

## Civic Sense in India

**Civic sense, or rather the lack of it, is a topic that has been widely discussed and argued in India. Somehow, most Indians do not care much for civic sense. And this attitude is prevalent across all sections of society. People today are so driven towards their personal goals that civic sense as an ethic has become a low priority, almost a nuisance.**

But this attitude could be harmful for India in the long run. Civic sense has dropped to an all-time low in recent years, as is rather obvious from the current state of society. Let's see what people and specifically parents can do to curb this downswing.

### What is Civic Sense?

Civic sense is nothing but social ethics. It is consideration by the people for the unspoken norms of society. A lot of people assume that civic sense is just about keeping the roads, streets and public property clean. But civic sense is more than that; it has to do with law-abiding, respect for fellow men and maintaining [decorum](#) in public places. A lot of foreign countries function in a smooth manner because of the strong civic sense amongst its people.

With the exception of a couple of lessons in school, not a lot of attention is given to civic behaviour. Schools and homes do not teach their children about the importance of civic sense and how it could make a difference to the country as well as the quality of their lives. Let's see why civic sense is so important.

### Why is Civic Sense important?

Separatism, vandalism, intolerance, racism, road rage etc. are all examples of lack of civic sense. People are becoming less and less tolerant of each other, of other's cultures, backgrounds, and other similar traits. India has really diverse people and the need of the hour is general civic sense. It is not uncommon to read or hear about communal friction. Even living in the city has become difficult because people have no consideration whatsoever for fellow city-dwellers.

When civic sense is absent in a society, it leads to a lot of problems. Disregard for the law is a primary cause for lacking civic sense. A person who has high civic values does not resort to shortcuts and unethical tactics to get his work done. And being unethical in daily activities does not benefit anyone, as the behaviour only gets emulated by other members of society. Ultimately, the situation will reach a point where hardly anything can be done to restore it.

For example, being inconsiderate towards fellow society members will only come right back at you. You have to be social, mature and unbiased when it comes to situations in public. The current state of public transport, for example, is disheartening. And we have no one to blame but ourselves for this condition.

There are spit marks, urine, vulgar graffiti, random garbage and overflowing sewers at every nook and corner of India. NO city in this country has managed to fight the menace. It is easy to pin everything on the government, but people must first question themselves and their own civic sense. Roads are not dirty because nobody cleaned it, but because somebody dirtied it in the first place.

And such dirt and grime is not acceptable to anybody; it exists only because everybody does it. Even swine flu, which is quickly spreading across the country, was caused by the absence of hygiene. It does not help that people are irresponsible with the disposal of bio-waste. And people continue to indulge in such behaviour in spite of knowing the harmful effects.

Using 'everybody does it' is an excuse and only an excuse. In India, even prominent personalities indulge in proud displays of lack of civic sense. Take for example, ministers who delay planes with complete

disregard for other passengers or companies that freely pollute rivers and lakes. It is difficult for a country to change its mindset when its leaders themselves are setting bad examples, round the clock, all the time.

### **How can you teach Your Child about Civic Sense?**

When you [teach your child](#) about civic sense, you also teach him about civic responsibility. Children need to be taught civic sense early because unlike a specific skill, civic sense is a school of thought in itself. It is belief in hygiene, respect for other members of society, and humane behaviour.

So how do you go about teaching your child civic sense? Begin by teaching him to keep his immediate surroundings clean and tidy. If he learns to appreciate [cleanliness](#), he will be able to practice it outside of home as well. Explain to him that just because other people dirty their surroundings does not mean he should too.

Encourage him to mix with people from different backgrounds and not harbour prejudice against them. India is a mix of a variety of people and patience and tolerance in your child will make him more accepted and respected. You can also tell your child about the relevance of different festivals and explain to him the spirit behind each. This way, he will not see the differences but the similarities between his [religion](#) and another's.

With such small steps you can teach your child about civic sense and the importance of it in his life. And by teaching your child about civic sense, you are not only making him a better human being but also doing your bit for the future of the country.

