

# **Nandini**

ISSUE 2  
MAY 2011

## ***Voice For The Deprived***

Dedicated to the cause of marginalised and downtrodden

**VOL XVII**

**ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION - Rs. 100/-**

**RS.10/-**

**MORE THAN LIGHTING CANDLES  
IN SUPPORT OF  
ANTI CORRUPTION CRUSADE,  
THE CORRUPTION  
SHOULD BE RESISTED AT  
PERSONAL LEVEL  
IN DAY TO DAY LIFE.  
THIS MAY CALL FOR SACRIFICE**



## Thoughts of Kanchi Paramacharya AHIMSA

According to the Manusmriti, ahimsa is the foremost among the dharmas that are common to all. It is included in the yoga of mind control.

Ahimsa means much more than non-injury; it implies not doing harm to others even by thought or word.

By nature, none of us want to cause any hurt to other people. But if others do us harm, we want to retaliate in anger.

Suppose one of our children sets fire to our house in all innocence, we do not punish him but try to extinguish the fire and thereafter take care to see that the child is kept away from fire

and other dangerous objects. We must learn to think that all those who cause us pain are like this child. If a person tries to hurt us, we must lovingly prevent him from doing so. We must not bear any ill-will against him nor think of retaliating. This is true ahimsa.

The practice of ahimsa contributes greatly to the yoga of mind control. The mind is like a demon. The mind will do us unlimited good if it is made subservient to us.

Anjaneya [Hanuman] acquired his immense strength and was able to perform so many great and good deeds only because he had conquered his mind. The mind's power is immeasurable. All the cosmos is the work of the Supreme Goddess and in this creation of Hers, even the mind of a tiny ant pervades the entire universe.

Many great men, many yogins have stated that they were able to control their minds by adhering to true ahimsa. When we practice ahimsa, anger will naturally give way, the mind will become clear and will easily be controlled.

Though the chief aim of non-violence is the control of the mind, there is another unexpected benefit that it brings. It is called "avantara prayojana".

All of you came to the Mutt to see the puja. But with that, you listened to the nagasvaram music and saw persons whom you had not seen for long - and now you listen to my discourse. All these belong to the category of avantara prayojana.

Thus, if a man practices true non-violence (by body, mind and speech), he will be rewarded with a benefit that he had not expected. In his presence, all creatures will forget their ill-will and cease to cause hurt to any other creature.

The minds of even cruel people will be transformed in the presence of men practising utter ahimsa: In other words when a man is full of love, he can make other people also loving and this is an avantara prayojana.

"Ahimsa paramo dharmah" (Non-violence is the supreme dharma).

Buddhism and Jainism impose total non-violence on their followers. Not so Hindu religion except in the case of ascetics. In Hinduism, an exception to the general dharma of non-violence is made in the case of a righteous or just war and in a sacrifice in which sometimes animals are killed. It is to fetch the divine powers to earth and to appease them that animals are sacrificed in yajnas. It is our belief that the animals so sacrificed will attain to a high state that they cannot otherwise through their own efforts. Altogether, it means the good of the animals and the welfare of the world.

Non-violence is a samanya dharma (a dharma common to all) in Hinduism. It is kept as an ideal though, on occasion, adherence to it is not practicable.

In the Vedic dharma, the definition of ahimsa is the absence of ill-feeling in all action.

## SWAMI VIVEKANANDA SPEAKS

### WE HELP OURSELVES, NOT THE WORLD

Our duty to others means helping others; doing good to the world. Why should we do good to the world? Apparently to help the world, but really to help ourselves.

We should always try to help the world, that should be the highest motive in us; but if we consider well, we find that the world does not require our help at all. This world was not made that you or I should come and help it. I once read a sermon in which it was said, "All this beautiful world is very good, because it gives us time and opportunity to help others." Apparently, this is a very beautiful sentiment, but is it not a blasphemy to say that the world needs our help?

We cannot deny that there is much misery in it; to go out and help others is, therefore, the best thing we can do, although in the long run, we shall find that helping others is only helping ourselves.

As a boy, I had some white mice. They were kept in a little box in which there were little wheels, and when the mice tried to cross the wheels, the wheels turned and turned, and the mice never got anywhere. So it is with the world and our helping it. The only help is that we get moral exercise.

This world is neither good nor evil; each man manufactures a world for himself. If a blind man begins to think of the world, it is either as soft or hard, or as cold or hot. We are a mass of happiness or misery; we have seen that hundreds of times in our lives. As a rule, the young are optimistic and the old pessimistic.

The young have life before them; the old complain their day is gone; hundreds of desires, which they cannot fulfil struggle in their hearts. Both are foolish nevertheless. Life is good or evil according to the state of mind in which we look at it, it is neither by itself. Fire, by itself, is neither good nor evil. When it keeps us warm we say, "How beautiful is fire!" When it burns our fingers, we blame it. Still, in itself it is neither good nor bad. According as we use it, it produces in us the feeling of good or bad; so also is this world.

By perfection is meant that it is perfectly fitted to meet its ends. We may all be perfectly sure that it will go on beautifully well without us, and we need not bother our heads wishing to help it.

Yet we must do good; the desire to do good is the highest motive power we have, if we know all the time that it is a privilege to help others. Do not stand on a

high pedestal and take five cents in your hand and say, "Here, my poor man," but be grateful that the poor man is there, so that by making a gift to him you are able to help yourself. It is not the receiver that is

blessed, but it is the giver. Be thankful that you are allowed to exercise your power of benevolence and mercy in the world, and thus become pure and perfect.

