to the Nehru-Gandhi clan. As for the Jan Lokpal bill, even before Anna Hazare was chosen as the senapati to lead the agitation for the enactment of the law, the father-son duo was actively engaged in the preparation of the draft of the bill. Later, when the committee was to be formed, they came and joined the team for drafting the bill at the specific request of Anna.

It would have been simplistic for anybody to think that the empire would grin and bear the humiliation of capitulating before Anna Hazare in a matter of just four days. Prashant Bhushan had, additionally, subjected the congress government to discomfiture, humiliation and even insult at the hands of the SC in the matter of 2G scam.

Therefore, the fake CD, farm land allotment, underpayment of stamp duty-all financial misdemeanours said to have been committed by the Bhushans dramatically

materialised, one after another, in regular, quick succession, all meant to humiliate them by way of pay-back. Therefore, it would be really injudicious and inadvisable for us to walk into the trap set by the congress demolition squad headed by Digvijay Singh and his side-kick, Amar Singh. Justice Hegde too was targetted.

Therefore, please, let us not despair, let us be united in our resolve to have the anti-corruption law and let us punish all corrupt people including the Bhushans, if proven guilty of the said misdemeanours.

B.Venkatraman Shenoy

* * * * *

I do feel that both father and son combination of Bhushans should have been avoided, recommending the senior Bhushan. The committee of civil society is represented more by legal experts - Bhushans and Santhosh Hegde, but an eminent person from the police force like Kiran Bedi and a sociologist should have been included..

So far, the civil committee did not form any advisory council to help its role in drafting the bill, which is a major lacuna.

The inputs from such Council comprising eminent citizens would go a long way to fight the case and to counter effectively the objectionable points that might be raised by the Government members of the committee, whose objective will be to dilute the impact of the bill.

Well, the fight against the cancer of corruption needs to be fought on solid foundation laid by Anna Hazare, who should take into confidence large section of the society and identify areas in which the groups have to work in close coordination and with commitment to the cause

Dr.V.Rajagopal

* * * * *

Absolutely right. But what is the way? What ever be the outcome, the process has set in.

We only optimistically expect the rational youngsters will step in and contribute to well being of the country by rooting out corruption !

Y R Sarma

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Time is running out .JUSTICE DELAYED IS JUSTICE DENIED.

It is all the more essential to unite honest citizens on the spirit of compliance to ethical values in public life and approach objectively the primary issue of formulating an acceptable draft.

CITIZENS' VIEWS ON CONTINUATION OF BHUSHANS IN THE LOKPAL DRAFT COMMITTEE PANEL

Having harnessed the common forum, the pioneers of the movement who have rekindled the spirit of nationalism and patriotism should have the minimum working freedom to think, conceptualise and suggest proactive strategies for weeding out the invisible monster of corruption in the ever greedy society.

If we do focus on the core issue of DRAFT CONTENT, dissenting views and character insinuation will end up as storm in the tea cup and will subside.

Otherwise priorities will get diluted and the present momentum for self purification will be lost.

S.Kannan

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I want to stress that in the Indian constitution, there is no law to punish the erring judges. We have seen in media that some judges are involved in scientific corruption it seems. Hence in Lokpal bill, it should be emphasized that the erring judges should be punished.

There is no transparency in some other for which simplified laws have to be enacted.

N.V.Ranganayakalu

* * * * *

We should thank Anna Hazare for taking up the issue of corruption in such a strong way. This should have been done by the Opposition, mainly BJP.

The three major scams - Adarsh Housing, 2G and CWG - have been exposed almost at the same time and this has overwhelmed the people. The ruling party

sacrificed the winter session before yielding to the demand of the opposition for a JPC.

Thanks to the public spirited citizens who filed a case in the Supreme Court, the wheels of justice are moving. This shows the need for an institution like that of Lokpal who could take such issues suo motto and punish the guilty.