[http://www.indiaparenting.com/raising-children/124\\_3350/civic-sense-in-india.html](http://www.indiaparenting.com/raising-children/124_3350/civic-sense-in-india.html)

## **A short note on Civil Disobedience Movement in India**

SHONA KHURANA

Under the leadership of Gandhiji, the Civil Disobedience Movement was launched in AD 1930. It began with the Dandi March. On 12 March 1930, Gandhiji with some of his followers left the Sabarmati Ashram at Ahmedabad and made their way towards Dandi, a village on the west coast of India. After travelling for twenty-five days and covering a distance of three hundred and eighty-five kms, the group reached Dandi on 6 April 1930. Here, Gandhiji protested against the Salt Law (salt was a monopoly of the government and no one was allowed to make salt) by making salt himself and throwing up a challenge to the British government. The Dandi March signified the start of the Civil Disobedience Movement.

The movement spread and salt laws were challenged in other parts of the country. Salt became the symbol of people's defiance of the government. In Tamil Nadu, C Rajagopalchari led a similar march from Trichinopoly to Vedaranyam. In Gujarat, Sarojini Naidu protested in front of the salt depots. Lakhs of people including a large number of women participated actively in these protests.

The Civil Disobedience Movement carried forward the unfinished work of the Non-Cooperation Movement. Practically the whole country became involved in it. Hartals put life at a standstill. There were large-scale boycotts of schools, colleges and offices. Foreign goods were burnt in bonfires. People stopped paying taxes. In the North-West Frontier Province, the movement was led by Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, popularly known as 'Frontier Gandhi'. For a few days, British control over Peshawar and Sholapur ended. People faced the batons and bullets of the police with supreme courage. No one retaliated or said anything to the police. As reports and photographs of this extraordinary protest began to appear in newspapers across the world, there was a growing tide of support for India's freedom struggle.

## **Anna Hazare's movement against corruption**

A new landmark in the history of independent India, a new path paved by the veteran anti-corruption campaigner Anna Hazare. His struggle against corruption was a gentle reminder of Mahatma Gandhi's Satyagraha. His fast-unto death, the five day fast has shown the world what Gandhism means in today's world. The power of Gandhiji's non violence will never cease to exist in the ages to come. While in Libya and Yemen there is bloodshed for freedom, where people are waging war against one another during the crisis, here in India, a respected social activist Anna Hazare is waging a peaceful, non violent war against corruption. His urge to free India of the greatest evil, corruption, commands appreciation. This fight against corruption staged at Jantar Mantar was not a one- man show. People from different parts of the country gave their support to Anna Hazare. The greatest merit of this non violent struggle was that no political party was involved in it. Anna Hazare and his supporters were not influenced by any political party. There was only one flag waving high in the sky and in our minds, the Indian National Flag.

The fast ended on a very positive note when the idea of Jan Lokpal Bill was accepted by the Government of India. According to the Jan Lokpal Bill, there will be a separate body to investigate and curb the ugly face of India....CORRUPTION; where people have the right to raise their voice against corrupt politicians. Moreover the CBI will be seen as an independent body, free of any other external influence. Now that the bill is going to be sanctioned, a very important question arises.... Can all the Indians touch their heart and say with confidence that the Jan Lokpal Bill will eradicate corruption???? Maybe to an extent but I don't think it will erase corruption completely in a vast country like India.

The Jan Lokpal Bill may have loopholes like the Right to Information Act, an Act passed due to the thrust laid by Anna Hazare. According to the right to information act, the citizens of India have the right to get information on any matter concerning the country, but recently an incident occurred which clearly reflects the loopholes in it. A citizen of India lodged a complaint about the illegal wealth possessed by the former chief justice of India, K.G Balakrishnan. Even today complete information about the wealth of this most corrupted chief justice of India is not known to the public. Why? Is it beyond the Right to Information Act? Similar loopholes are likely to be there in the Lokpal bill also. It is sure that as time passes some illegal and illogical rule will come whereby the citizens cannot use this bill against the Prime Minister, Chief justice and so on thus restricting its use. The new committee formed to frame the bill must take in the interest of all sections of the population. It should be taken care that the bill will be unbiased and does not favour any person; be it the president or prime minister. Further it should be accompanied by other reformation, yes, reformation from the grass root level. Recently when assembly elections were held in Kerala, crores of rupees were spent by each candidate of the 140 constituencies for campaigning. Where did this money come from? If it is the contribution made by big industrialists and so on, then those candidates when elected should serve their interests. In Tamil Nadu, people are given free T.Vs and laptops. Where did this money come from? All these are different manifestations of corruption. A very effective way to end corruption is to reduce the money power in elections. Crores of rupees are deposited as black money by many influential people abroad. This unaccounted money should be brought back and if it is done, this black money alone can provide the necessary funds required for the construction of metros in all the states of India. These reforms if enforced can provide that extra impetus needed to curb corruption along with the Lokpal bill. The Lokpal bill is cent percent legitimate and it upholds the spirit of the constitution because its main aim is to create a corruption- free India. If by any chance it

is against any article of the constitution, it is better to amend the constitution rather than the bill because of its most noble cause.