All good acts tend to make us pure and perfect. What can we do at best? Build a hospital, make roads or erect charity asylums. We may organise a charity and collect two or three millions of dollars and build a hospital. But what are all these? One mighty wind in five minutes can break all your buildings up. What shall we do then? One volcanic eruption may sweep away all our roads and hospitals and cities and buildings.

Let us give up all this foolish talk of doing good to the world. It is not waiting for your or my help; yet we must work and constantly do good, because it is a blessing to ourselves. That is the only way we can become perfect. No beggar whom we have helped has ever owed a single cent to us; we owe everything to him, because he has allowed us to exercise our charity on him. It is entirely wrong to think that we have done or can do good to the world, or to think that we have helped such and such people. It is a foolish thought and all foolish thoughts bring misery. We think that we have helped some man and expect him to thank us and because he does not, unhappiness comes to us.

Why should we expect anything in return for what we do? Be grateful to the man you help, think of him as God. Is it not a great privilege to be allowed to worship God by helping our fellow men? If we were really unattached, we should escape all this pain of vain expectation and could cheerfully do good work in the world.

Never will unhappiness or misery come through work done without attachment. The world will go on with its happiness and misery through eternity.



# 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.



## **CORRUPTION – IS IT IN OUR GENES ?**

Sir,

I must thank Dr. D.M. Mohunta, for his informative article "Corruption-Is it in our genes?" in the March and April issues of Nandini Voice.

It is indeed historically true that we have been corrupt by nature since ages, resulting in the Rajahs inviting in their own interest foreign invaders to come and help them in their wars against other Rajahs/potentates. This in turn resulted in the Hindus becoming a subjugated race and even today the so-called leaders of the Hindu community has no leadership quality to improve the quality of the Hindus. They can only incite communal wars, but was well discussed in the book "The Militant Nationalism" in India by Dr. Bimanbehari Majumdar.

Today, only the scale and extent of corruption are wider-rather encompassing the people of all classes/castes and religions in India. That the people and the Indian society is totally permissive in every respect is the only reason why there is no sustained mass movement in the country against this killer disease, as against sporadic movements/rail rokos/bandhs all the year round demanding reservation, higher pay, etc.

And, in this lies the answer to your question posed on the cover of the March issue as well as for the one posed on the cover of the April issue.

Chennai

A. Banerjee

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## **Lokpal Bill**

Sir,

\* I am not sure how the Jan lokpal bill will handle following matters.

\* Binami transactions.

\* Bribe received "officially" by cheque as loan or donation to trusts/companies run by bribe taker.

\* Dadagiri at much lower level like village panchayats and small towns.

\* Educational institution insisting capitation fee - almost all politicians have some share in this lucrative pie.

I feel that there is still a very long way to go.

Is it possible to rope in corporate bodies through FICCI or various chambers of commerce and let all corporates take an oath saying that they will not give bribe or endeavour to bend laws.

Similarly, is it possible to get hold of all IAS officers associations and let the officers decide that they will not obey orders of politicians, if it is not as per rules and law.

If corporate India and bureaucrats are serious about eradicating corruption, I am sure they will agree.

Chennai

T.Kalyanaraman

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Change of governments, a must for successful democracy**

Dear Sir,

Kerala, the land of Adhi Sankarachrya, showed the path for the country.

After independence, during Jawaharlal Nehru regime, the centre and all the states were ruled by congress party. The most literate, enlightened electorate of Kerala in a subsequent by election voted for the Communist Party of India (then undivided) into power. Subsequent events proved that democratic spirit in Kerala remained vibrant due to such change of government.

Now five states are going to poll in April. All the states should follow the Kerala example and ensure that politicians would all the time keep in mind that they are accountable. Family or colonial rule is a curse, inviting corruption at all levels. The voters should act wisely and decisively by replacing the present ruling parties with the opposition parties.

Chennai

K.N.Narayana Pillai

## **Freebies Galore in Tamil Nadu**

Sir,

The promise of 35 Kgs of free rice and distribution of free grinders etc. to the poor people by different political parties in Tamil Nadu in the election manifesto is an instance of populism at its worst.

The sound economic and social policy of the government should be to improve employment opportunities, thereby improving the income level and purchasing power of the citizens and not to encourage them to sit idle by providing free gifts to them.

This is a very retrograde step and no concerned economist or social activist anywhere in the world will approve this.

Coimbatore

G.Samuel

# Desperate Calls

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



## Support needed for spine surgery

Mr.Narayan Prasad, age 52 years is suffering from back pain. The estimated cost of the spine surgery at Unnati Hospital, Mumbai is Rs.1,50,000/-

His family consist of two daughters and wife. He is the only bread winner in the family. His eldest daughter's marriage took place recently. His second daughter is studying 12<sup>th</sup> std.

Mrs.Sudha Prasad, his wife requests kind hearted persons for financial help for her husband's spinal card surgery.

Cheque may be drawn in favour of Unnati Hospital, Mumbai and sent to the following address:

Mr.Narayan Prasad  
H/o. Mrs.Sudha Prasad, 601, A Wing,  
Gokul Regency-1 CHS, Thakur Complex,  
Kandivali (East), Mumbai- 400 101  
\*\*\*\*\*

## Needs support for medical treatment

\* Mr.Prasanth Fernando, S/o. Late Britto Lourdraj, age 17 years , is suffering from juvenile rheumatoid arthritis both hip and knee joints. He requires total joint replacement for left knee. Estimated cost of the surgery at St.Thomas Hospital Chennai is Rs.2,50,000/-.

\* Master.Akilesh, S/o. Mr.Kuppusamy , age 5 years, is suffering from thalassemia . He has to undergo bone marrow transplantation. Estimated cost of the transplantation treatment at Apollo Speciality Hospital, Chennai is Rs.8,00,000/-.