The way some of the bigwigs of the ruling party are finding fault with members of the civil society representatives make it clear that they want to put hindrance in the functioning of the joint panel of the government and the civil society.

If some are found to be at fault, they should be prosecuted in a court of law.

Shri Shanti Bhushan and his son Shri Prashant Bhushan have been in forefront of fighting corruption for a long time. They took up the 2G issue to the Supreme Court. Their expertise is necessary to make Lokpal an effective tool to fight corruption.

By the way, some people have attacked Anna Haare and Justice Santosh Hegde also. This should not detract the fight for an effective Lokpal

M.D.Kini

* * * * *

I am of the view, in the first place both Father and the Son need not be there in the panel.

In the present scenario, I agree with you that they should step down from the panel and set an example.

V.Bashyam.

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VOTER'S QUEUE AND SO CALLED VIPs



It is disgusting to see reports that while voters were waiting in the long queue to exercise their franchise in the recent Tamil Nadu polls, the so called VIPs straight away walked into the polling booth escorted by the police and others to cast their votes.

The so called VIPs include ministers, cinema stars and politicians who seem to think that it would be below their dignity to stand in the queue.

This is an obnoxious practice totally not in tune with the spirit of democracy. The helpless common men standing in the long queue often murmur in protest

but do nothing more than this.

We remember Rajaji coming to the polling booth to exercise his franchise in those days when those in the queue themselves requested him to go into the polling booth straight away. Rajaji refused and stood in the queue for nearly twenty minutes till his turn came. The photograph of Rajaji patiently waiting in the queue also appeared in the newspapers.

It is strange that the photographers are given free entry into the polling booth to take the photographs of the so called VIPs casting their votes.

What a fall in the standards of our politicians today.

Citizens' views on VIPs jumping queue while voting

Nandini Voice invited views about the obnoxious practice of the so called VIPs jumping the voters' queue. Views of a few persons are given in the article.

The rules are the same for everyone except that aged or handicapped persons are entitled for priority.

The difficulty is that the officials would be afraid of the VIPs and, therefore, not able to check them.

Naresh Gupta

* * * * *

I totally endorse your views.

Is it not against the principle of secret ballot when the TV channel beam Rajnikant casting vote for AIADMK? The newspapers have mentioned it.

Kris Dev

* * * * *

I entirely agree with your view; but the Chief Electoral Officer can hardly do anything in this matter which relates to the VIP culture that has taken hold of our society, specially after Independence.

It is very much in evidence in several places of public participation including temples.

This can be curbed only by repeated public articulation of this view accompanied by individual examples for emulation and correction.

C.V.Narasimhan

* * * * *

I agree.

Incidentally, Sr Citizens are ENTITLED to jump the queue and I did that. (I am 77).I had of course no escort . Most of our VIPs have long gone past the bar of 60 years

and on that account, are entitled to jump the queue !!! Karunanidhi is 90 and Anbalagan is 89. The average of the two is 89 and a half.

Thus we should not deny them their entitlement.

Some political figures are so great(!) that their devotees will demand that after they are GONE, one devotee can exercise their franchise in perpetuity because such heroes are immortal!.

D. K. Oza

* * * * *

I totally agree with your sense of disgust and am provoked into what follows.

Consider a wider reflection apropos this Orwellian queue jumping.

Every republic posits a robust and participating citizenry that is based on a concept of citizens equal in all respects both in rights and obligations irrespective of birth or power. And every republican constitutional arrangement is about realizing such citizenship potential to its fullest extent possible and as universally as possible. Are we a republic in that sense ?

Test it out now in any part of India with your choice of leader from any party from the top to the nearest Mavatta talaivar. Each of them has been made by our current governance systems (through a process - of hypocrisy +abuse of power +corruption: in that order -) into a larger and bigger citizen with a right to enjoying the possibilities of realizing his or their own citizenship potential fully and far more than you and me .

No wonder there is none who leads today who can stand in the queue as Rajaji had - but perhaps one follower who tried but hounded is out President Kalam.