The 2G spectrum case, Adharsh Bhavan Colony, commonwealth games are the different issues which we have been hearing in the last few months which has made India a laughing stock in the comity of nations. Let us use the Jan Lokpal bill wisely, sealing its loopholes and see the ultimate result. Let us hope for the best.

**Occupy Wall Street** is a leaderless resistance movement with people of many [colors](#), genders and political persuasions. The one thing we all have in common is that [We Are The 99%](#) that will no longer tolerate the greed and corruption of the 1%. We are using the revolutionary [Arab Spring](#) tactic to achieve our ends and encourage the use of nonviolence to maximize the safety of all participants.

<http://occupywallst.org/>The only solution is **World** Revolution

## **Occupy Wall Street Activists Mark 2nd Anniversary**

NEW YORK September 17, 2013 (AP)

By MEGHAN BARR Associated Press

About 100 members of Occupy Wall Street returned Tuesday to the small plaza near the New York Stock Exchange that once teemed with thousands of people protesting financial inequality, marking the second anniversary of their movement's beginnings.

Small groups of protesters marched around the streets near Zuccotti Park in the morning, while another march to Washington Square Park clogged sidewalks in the early afternoon. The protesters were scattered in smaller groups around New York City.

An "assembly for the 99 percent" was held in the afternoon at Zuccotti, a nod to the massive general assembly meetings that were held on a daily basis in the park at the height of the movement.

"We're still out here fighting for economic justice. The bankers still have all the power," protester Linnea Paton said. "They've bought our government and we need a people's movement to do that, and the movement is still here."

But the movement has splintered since Mayor Michael Bloomberg had police raid the park and break up the encampment in November 2011. Without leaders or specific demands, Occupy turned into an amorphous protest against everything wrong with the world.

Occupy was perhaps at its most effective in the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy, when organizers played a leading role in grassroots disaster relief across the city. They organized donation hubs, delivered food and medications to elderly storm victims and helped people repair their homes, among other volunteer efforts.

"We're here to celebrate two years: We're still here, still fighting, still strong," protester Sumumba Sobukwe told a small crowd gathered on the steps leading into the park. "And we're still Occupy."

But the question of exactly what Occupy is at this point remains muddled by the vast number of competing interest groups promoting their own causes under the Occupy banner.

A website called "Occu Evolve," a subgroup that says it is devoted to "expanding" Occupy into a movement, posted a long list of activities planned throughout the day that will be hosted by various protest groups, including Alternative Banking Working Group of Occupy

Wall Street, Families of Police Violence, Money Wars Performers, Occupy Staten Island and Occupy Wall Street Zapatistas.

Barbara Lynch, who was advocating for higher wages for fast-food workers, said Occupy is still alive and isn't going anywhere, even though the movement has shifted toward working in smaller groups.

"The CEOs are still making outrageous sums of money. And now it's time that they have to pay," she said. "We can't sacrifice anything more."

<http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/ny-occupy-activists-celebrate-2nd-anniversary-20276560>

The **Three Rules of Discipline and Eight Points for Attention** is a military doctrine that was issued in 1928 by Mao Zedong and his associates for the Chinese Red Army, who were then fighting against the Kuomintang. The contents vary slightly in different versions. One of the major distinctions of the doctrine was its respect for the civilians during wartime. The following version is obtained from Stephen Uhalley (1975).<sup>[1]</sup>

The **three rules** enjoined

- prompt obedience to orders,
- no confiscation of peasant property, and
- prompt delivery directly to authorities of all items confiscated from landlords.

The **eight points** were:

- Be polite when speaking
- Be honest when buying and selling
- Return all borrowed articles
- Pay compensation for everything damaged
- Do not hit or swear at others
- Do not damage crops
- Do not harass females
- Do not mistreat prisoners

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Three\\_Rules\\_of\\_Discipline\\_and\\_Eight\\_Points\\_for\\_Attention](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Three_Rules_of_Discipline_and_Eight_Points_for_Attention)

## **Respected Prime Minister,**

Most people, including myself, believe that old soldiers should just fade away. Ever since retiring from the Indian Army as the Western Army Commander and subsequently having served as the governor of Manipur and Nagaland, I firmly held that we have had our innings and matters were best left to those who followed us. However, after giving it considerable thought, I take the liberty in all due respect of writing this 'open letter' to my Prime Minister for like hundreds and thousands of my brother officers— both retired and serving— I am deeply concerned about what today is talked about as the 'Age Controversy.'