\* Ms.Soundarya , D/o. Mr.Annai Prakash, age 14 years , is suffering from thalassemia . Estimated cost of the stemcell transplant treatment at Apollo Speciality Hospital, Chennai is Rs.10,00,000/-.

\* Master. Veerabadra Reddy, S/o. Mr.Subba Reddy, age 14 years , is suffering from gullian barre syndrome. Estimated cost of the treatment at Kanchi Kamakoti Childs Trust Hospital, Chennai is Rs.1,50,000/-.

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

The Secretary,  
Women's Welfare Syndicate  
8/2, Avenue Road, Nungambakkam  
Chennai-600 034

## Heart patients needs support for medical treatment

❖ Master.Indrajit Chowdhury , age 8 years is suffering from congenital heart disease. Estimated cost of the open heart surgery at Fortis Hospitals, Bangalore. is Rs.1,25,000/-

❖ Baby Rubina Patra , 9 months old is suffering from congenital heart disease. Estimated cost of the open heart surgery at Fortis Hospitals, Bangalore. is Rs.1,50,000/-

❖ Md.Yaseen, 3months old is suffering from congenital heart disease. Estimated cost of the open heart surgery at Fortis Hospitals, Bangalore. is Rs.1,25,000/-

❖ Baby Jithin K.J, 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/-

❖ Baby Arya , age 2 years is suffering from congenital heart disease. Estimated cost of the open heart surgery at Fortis Hospitals, Bangalore. is Rs.1,25,000/-

❖ Master. Aslam, age 5 years is suffering from congenital heart disease. Estimated cost of the open heart surgery at Fortis Hospitals, Bangalore. is Rs.1,25,000/-

❖ Ms.Sujatha Nandi, age 33 years is suffering from rheumatic heart disease. Estimated cost of the open heart surgery at Fortis Hospitals, Bangalore. is Rs.1,56,000/-

❖ Mr.Basudev Karmakar, age 43 years is suffering from rheumatic heart disease. Estimated cost of the open heart surgery at Fortis Hospitals, Bangalore. is Rs.1,81,000/-

❖ Master .Manikantan, age 5 years is suffering from congenital heart disease. Estimated cost of the open heart surgery at Fortis Hospitals, Bangalore. is Rs.1,25,000/-

❖ 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/-

The cheque may be drawn in favour of Fortis Hospitals, Bangalore and sent to the following address:

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

**Visually impaired lady needs support for education**

Mrs.V.Pachaiammal, age 28 years is a poor visually impaired lady. She has obtained B.A degree in Tamil Litt. At present, she is studying B.Ed course in Raj College of Education, Madurai.

She has to pay a sum of Rs.73,500/- (Rupees seventy three thousand five hundred only) towards university examination fees, education fees, hostel fees etc. to the college. She has paid only part of the fees so far.

Her husband is also a visually impaired person.

Mrs.V.Pachaiammal requests kind hearted persons for financial help for her studies.

Cheque may be drawn in favour of Raj College of Education, Madurai and sent to the following address:

Mrs.V.Pachaiammal  
Raj College of Education,  
385-C, Harveypatti, Thirupparankundram Post,  
Madurai-625 005.

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**Need sewing machines**

The following persons, belonging to lower income group, desire to self employ themselves and request for the donation of sewing machine.

\* Mrs.B.Chinnammal  
W/o.Mr.Bagyaraj  
54/A1, Karuppasami Koil  
North Street  
Krishnapuram-627 759  
Kadaiyanallur, Thenkasi Tk  
Tirunelveli District

\* Mrs.N.Kala  
W/o. Mr.Nagarajan  
54/A1, Karuppasami Koil  
North Street  
Krishnapuram-627 759  
Kadaiyanallur,Thenkasi Tk  
Tirunelveli District

\* Mrs.M.Ramalakshmi  
W/o.Mr.Mariappan  
33/7-54B, Karuppasami Koil  
North Street  
Krishnapuram-627 759

Kadaiyanallur,Thenkasi Tk  
Tirunelveli District

\* Ms.K.Mathavi  
D/o.Mr.Kali  
6C/74, EB Colony  
Melakadaiyanallur-627 751  
Thenkasi, Tk,Tirunelveli District

\* Ms.K.Janaki  
(Differently abled person)  
D/o.Mr.Karuppaiah  
Railway Feeder Road  
Krishnapuram, Kadaiyanallur,Thenkasi Tk  
Tirunelveli District

\* Ms.R.Thiumalaiselvi  
D/o.Mr.Ramamurthi,  
Railway Feeder Road  
Krishnapuram, Kadaiyanallur,Thenkasi Tk  
Tirunelveli District

\* Mrs. P.Devi  
No. 14-A, Bharathiar Village,  
Paduvacheri,  
Agaram (south),  
Chennai-600 073.

\* Sri L.Mahalingam  
No.55, Karumari Amman Koil Street,  
Keezhpudupet Post,  
Gangai Nagar,  
Tindivanam TK.

\* Sri C. Marimuthu  
No.3/29, Keezhpudupet Post,  
Tindivanam TK.

\* Sri K.Selvaraj  
ECR Main Road,  
Manjakuppam,  
Tindivanam TK.

\* Ms. K.Gayathri  
Salavaiyur Kulakkarai Street,  
Vazhatha Reddy Post,  
Villupuram TK.



## SOLIDARITY WITH ANNA HAZARE MEETING AT CHENNAI

Nandini Voice for the Deprived organised a meeting at Chennai on 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2011 to express the solidarity of the citizens with Anna Hazare's anti corruption crusade and stress the need to sustain the tempo and spirit of the movement.