I propose it is time that the Constitution is amended to delete the word republic from the Preamble.

Raj Srinivasan

* * * * *

I agree with you entirely - those with a security perception can be excused but all others including bureaucrats like us have no reason not to stand in the queue and vote when our turn comes - Within the bureaucracy also some of the IAS /IPS perhaps find it difficult to stand.

My family and i always enjoyed the queue and all the talk that goes on when you actually get to feel the pulse of the people

Vivek Harinarain

* * * * *

We have to go back that far in time to see proprieties being observed here.

In South East Asia, with the possible exception of the Presidents of the countries, others do stand in line.

Cesar Virata, Prime Minister under Marcos, used to stand in line to watch a play in which his wife was playing the lead role. Credit should be given to him for that. But even greater credit is due to the ushers who never once approached him fawningly to request him to go in straightaway.

We are extremely fuedal in our behaviour.

R. Swaminathan

* * * * *

I totally endorse your views.

The VIP culture in India is a contradiction in terms in a democracy. This is crass discrimination and EC must check it.

B K Verma

* * * * *

And, so did Mr.Namboodiripad; and Mrs.Gouriammal. This happens because the ordinary citizen is still afraid. Afraid of telling the so-called VIP that he better follow a better example and asserting the normal citizen's rights. Dr.Udayamurthi used to point out that we, particularly in Tamil Nadu, are still living partly in the colonial age; We cannot look upon authority, especially the Police, as our servants and still look upon them as our masters.

Thanks for bringing this out so pointedly.

Srinivasa Parthasarathy

* * * * *

How can any sensible person disagree with what you say?

K.Vedamurthy.

* * * * *

I support your views.

Dr.C.Rajagopal

* * * * *

In principle I do support this view.

Only practical issue I would like to highlight (and this applies only to cinestars, sports stars and the like and not to politicians) is that their waiting in queue for a prolonged period can cause general disturbance and crowding in the area, which the police may then need to step in and control. To that extent, their jumping the queue might help.

P. Venkatesh

* * * * *

Welcome your suggestion.Elsction Commision may enforce it.

V. S. .Subbaiyan

* * * * *

I agree with you. There should not be a VIP as for as casting of vote is concerned.

Sugalchand Jain

* * * * *

Yes, I support you and agree hundred percent that it is an obnoxious, uncivilized and undemocratic practice.

Of course I am not against permitting a genuinely disabled person, a very elderly person being permitted with the general consent of those in the queue. -

P.K.N. Panicker.

* * * * *

This view will receive the support of all those who sincerely and strongly believe in democracy.

Pramila

* * * * *

I fully support your view. Ours is a democracy. All the citizens are equal, irrespective of their status. When any voter comes to the polling station, he or she has to stand in the queue and await his or her turn.

I have seen our district t. collector Dr. Umanath, who is the Dt. Election Officer and hard pressed for time on the election day, standing in the queue awaiting his turn, in spite of our offer to jump the queue.

If I were an eye witness to any one jumping any queue, I politely advise him to follow us. If he refuses, then I make an issue of it and follow it to its logical conclusion. Then, I see to it that the right thing is done.

N.K.Velu

* * * * *

HOW SHOULD SRI LANKAN GOVERNMENT REACT TO UN INVESTIGATION ?

United Nations Organisation appears to have come out with a report on the role of Sri Lankan Government during the recent anti insurgency action, which is not flattering.

Sri Lankan Government is upset and does not approve the content of this investigative report of UN.

But, where is the need for the Sri Lankan Government to ask the Sri Lankan citizens to come out on to the streets to protest ? What would be the benefit of such agitations and protests by the citizens, which would only lead to loss of man hours and energy?

Obviously, the most appropriate step for the Sri Lankan Government would be to react with dignity and wait for the report to be officially released and then deny any adverse comments with suitable counter points, if the Sri Lankan Government would feel strongly about it.