In my book, leadership, be it in matters military or otherwise, is based on three simple principles— **righteousness, decisiveness and fairness**. All three of these seem to have been vitiated in this particular case. There is no doubt that all records, both in the MS and AGs branch, until 2006 clearly reflected 1951 as the Chief's date of birth. Based on an erroneous entry in the Army List, after the officer had already been cleared for the rank of Lieutenant General, first the MS branch records and then the AG's records were tampered with. To my mind and understanding, this is the simple crux of the issue and I fail to understand what sort of message has been given to the rank and file of the Indian Army by your government's inability to resolve it.

To hide behind the legal system— the retraction of the government's rejection of the Statutory Complaint frankly left the Chief's lawyers with no choice but to withdraw their petition— and for the media and your government to project this as a defeat for General V.K. Singh is indulging in theatrical politics. Like many of my brother officers, after the media blitz that reported on the Supreme Court's deliberations, I too felt that the Chief should immediately resign in protest. However, once the Order of the Honourable Court came out five days later— without any TV channel or newspaper reporting it— the shoe seems to be on the other foot. By not resigning and continuing with his job despite what was widely projected as a 'public humiliation', V.K. Singh has shown a degree of personal courage that makes me proud of the man and by extension, the Indian Army. Had he resigned, it would have been a petulant act. We must not forget that there is a lot more to the office of the COAS than just the age issue.

Today, Mr Prime Minister, many would like to bury this issue and may accuse me of flogging a dead horse. However, it is my duty as an elder who has served my country to the best of my ability, to point out to you that once the smoke settles, you will be asked why you let this happen. In a system that is reeling from endless corruption charges, where many have learnt to bend with the wind, one man stood up for what he considered wrong. The 'system' may have closed in around him and, in the short term, defeated him by denying him justice. But you, Mr Prime Minister, are today being seen as the person who is not only shielding the perpetrators of this original crime, but also protecting the beneficiary of this blatant manipulation.

I have had the honour of interacting with you when you were the finance minister of our country. I have always found you to be a man who could quickly grasp the larger picture and resolutely follow your convictions. Since Independence, the civil-military equation in this country has evolved in its own unique way, perhaps creating certain imbalances which need to be looked at for like the 'age issue', these too cannot be wished away. In a fractured and fragmented country that came together in 1947 as the Union of India, I can say with great pride that the Indian Army managed to retain its secular and non-communal outlook. This has to be protected at all costs! In your watch, if all the lions were to get up and go, the wind will say, I told you so!

**Lt General VK Nayar, PVSM, SM (retd)**

<http://generalvksingh.info/home/tenure-controversy/letter-to-the-pm>

**General VK Singh's revelations stun India**



NEW DELHI: Reacting to retired **Army chief General VK Singh's** shocking revelation, **Home Minister Sushilkumar Shinde** said the former army chief should name the J&K ministers who have received money from secret army funds so that the matter can be probed.

"General **VK Singh** must name the politicians. If details are provided by **General Singh**, we can investigate the matter," Shinde told reporters.

Singh on Monday said the army pays money to "all the ministers in Jammu and Kashmir to perform particular jobs" for maintaining peace and harmony in the state.

In separate interviews to Times Now and CNN-IBN, Singh said the practice has been going on since independence to assist the state government in ensuring the people are kept together, reduce the army's work, win hearts and minds of the people and bring peace in the state.

Pressed further for more details, Singh clarified: "may be not all but some ministers for specific good works... perception management, intelligence purposes and civic actions."

Meanwhile, **Farooq Abdullah** on Tuesday demanded a Central Bureau of Investigation-level probe into charges made by General Singh.

"I think the time has come when a CBI enquiry should be held immediately to see what is the funding **the Army** has done, and who are the people who have received these funds, and how those funds have been utilized," Abdullah said.

"I think it is a very, very terrible statement that he has made. It must be investigated. The Army has nothing to do with the funding of political parties. They should never do this. The Army should be kept apolitical. If he has done that, (then) he has done something extremely wrong," he added.