The meeting was well attended and addressed by Mr. B. S. Raghavan, former Chief Secretary, Government of Tripura; Mr. R. Natraj, former Director General Of Police, Tamil Nadu and Mr. N. L. Rajah, senior lawyer. The participants also expressed their strong anti corruption sentiments.

The speakers stressed that anti corruption message should reach all corners of the country particularly in the rural areas and amongst the people in the lower income group, who are the worst victims of corruption in administration. While the Lokpal Bill would help the cause to a significant extent, it is necessary that revulsion should come from the citizens at all levels. The family pressure against corruption should be encouraged strongly, so that if the head of the family would indulge in corrupt practices, other members of the family would refuse to accept the benefits gained by dishonest means.

Anna Hazare has ignited the Gandhian spark in the country against corruption and nepotism, reflecting the mood of the country men. All the concerned citizens of India who are not part of political class and who are several millions in number have been praying that someone come forward and ignite this Gandhian spark.

Now that Anna Hazare has met the expectations of the country men and the need of the time, it is very important that we should express our solidarity with him and strengthen the voice of anti corruption movement.

## INADEQUACIES OF GOVERNMENT LOKPAL BILL

Lokpal will not have any power to either initiate action suo motu in any case or even receive complaints of corruption from general public. The general public will make complaints to the speaker of Lok Sabha or chairperson of Rajya Sabha. Only those complaints forwarded by Speaker of Lok Sabha/Chairperson of Rajya Sabha to Lokpal would be investigated by Lokpal.

1. Lokpal has been proposed to be an advisory body. Lokpal, after enquiry in any case, will forward its report to the competent authority. The competent authority will have final powers to decide whether to take action on Lokpal's report or not.

In the case of cabinet ministers, the competent authority is Prime Minister. In the case of PM and MPs, the competent authority is Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha, as the case may be. In the coalition era when the government of the day depends upon the support of its political partners, it will be impossible for the PM to act against any of his cabinet ministers on the basis of Lokpal's report. For instance, if there were such a Lokpal today and if Lokpal made a recommendation to the PM to prosecute A. Raja, obviously the PM will not have the political courage to initiate prosecution against A. Raja. Likewise, if Lokpal made a report against the PM or any MP of the ruling party, will the house ever pass a resolution to prosecute the PM or the ruling party MP? Obviously, they will never do that.

2. The bill is legally unsound. Lokpal has not been given police powers. Therefore, Lokpal cannot register an FIR. Therefore, all the enquiries conducted by Lokpal will tantamount to "preliminary enquiries".

3. Lokpal will have jurisdiction only on MPs, ministers and PM. It will not have jurisdiction over officers. The officers and politicians do not indulge in corruption separately. In any case of corruption, there is always an involvement of both of them.

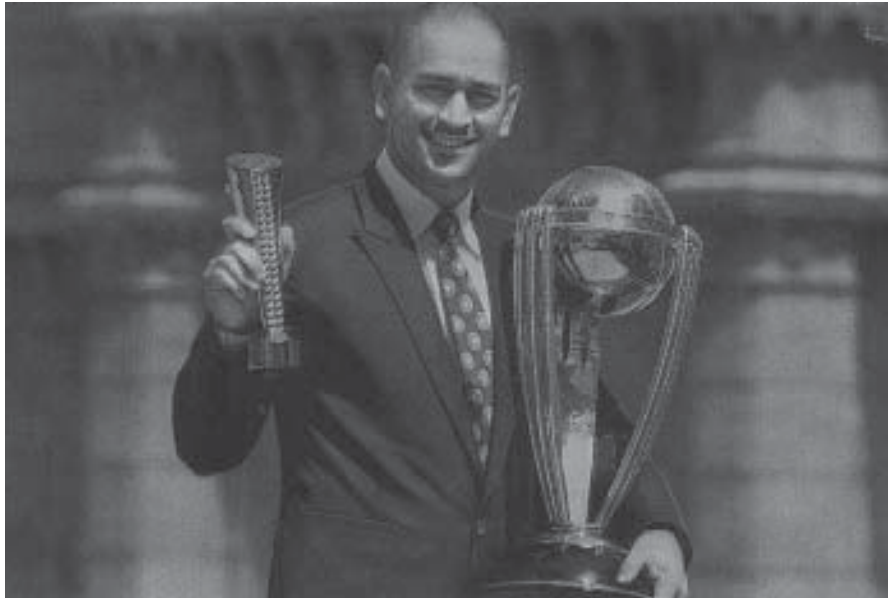
So according to government's proposal, every case would need to be investigated by both CVC and Lokpal. So now, in each case, CVC will look into the role of bureaucrats while Lokpal will look into the role of politicians. Obviously, the case records will be with one agency and the way government functions it will not share its records with the other agency. It is also possible that in the same case the two agencies arrive at completely opposite conclusions. Therefore, it appears to be a sure way of killing any case.

4. Lokpal will not have powers to investigate any case against PM, which deals with foreign affairs, security and defence. This means that corruption in defence deals will be out of any scrutiny whatsoever. It will become impossible to investigate into any Bofors in future.

Source: <http://indiaagainstcorruption.org/>

## CRICKET MADNESS

While the country should be proud about the world cup victory, the nationwide euphoria to frenzy level is unwarranted and it may be an indication that we are unable to view things in a proper perspective with level of maturity.



Cricket and for that matter any sport cannot be the be all and end all for any society and it has to be given its due place only.

If one were to feel so proud about India winning the world cup, what about the extremely poor performance which Indian sportsmen have been showing in the Olympic games for the last so many decades and Olympics is far more representative world event than cricket. What about India loing pride of place amongst the world hockey playing countries and India not even finding a mention in the world football scenario ?