It is known around the world that there was a divisive movement in Sri Lanka and the separatist forces were brutal, ruthless and indulged in variety of warfare methods, killing hundreds of Sri Lankan soldiers and innocent people. Any Government in the world would have reacted to such problems with military means to put down the rebels even as it would try to find out an amicable solution for the problem.

At the same time, there has to be a genuine regret amongst the President and other leaders of Sri Lankan Government that all such violent acts have taken place, which resulted in grave sufferings to several innocent Sri Lankan Tamils who were as much citizens of Sri Lanka as other citizens like Sinhalese and Muslims.

Now, that such unfortunate incidents have inevitably taken place, Sri Lankan Government should conduct itself with grace and feelings of compassion and do all that is

possible to mitigate the sufferings of the Sri Lankan Tamils in the war torn area. It should certainly find imaginative and quick solutions for their problems and widely publicise such steps taken.

Today, no country in the world can afford to allow divisive forces who indulge in violent methods to strip the country apart. There are such problems in several countries including India and all of them use the force to put down the militants. Even United States of America or Britain or France would not have acted differently, if they were to face the problems similar to what Sri Lanka faced.

The United Nations Report should certainly qualify its adverse comments by describing the particular conditions in which the Sri Lankan Government had to take such steps. Isolated accusations without reference to the then scenario would amount to criticism in vacuum.

The dignified reaction of Sri Lankan Government would be to admit that some unfortunate incidents could have taken place beyond its control in the heat of the war.

It should take the United Nations and the world community into confidence about the rehabilitation steps that it is now taking to undo the sufferings of the victims. It can even ask for support from UNO for such proactive steps initiated.

There is valid criticism against the Sri Lankan Government today about the press freedom in Sri Lanka and the way that the opposite Presidential candidate has been treated and continue to be treated.

An image building exercise of Sri Lankan Government should involve all round measures including creating a positive climate of good will in the country and having an approach of malice towards none.

NEED FOR PUBLIC PRESSURE ON THE GOVERNMENT TO MAINTAIN LAW AND ORDER

It is highly disturbing to read the press report (The Times of India, Chennai Edition dated 27.4.2011) that rowdy elements threatened senior citizens in Besant Nagar and nearby areas in Chennai to vacate their residential premises and sell their property.

In recent times, we hear many other criminal activities frequently happening such as chain snatching, eve teasing, drunken brawls in residential colonies etc. Obviously, criminals and thugs are becoming bold and the fear of law enforcing machinery is becoming less and less. The senior police officers should be highly concerned about such situation.

It is very important that the individuals who face such threats and criminal activities should report to the local police stations immediately, even if they happen to be minor incidents in their view.

It is also necessary that they should keep their neighbours informed about such problems without keeping it to themselves. They should write to English and vernacular media about these occurrences and warn the other people about the conditions faced by them.

The residents should also actively participate in the community meetings and deliberations of local associations and know about the conditions around. It is extremely unsafe now for residents to live isolating themselves from others.

While the law enforcing machinery are expected to act to put down the criminals, when this is not happening adequately, public pressure on the government in a peaceful manner is the only way out.

EXHIBITION SALE OF PRODUCTS MADE BY DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS



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Nandini Voice for the Deprived organised sale of products made by differently abled persons on 15th May 2011 at Shastri Nagar, Adyar, Chennai.

The objective of organizing this exhibition was to encourage the differently abled persons (orthopaedically disabled, hearing impaired, speech impaired, visually impaired and mentally ill persons) to acquire skill and self employ themselves and provide them the marketing support for their products. The exhibition was also aimed at sensitizing the public about the capability of the differently abled persons and provide them an opportunity to help the cause of the differently abled persons.

Products made by differently abled persons such as wooden decorative pieces, terracota items, batic paintings, artificial jewellery, acrylic paintings, agarbathis, candles, plastic wire baskets etc. were showcased by orthopaedically disabled, hearing impaired, speech impaired, visually impaired and mentally ill persons.

There was good response from the public for this significant exhibition.



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