VK Singh on Saturday launched an all out attack on the ruling UPA Government, and said he is targeted because of his forthrightness, the arms lobby and because people in the bureaucracy stopped getting money.

"I am being targeted because of my forthrightness. I am being targeted because of the arms lobby which started feeling that they cannot bribe people and palm off equipment that is not worth it. I am being targeted because people in the bureaucracy stopped getting the money they were getting from all these lobbies," Singh said.

"And I am being targeted because some people in the political circles feel that I am uniting the veterans who have not got a good deal even from the UPA Government," he added.

<http://in.news.yahoo.com/general-vk-singh-s-revelations-stun-india-092823015.html>

## **V.K. Singh's claims damaged India's interests, officials say**

Accusing the former Army chief, General (retd.) V.K. Singh, of causing “enormous damage” to the country through some of his recent statements on Jammu and Kashmir, official sources said the government was investigating his claim that military officers had made illegal payments to politicians, and would decide on what action to take once the facts were established.

Fielding questions from journalists on board Manmohan Singh’s flight to Frankfurt — the Prime Minister stops in Germany overnight before proceeding to Washington D.C. for his September 27 meeting with U.S. President Barack Obama — a senior official said, “If anyone did anything wrong, which [General V.K. Singh] is admitting he did, action needs to be taken. But we’d first have to check it’s been done or not. We can’t take his word and act on it.”

The official said the Army’s enquiry board had recorded similar claims from soldiers who were part of the Technical Services Division (TSD) set up by the former Army chief but that the one politician identified had denied receiving any pay-off. “The enquiry recorded these claims but has not proved them. This has to be probed and we are looking into this.”

Pressed to comment on the propriety of the military making such payments, the official said: “If it’s true, it’s completely wrong. The Army has no business paying politicians. But let’s not jump to that stage yet.”

The official underlined the importance of the recent statement released by the Ministry of Defence last week when news of the Army’s probe into the TSD’s activities first emerged. “As far as the systemic part is concerned, the MoD has said we have put in place systems to deal with this problem.”

Beyond this confident spin, however, it is obvious that the government is in a bind over how to deal with the fallout from General V.K. Singh’s public statements on payoffs and panchayat elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

Officials say any Pakistani query on the army’s involvement in politics will be met by a “we are looking into the General’s allegations” response; but they also acknowledge the claims of a former army chief are likely to damage India’s standing internationally regardless of their veracity.

If the credibility of the Indian state’s positions on Kashmir requires General Singh’s allegations to be disproved, the possibility of the military making payoffs that the government is unaware of raises serious questions about civilian oversight, and cannot easily be brushed under the carpet.

At the same time, escalating the confrontation with General Singh means running the risk of other real or imaginary official secrets tumbling out. That is why senior officials are bristling with anger at the situation that has been created.

The only silver lining for the government may well lie in the Opposition’s apparent change of heart on the retired officer.



Although the BJP quickly rose to the former Army chief's defence, accusing the Congress of targeting him because he shared a dais with Narendra Modi, senior party leader Arun Jaitley has now said the secrets General Singh is disclosing should never have been made public. But it is not yet clear if the BJP will now put some distance between itself and the controversial general.

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/vk-singhs-claims-damaged-indias-interests-officials-say/article5168433.ece>

## **Politicians, police and criminal nexus : greatest threat to the rule of law in india**

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### **ABSTRACT**

A symbiotic mutually beneficial relationship develops between these three that is politicians, police and criminal elements when the politician reaches a particular stature and develops a clout, he dictates terms to Police and Bureaucracy much to the delight of the criminal elements. The bonds become stronger and either finds it difficult to survive without the help of the other and the point of no return is reached. The prevailing trend is spreading like cancer. It is nullifying all the constitutional safeguards of democracy; that is, it is spoiling bureaucracy by making it partial; it thwarts press; and even threatens judiciary; and thus is destroying the foundation of democracy. So the people should wake up at once and force the political parties to mend their ways. If our Democracy is to survive the onslaught of criminal elements - the organised crime - on the system, there is a need to take urgent and decisive steps. Do we have the political will to do so? Can Indian public be roused to demand stern action against this nexus?