While we seem to be celebrating cricket victory as if we have conquered the world, the number of countries playing cricket in a very active manner is only a handful. Obviously, countries like Netherlands, Canada, Ireland, Kenya have all been included in the world cup cricket tournament only to add number and give a semblance of global character for this tournament , which really does not exist.

What really causes concern about this Indian frenzy about the world cup victory is that we do not seem to have anything better to celebrate, which would be recognized all over the world.

The business centric media has played a significant role in creating public craze about cricket and in the

process, the media has been portraying as if hearts of 1.21 billion Indians are excited about this victory. The truth is that perhaps more than half the population of the country (more than around 0.6 billion people) living in rural areas and small towns may not be even aware about cricket at all or this event taking place in India. Obviously, cricket is a craze of the urban class of the society just as the fact that chess is a game that would be of interest only to intellectuals. Performance of the Indian chess champions in the world arena is far more praiseworthy than our achievements in cricket.

The victory in world cup cricket and the blanket of glory that media is creating , perhaps with commercial objectives, cannot and will not conceal the extremely serious problems of widespread poverty and corruption in India and the insecurity conditions that several women face due to lack of law and order scenario. World cup victory has not taken India to the top of the world, as projected by the media.

It is high time that cricket madness would calm down and the country goes back to work and find ways to solve its many issues , some of which like the widespread corruption in all walks of life have made India a laughing stock in the world.

# VIEWS OF READERS ON “CRICKET MADNESS”

The article on “Cricket Madness” was circulated to cross section of people around the country to know their views. Please read the selected views below.



## **N.Vittal**

I am not at all surprised.

It is a vicious circle of the corrupt Neta, Babu, Lala, Jhola and Dada, that has ruined and corrupted our country.

The recent scams and particularly the Niira Radia tapes have exposed the close link between the media, and celebrities Bollywood politics and top bureaucracy. When the scams are bursting out, the best way is to divert people’s attention.

At the same time, when the nation’s pride has been so badly hurt the best way to escape nemesis is to divert attention and hype one point where the nation does not think in terms of caste, creed or region or status,

Cricket, of course!

There are rumours that the series itself might have been fixed. After all, it is the same usual suspects, the corrupt netas, babus, lalas, dadas with questions about their wealth who are involved in this racket, called professional cricket which has turned a once upon a time gentleman’s game into a global con game.

What is there to wonder?

Any way, one fact is clear. We have a 24 carat genuine leader in Dhoni, we also have an all time great in

Tendulkar and above all we have a bunch of real superkids in our current Indian cricket Team.

Even an old chap who is interested in all subjects except sports feel proud of what our chaps in the Indian team have achieved.

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## **B.S.Raghavan**

I hold the same view about Cricket as Lord Wavell did. I have never once touched ball and bat with a barge pole.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Gopalakrishnan Palaniappan**

I do agree with this view

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## **D.K.Oza**

I think I don’t entirely agree with you.

India is starved of HEROES. We have our criminal politicians — that is all.

It is true that cricket madness does figure in several Asian and English speaking countries but it is on the whole HARMLESS. I have always admired engagement with sports, games and physical culture generally. For the three years at Gandhigram, I tried to see that students play games. I think I was moderately successful !!!

Thanks anyway

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## **P.K.Dorai**

Nothing can be done to prevent or moderate the frenzy or euphoria in such matters and there is nothing wrong if it stops there. Out of all this, we should try to get some good. Admiration, adulation and conferring titles etc. are ok.

But no public resources or permanent benefits like money, land, house, jobs or promotion should be given merely because someone is able to throw or catch a ball well.

All these players are earning crores of rupees from BCCI and their advt. endorsements. A portion of all their earnings should be appropriated contractually by the BCCI and the government and used to help needy people if necessary by endowing the schemes in the names of these players or building free sports facilities in rural areas available to all.

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## **Sriraam**

I fully agree with you on the issue though I am a Cricket Fan.

These players are unnecessarily being pampered by Public, Politicians, Industrialists and so on.



Politicians distribute the money of the Government which are hard earned by the People of India. Nobody protests.

I feel recognition should be given but the players should never be pampered.

Why don't the Government pump some money in Hockey which is equally a very good Sport and winning it would bring more happiness because of tough competition.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Y. P. Anand**

I fully endorse your views. Cricket is not even a world game. It has become an entertainment for the upper classes in India. Governments spending public funds on cricket and cricketers are wrong as public funds are meant only for security and welfare.

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**K. Subramanian**

Cricket is no longer a sport. It is central to money laundering operations and is deeply involved in a new style gambling. There is so much money moving back and forth that it has reduced horse racing to a mere dribble.

Big business is involved as promoters, sponsors, etc. IPL is the ultimate and it is beyond rational comprehension how bids (both for the games and for the players) are priced. Mr. Lalit Modi who was once "ultimate model" for others to emulate is now a fugitive and runs away from laws and courts. Where are all his compatriots who made money during his days?

Apparently, under the prudential regulation of banks by the Reserve Bank, no bank in India can underwrite

the risk involved in crickets shows. So, how do they get the big brothers who underwrite?

Then we have the ad men (the media men represented) who rake their billions. Where do all those collections get parked?

It is naive to believe that these games are financed by sale of tickets. The so-called lover of crickets is dead or hiding. Open sale of tickets is a tiny fraction. The rest is sold in black market. In the last World Cup at Mumbai, a ticket with a face value of Rs1500 was reportedly sold for Rs.1.5 lakhs. Nobody can buy the story that such sale was done by sentries ! We know how tickets are sold outside our cinema houses and how it is organised.

In the good old days when cricket was the virtue of small town gentleman, we saw the beginning of matches held in Sharjah. The sponsor was the one and only Dawood who has risen high in status since then. He finances terrorists, our film magnates, arms dealers and drug pedlars. If one goes deep into the financing of IPL and allied events, we can see the hand of Dawood and his associates.

With friends like Dawood, it is not difficult to get the collections transferred to foreign banks (not always Swiss!). So we have the huge money laundering machine churning millions of rupees into dollars and pounds and transferring them through the hawal route.

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**M. S. Chahal**

Quite agree with the article. The victory is a matter of joy, but there is no reason to go overboard.

Essentially, it is merely a commercial venture, with obscene sums being dished out and no doubt being siphoned off by God alone knows who all! The real issues lie elsewhere and the corrupt establishment is giving it at best lip service. Entertainment should have its proper place and not overshadow what really matters.

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**H.M.Singh**

In total agreement

\*\*\*\*\*

**Francois Gautier**

Good article and relevant points.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Dr G.Sundaram.**

I agree—we tend to over-do things, to the extent of becoming mad.

World Cup is not a mean achievement. But we need not shower crores of tax-payers' money on the already-rich cricketeers.

**Capt Kalaivanan**

I agree with you 100%. You have rightly coined the phrase of " Business centric media" which is the root cause for these evils.

Though i am not a fan of cricket, i started hating the game after all these media frenzy.

\*\*\*\*\*

**T.S. Krishnamurthy**

I entirely agree.

Perhaps BCCI should have created/contributed substantial donation for training poor boys/girls in various sports.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Thamarai Pandian,**

I do condone these type of write-ups. It is from someone who can not appreciate the enjoyment these occasions bring to an otherwise dull existance of the Indians.

Sporting glories of India are few and far between, so I do not find anything wrong if people and the media are delirious about Cricket World Cup victory.

Cricket is growing in popularity. According to ICC, it is being played in 105 countries now. ICC is trying to promote the game everywhere, the same way FIFA is trying to help countries like India to develop football.

If the World Cricket was played only by a handful of countries, what difference does it make? Does the author know that the Rugby world cup is played by lesser countries (also the 6 countries tourney in rugby) and the amount of celebration/anxeity it brings to those who follow it?

If the author had said, that while savouring this victory, we should also harness this enthusiasm in developing other sporting activities, then it would have been appreciable. Just lamenting the attention Cricket receives is reflection of a sick mind.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Vasudevan**

I am in full agreement with your views on cricket. This madness has gone to such an extent that there is a demand for conferring Bharat Ratna on some cricketers.

Absurd; that is all one can say

\*\*\*\*\*

**Narmada**

Cricket has occupied a huge part of our life. Media has been creating hype. All other games are neglected. but this is given utmost importance. It was said "Cricket is not a game, its a religion".

Why the state and central governments have showered many fortunes for Cricket players?? They can, in turn, use that amount to solve the problems in their state. No one are bothered about the prevailing prblems??!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

\*\*\*\*\*

**R C Nigam**

Cricket is the most harmful thing for the nation, which causes immense man-power wastage, corruption, and accumulation of wealth in few a hands creating greed and social imbalance.

It was disgusting to see various Governments showering fortunes on the cricketeers, who already had huge stock of wealth with them and the same masters are all the time awry in passing even a fraction of fortune on those who really need.

\*\*\*\*\*

**U.S. Pandey**

Vast amount of money involved in arranging cricket matches, including huge payment to players, coaches and cricket board officials can be better be spent on improving basic facilities for poorest section of the society.

The madness for cricket or such things so superficial for real development of man is definitely not good.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Srinivasan Navalpakkam**

Thanks for raising the question.

The madness is mostly a creation of the 'paid' media. At the individual level, there can be exceptions and exaggerations. We in India need to learn from Sri Lanka how they accepted their players with due honour despite their loss in the finals.

Leaders of opinion - be it media or sports or politics - in India are hair brained and are more intent in wild publicity which is costing the nation very heavily.

We have to change these immoral 'paid' pipers lock stock and barrel. JAI HIND.

\*\*\*\*\*

**R.Poornalingam**

I entirely agree with the views expressed

\*\*\*\*\*

**Dr. C. Rajagopal**

No doubt ,the World cup cricket victory is a big and historic achievement ,which came to us after much hard work by all members of Indian team and Indian coach. One must congratulate the team and the coach and the selectors for their dedication and commitment..

My only point is ,after all cricket is another game, just like other sports. How many nations play cricket around the world ? It must be less than 14 or 15.

Why do we have to spend so much money running into several crores of rupees on just a handful of players, when we have other sports like hockey, foot ball, kabadi, badminton etc.?

\*\*\*\*\*

# IGNORE NEW BOOK ON GANDHIJI WITH CONTEMPT



The best way to find yourself  
is to lose yourself in the  
service of others

Mahatma Gandhi

The new book on Mahatma Gandhi "Great Soul: Mahatma Gandhi and his struggle with India" written by a gentleman Joseph Lelyveld, has become controversial, as he seems to have described Mahatma Gandhi as racist etc.

Justifiably, this book has caused concern amongst many followers of Mahatma Gandhi around the world.

The fact is that it is now a well established practice for several writers and publishing houses to publish sensational and controversial writings to get media attention and boost their sale. Mahatma Gandhi is an easy target for such people, as he is extremely popular and a role model and anything controversial said about him will receive world wide attention.

This is not the first time that such books with half truth and misinterpretation of Gandhi's mission and life content has come out. This will not be the last occasion also.