### **INTRODUCTION**

In the era of modernization and industrialization, it's indeed a sorry state of affair to see the rise of such a nexus which is an irony to the democracy of our country. The nexus between Politicians and Criminal elements and the proliferation of criminal gangs under political patronage has come before the eyes of people time and again. Lack of seriousness to tackle this menace has been displayed by the Government of India in nominating Union Home Secretary as the Chairman of the nodal agency and the chiefs of Intelligence agencies as members. Politicians, devoid of a record of service, sacrifice and a mass base, need money and muscle power to keep their positions of power and to bludgeon their constituency into submission. Criminal elements thrive on wrongdoings and they need someone to keep the police away from their back and heels. They also need the co-operation of Bureaucracy to regularise their illegal activities. Personnel of Police and Bureaucracy need political patronage to have comfortable postings and smooth advancement in career. As a result of this, a symbiotic relationship develops between these three. Organised crime is opposed to all values cherished by a liberal Democracy. Its activities deny the basic Human Rights to the "have not's" and undermines the principle of rule of law and equality before law. It vitiates the electoral process by denying the opportunities

to many to exercise their franchise freely. It undermines the rights of women, children, labor and others.

The number of political parties in India has been phenomenally increasing. The mushroom growth of political parties is not the result of improvement in political standard; nor is it because more qualified and service-minded persons are entering the field of politics, determined to serve the country and its people. In all political parties, the rowdies are given red-carpeted welcome; because their 'services' are needed to these parties frequently for carrying on unlawful activities during the bandhs, strikes, rallies etc., organized by them. When such criminals become political leaders, they seek to achieve whatever they want without caring for rules and regulations; they would not hesitate to adopt criminal methods for attaining their goals; whether it is winning an election or elimination of rivals. For these hard core criminals, the offences like threatening officials, kidnapping and even murder do not appear bad.

The recent issue of the infamous Radia tapes shows us a clear-cut picture of the nexus between the politicians, industrialists and bureaucrats. Even though there is a claim of right to privacy being violated but such conversations do not fall under a private sphere when it affects the public domain. No doubt this situation has raised some prickly issues for the courts and the media as the rule of law stands to be violated. These people must know where privacy ends and public interest begins. Top Journalists, politicians and other powerbrokers are found to be in such a nexus.

The politicians are thriving today on the basis of muscle power provided by criminals. The common people who constitute the voters are in most cases too reluctant to take measures that would curtail the criminal activities. Once the political aspect joins the criminal elements the nexus becomes extremely dangerous. Many of politicians chose muscle power to gain vote bank in the country, and they apply the assumption that, if we are unable to bring faith in the community then we can generate fear or threat to get the power in the form of election.

Independence has taken place through a two-stage process. The first stage was the corrupting of the institutions and the second stage was the institutionalization of corruption. As we look at the corruption scene today, we find that we have reached this stage because the corrupting of the institutions in turn has finally led to the institutionalization of corruption. The failure to deal with corruption has bred contempt for the law. When there is contempt for the law and this is combined with the criminalization of politics, corruption flourishes.

The police-politician-criminal nexus can embolden the criminal elements. Their activities can create an environment of lawlessness, where influential and rich people violate the law with impunity. The police is not the only component of the criminal justice system that has suffered because of this nexus. In fact, the entire criminal justice system is under strain. Not all crimes are being registered and those registered are not being properly investigated; and even out of those charge-sheeted, very few are ending in conviction. The conviction rate in case of heinous crimes is steadily falling. In some North-Eastern states it has reached almost zero level, where the police have stopped even submitting the charge sheets in the insurgency-related cases. When the fear of legal punishment disappears, organised crime finds it convenient to spread its tentacles. Extortion and payment of the so-called 'protection money' is more widespread than we would like to believe. According to some reports, direct extortion from the government funds runs into

hundreds of crores of rupees. Many of the insurgent and militant groups are not driven by ideology, but by sheer greed. Money power is a bigger motivating factor than ideology. Vested interests have developed around these groups with active connivance of corrupt politicians, police officers and civil servants. Some politicians even take their assistance during election times. They have to return their favors when they come to power. This mutually beneficial relationship has seriously damaged the quality of governance in the interior areas. The real losers are the people. The development process gets seriously hampered in a violent environment. When large development funds are siphoned out by this unholy alliance between the criminal and corrupt forces, even the delivery of the most basic services like water, power, healthcare, education and communications becomes a stupendous task.