Mahatma Gandhi's life is an experiment with truth and Gandhiji himself said this. He experimented with lot of ideas, in the process of his attempt towards self discovery. It is quite possible that many persons, particularly those abroad who do not know about Indian life style and philosophy will fail to understand the right content from such glorious life that of Mahatma Gandhi.

The question is how to deal with such books and such writers and publishing houses who edit such books? The best way out is to ignore them with the contempt that they deserve.

Mahatma Gandhi is too great a personality and too honest a man that many people would find it difficult to believe in future, as said by Einstein, that such a person like Mahatma Gandhi could have lived at all.

The strength of truth that Mahatma Gandhi espoused would protect his reputation for all time to come.

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## NOTHING TO CROW ABOUT

### POPULATION IS MARCHING TOWARDS TWO BILLION PEOPLE.

K.V.S Krishna E mail : [kvskrishna@rediffmail.com](mailto:kvskrishna@rediffmail.com)

Talking about population growth, following the recent census, the media states that it is significant that for India as a whole, the decadal growth actually dropped from 21.5 per cent in 2001 to 17.6 per cent in 2011.

Yes, mathematically this is a truism, but let interpretations of statistics not fool us in believing that there has been a significant achievement. Just check the following figures for India, as there is no point in crowing about in terms of volume of people added annually. It is not the percentage that matter; it is the volume of people that goes on increasing that really matters.

From 1901 to 1951, the population of India increased from 238 million to 364 million, which works out to an increase of 126 million or 1.52 million people per year.

Similarly, for the next 50 years, the population grew from 364 million as on 1951 to 1029 million by 2001, which works out to an increase of 665 million or 13.3 million per year.

Coming to present times, the population has again grown from 1029 million as on 2001 to 1210 million as on 2011 as per the recent census of India, which works out to a decadal increase of 180.1 million or 18.01 million people per year.

Even if the decadal growth is pegged at 180 million, the next four decades ending 2050, would see a growth of another 720 million people, bringing the tally to 1930 million people. Thereby increasing the population density to 588.

However, the Population Foundation of India has indicated a population of 1823.5 million by 2051 or an average growth of 15.3 million people annually. Will we succeed? The answer is "Yes" and "No." A lot of effort needs to be put by all concerned from the people to the government.

Already, 300 to 400 million people go to bed hungry in India every day. 75 to 80% or say 907 to 968 million people earn less than a dollar a day and have their eroded purchasing power caught in spiraling food inflation.

States in the fertile Indo-Gangetic valley have population densities from 550 to 1100 with West Bengal and Bihar States leading in high population densities, doing maximum damage to themselves and India.

The message is clear and strait forward. Most if not all problems that India faces are rooted in this population explosion.

It is hoped the National Action Council takes steps, without any political or vote politics and educate our people on a priority basis!

# GOVERNMENT SHOULD ADOPT VISUALLY IMPAIRED PEOPLE

Visual impairment is the worst form of disability. If one were to be visually impaired person and also belong to poor family, the problem becomes more severe. There cannot be a worse condition than being a visually impaired woman and belonging to poor family.

The problem of the visually impaired persons are so severe that it should be "seen" to be believed.



Amongst the estimated 17 lakhs of differently abled persons in one state namely Tamil Nadu alone, around ten lakhs of them are estimated to be visually impaired persons and of this around five lakhs are visually impaired women in the various age groups.

Quite a number of them are born with visual impairment and many of them become visually impaired as they are not given proper treatment at the very young age, largely due to the ignorance of the parents and their lack of affordability. Many of them become visually impaired due to genetic reasons, diabetic conditions at a later stage of life and other reasons such as accidents etc. While medical technology for treatment of blindness has been developed in a spectacular manner in recent years and great work is being done by several eye hospitals and ophthalmologists, the problem still remains at unacceptable level in India.

Large segment of the visually impaired people belong to lower income group and face extremely tough and insecure conditions. While the Central and State governments have initiated many welfare schemes and NGOs also adding to the Government efforts, they are not found to be adequate considering the extent and intensity of the problem.

The most glaring problems faced by them is the joblessness and unemployment, forcing many of them to virtually beg for their sustenance. While the Government and several public sector units have reservations for providing jobs to visually impaired persons, many posts still remain vacant due to the "unsuitability" of the candidates for the positions advertised.

In the case of private sector, providing jobs to the visually impaired persons is an exception rather than a rule. Rarely, they provide jobs for visually impaired persons and if and when they do so, it becomes a news. While a number of visually impaired persons have qualified themselves mostly in the arts subjects, their qualification remains only as a matter of "paper degree", as they are not recognized by the employers in the private sector for providing them job openings.

Apart from the joblessness and consequent economic distress, the visually impaired women face severe conditions of insecurity and physical abuse. In several public forums, visually impaired women have spoken about this problem and in private discussions, many have described their plight due to molestation etc. and other forms of abuse.

In the case of many visually impaired persons particularly in the lower income group, the family support is minimal. Many of them are reasonably well taken care of as long as their parents would be alive but after the death of their parents, the family support gets severely reduced, as other members of the family are also poor and on many occasions, they would view the visually impaired persons, as "economic burden."

Facing severe unemployment conditions with the potential employers not viewing them with understanding, many visually impaired persons, both educated and uneducated and men and women become vendors to sell assorted goods and make their living. A number of them sell the products in moving trains, in bus stops and busy thoroughfares and quite a number of them have met with accidents losing limbs and even losing lives in some cases. The authorities frequently chase them away, when they try to sell their products in such areas and it is pathetic to see them running from pillar to post to find place to position themselves for selling. Again, rarely banks give them loan to self employ themselves as vendors and many borrow at exorbitant interests from private money lenders, virtually making their vendor activities unprofitable.