A vicious circle starts. The deprived and the marginalised sections of the society, unable to survive in the present system, get alienated. The militant and extremist forces thrive in this environment. The rise of Left extremism is more due to these compulsions than on ideological grounds. There are media reports about the carving out of a corridor by the Left extremist forces from Nepal to Tamil Nadu. Even if there is no truth in these reports, the involvement of hostile external forces in support of the Left extremist forces to destabilise the country cannot be ruled out.

In India on the other hand, while the principle of judicial independence is accepted legally, there is no implementation. For instance, while the Criminal Procedure Code was rewritten in 1973 with the express intention that the judiciary be severed from other parts of the government, the AHRC has constantly pointed to the fact that in West Bengal the lower judiciary in particular is largely controlled by the police. In fact, the police there control almost all aspects of criminal proceedings, whether it is arrest, conviction, imprisonment or death. Numerous urgent appeals taken up by the AHRC clearly show the power held by the police, and their complete disregard for the institutional independence of the judicial and prosecution mechanisms

We boast of being the largest democracy in the world. We were aware of the nexus between the politicians and the criminals for a long time. Now emboldened by the combined money power and the muscle power and the respects a politician commands, the criminals themselves are contesting elections! Our judiciary has become a mute spectator unable to rein in them since a person is considered innocent until proved otherwise. What is the panacea for this malady?

The 'laid-back' attitude of the senior officers and politicization of the police administration are two main causes of the apathy that has crept into the police over a period of time. Shorn of pride and commitment to their job, most police officers are content to serve their political masters. In the process, the enforcers of the rule of law are frequently seen to be on the side of the violators of law. The recent terrorist attack in Mumbai has exposed some glaring loopholes in our security apparatus. Arbitrary interference in day-to-day functioning has played havoc with its organization and morale. The command and control in this uniformed disciplined force is under great stress. The ruling parties are directly interfering in their recruitment, posting, transfer and promotions. Beholden to their political masters, the police take less interest in the difficult task of enforcing the rule of law and spend more time in serving their benefactors. Persons with political influence and money have little difficulty in manipulating the police for their own selfish ends. Fear of legal punishment for these persons has virtually disappeared. It is not a

coincidence that almost all political parties resist police reforms on one pretext or the other. They not only use and misuse the police for party purposes, they manipulate it for all sorts of unsavoury ends. Corruption and nepotism are the order of the day. The police is not allowed to function in a manner that would instill a feeling of confidence among the people. The government has appointed one commission after another, but their reports have only gathered dust in the government archives for the last fifty years. The National Police Commission (NPC) submitted its last report in 1981, but till date no central government has been willing to implement any of its major recommendations. The political rulers should know that they have no role in day-to-day functioning of the police. There is no place for arbitrary and mala fide intervention in the police administration. There are well-set rules notified in the police manuals by state governments about postings, transfers and promotions of officers, but they are being blatantly flouted by many persons in high authority.

Police postings cannot be made subject of political patronage as is the case today. The politicians are interfering even in the investigation of crimes. In important cases, it is they who decide who should be arrested and who not. They decide which complaint should be registered and investigated. Even after a case charge-sheet is submitted in the court, it is not free from political interference. There is pressure not only in the appointment of the senior prosecuting lawyer, but undue interest in how the case is presented in court. There are instances when the prosecution made a complete turnaround in its arguments after a new government at the Centre or the state took office. The cases under trial in the court are often not properly argued by the prosecution because of directions from the new dispensation. Even the premier investigation agency of the country, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), is not free from such allegations.

The much needed reforms in the police and criminal justice system can no longer be postponed. Putting police reforms on fast-track could be a fitting reply to the ever-increasing number of policemen who have lost their lives in fighting terrorists. There is a danger of the whole system collapsing unless immediate steps are taken to bring back credibility to the system in the eyes of the people. Essential reforms for effective policing can be divided in three parts: systemic, personnel, and accountability. They include the elimination of all type of arbitrary and undue external interference in police functioning; improvement in recruitment procedures, training, working and living conditions, equipment, leadership and supervision; but most importantly, to ensure that the police officers are accountable to the Constitution and the people of the country.

## **CONCLUSION**

As a first step, all National political parties in India should realise the threat to the foundations of democracy from organised crime. Fighting the nexus between the politicians and criminal elements should become a National agenda transcending party politics. Conscious efforts should be made by all parties to prevent infiltration of criminal elements in their ranks. They should lend their support to amend the Representation of People's Act to deny opportunities to people with criminal records of moral turpitude and violence, to contest the elections. They should also lend support to pass legislation to deal firmly with organised crime.