While several of their problems can be narrated, we need solutions.

Given the steps of the Government and NGOs so far, which leave the problems largely unsolved, the

## GOVERNMENT SHOULD ADOPT VISUALLY IMPAIRED PEOPLE

Government have to move in a big way to protect their interests. The visually impaired persons left with their problems all to solve by themselves, is a big blot on the conscience and image of the society and the Government.

It appears that without losing further time, both Central and State government should entirely adopt the visually impaired persons in the lower income group, by

providing them residential accommodation and financial support for their livelihood. In viewing this issue and finding solution, the government should not think about the economic impact on its budget but approach the issue solely from the point of view of the need to fulfill its responsibility towards these unfortunate visually impaired persons, who are as much the citizens of this country as anyone else.

## APPEAL FOR SUPPORT FOR SELF EMPLOYED DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS

Nandini Voice For The Deprived, supports the differently abled persons in their self employment pursuits, by providing them marketing support for sale of their products.

More than 90% of the differently abled persons in Tamil Nadu belong to lower income group and many of them live in distress conditions due to mobility problems, physical deformities and lack of educational, skill acquisition and employment opportunities suitable to their needs. In spite of such adverse conditions, some enterprising differently abled persons have acquired skill and have self employed themselves by making products such as agarbathis, plastic wire baskets, batik paintings, glass paintings, fashion jewellery, terracotta items, wooden decorative pieces etc.

They need support and understanding from everyone, by way of purchasing their products. Nandini Voice For The Deprived has been organizing exhibition sale of products made by differently abled persons at periodical intervals.

As it is necessary to provide them sustained marketing support, Nandini Voice for The Deprived appeals to companies, commercial outfits, residential complexes and others to provide facility for exhibiting and selling the products made by differently abled persons in their premises for a few hours on any one day convenient to them.

This would provide great encouragement and motivation for the differently abled persons.

Those interested in providing such support may kindly contact

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# CRIMINAL TURNED GANDHIAN

Laxman Gole made up his mind to relinquish the old path of the wickedness after reading the life sketch of Gandhiji in the jail.

But it was not easy to cut all the relations with the previous life of violence. Now, he is at the Gandhi book centre, but it is difficult to make out that the same person was once in the prison. His body is thin and pale but self confidence is reflected in his eyes.

Courtesy: Bombay Sarvodaya Mandal, Gandhi Book Centre, Mumbai

Laxman Gole narrates his early life: "in the slum areas of Ghatkopar, now and then the quarrel used to break out over water. There was a panic due to the presence of one hooligan. Once it so happened that over the row on water, I pierced a knife into his body. Hence the story of my crime began." After this incident Laxman did not retreat from anti social activities like looting, blackmailing and the illegal trading.

Laxman Gole says: "I must have committed all types of offences except murder. I used to get a lot of money for all these disgraceful activities and often I landed up in the jail."

Later, when the terrorism increased in Mumbai, Laxman was arrested under the anti terrorism act and the possibility of getting a bail was nil. But in such a criminal atmosphere, how has he come across Gandhiji's biography?

Laxman describes in his words, "In those days, I was in the prison at Nasik and Arthur Road Jail. There was a criminal by name of Pradip Bhalekar who gave me a short life sketch of Gandhiji. It did not interest me first but I still read it in leisure and I felt peace. It struck me, when Gandhiji repented after doing a wrong thing and became a good man. So, I felt that I can also become a good man."

## Spiritual transformation in Laxman

After the above incident, Laxman requested for a bigger copy of the book of biography of Gandhiji. He decided firmly after reading, that he would repent for his crimes. At that time, 18 small and big cases were there filed against him. Some cases were over but he was imprisoned for three cases. Laxman sought the way of repentance and he wrote to the magistrate to give him sentence as early as possible, so that the time of the court might not be wasted.

On receiving the letter, the magistrate was amazed and he called Laxman to the court and questioned him about the reason for his request. Laxman replied that he had got inspiration to confess for his sins from Gandhiji. The magistrate made it clear that sentence of imprisonment of seven years could be awarded to him in three combined cases. Laxman said that he knew that and he was agreeable for the sentence imposed upon him.

Being moved by the act of repentance of Laxman, the magistrate reduced the sentence from seven years to four years and fined him, besides sending him to the prison as a prisoner

Laxman looked after other prisoners and distributed the literature of Gandhiji. He tried to change the minds of criminals.

The Gandhi Book Centre has got so far 72 letters from Nasik Jail, requesting for the books on Gandhiji. The jail officers were pleased by his behaviour and they relaxed the sentence awarded to him by fifty days.

## "I will work for Gandhiji"

People came to know about Laxman after he was set free from the jail. One diamond merchant was ready to employ him in his business but Laxman turned down the offer. He kept on saying "From the diamond merchant, one can get a plenty of money but no peace. I have to walk along the path shown by Gandhiji. So I requested the Gandhi Book Centre to employ me there only".

Now Laxman is working at Gandhi Book Centre in Grant Road. He has studied only upto 7<sup>th</sup> standard but he learnt reading and writing Gujarati in the jail only. He now sells book and spins Charkha.

\*\*\*\*\*

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**PUBLISHERS**

**Nandini Institute of Chemical Industries**

M-60/1,4th Cross Street,Besant Nagar,Chennai-600090.

Edited and Published by N.S. Venkataraman on behalf of **Nandini Institute of Chemical Industries**, M60/1, IV Cross Street, Besant Nagar, Chennai - 600 090.  
Phone : 24916037 and Printed by Mervena Printers, No. 14, (Old 23), T.M.M.Street, Thiruvanimiyur, Chennai-600 041. Editor : **N.S. Venkataraman**