Existing criminal laws are woefully inadequate to deal with various manifestations of organised crime. There is need for a special legislation - like other countries - to deal with this menace. We

need special courts and suitable modifications in the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Acts to make justice swifter. A stitch in time saves nine. The inability of the criminal justice system to deal firmly with infractions like rowdyism, gambling, prostitution, drugs lead to development of organised crime. Yesterday's petty criminals are today's dons. Hence, the need to nip the budding criminal in early stages.

Organised crime treats the criminal justice system with contempt and exploits the loopholes in law. A proactive, public spirited judiciary can change this scenario. Laws enacted to deal with organised crime should be implemented in spirit and criminal elements should not be allowed to get away due to narrow interpretations of the letter of law. For example, while the slogan, 'Bail is a right' may be commendable in respect of law abiding citizens, its denial to a member of the organised crime prevents many a crime and serves a social purpose. Since granting of bail is the discretion of the judiciary, it should be exercised in the larger interests of society.

Reestablishment of the Rule of Law and its majesty is a sure way of decimating the organised crime. Members of the public and non-governmental organisations can play a vital role in this sphere.

Police, who are the gate keepers of the mighty criminal justice system and the Bureaucracy, who are the dispensers of welfare measures to the society, are at the mercy of politicians for their survival. Politician's displeasure bring down on them harassment like frequent transfers and disruption in career advancement. Hence, they quietly tow the line of politicians. Since Police and Bureaucracy act as catalysts for the growth of the nexus between the politician and criminal elements, it is necessary to liberate them. To make the Police and Bureaucracy people oriented and act without fear or favour, control of politicians over them should be carefully structured. The recommendations of the National Police Commission to establish a State Security Commission should be vigorously implemented. Similarly, there is need to establish an autonomous State Administrative Commission.

Activities of organised crime transcend State and National boundaries and are illegal. To deal with them effectively and bring them to book, professional expertise of a high order in detection, investigation and application of science and technology are called for. Central Bureau of Investigation possess all these. As part of Interpol network, it has access to the resources of National Police agencies all over the world. It has got the reputation for impartiality and integrity. It is in the fitness of things that the CBI should be made the Nodal agency and the clearing house for all information and intelligence on organised crime. A separate wing styled as Anti-Organised Crime Division should be opened in the CBI with an additional Director as its head. This division should have officers in all Metropolises and cities known for the activities of organised crime and also in Centres like DUBAI abroad. Its members should be deputed to visit Italy, U.S.A., France and other countries which have well established organised crime network and study the work of Law Enforcement Agencies there.

To take head on the nexus between politicians and criminal elements, moral courage and vision is needed. It is sad, since 1967 and particularly after 1977, the Indian National Congress has allowed itself to be dominated by lumpen elements. Their success at the grass roots level had spurred other parties, with little or no hope of coming to power, to refine the strategy. This has resulted in the criminalisation of political process. Political parties are unable to control the geni

let loose by themselves. Tandoori Murder, finding of dead body in M.P's quarter, procurement of a Diplomatic Passport for financial consideration, are all becoming a daily affair. These undermine the credibility of the democratic process, making the youth to embrace politically violent movements. Political sagacity demands that our leaders should cry a halt to this downward trend in ethics of politics. Leaders of Nineteenth Century paved the way for Indian Democracy in the Twentieth Century. What will be the claim of our present day leaders and how will they be remembered in the twenty first century? - Defenders and preservers of Democratic values or as harbingers of lumpenisation of political process? There is yet time to avert an adverse verdict of history. Without wasting time, let us act decisively.

<http://www.lawteacher.net/criminal-law/essays/politicians-police-and-criminal-nexus-law-essays.php>

## Rahul Gandhi issues an ordinance; harsher than opposition

By Sruthijith K K, ET Bureau | 28 Sep, 2013, 06.52AM IST

NEW DELHI: The dissent is not that remarkable. It is the idiom of dissent that is startling. [Rahul Gandhi](#), some 40 years junior to [Manmohan Singh](#), described the executive decision of the Cabinet led by him as "nonsense", one that deserved to be "torn up and thrown out". In nearly a decade that Singh has served at the top, even the opposition has rarely deployed such a harsh language against the prime minister.

The only person who has spoken similarly about Singh publicly was Rahul's father, former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. In 1985, he referred to the Planning Commission as a "bunch of jokers". Singh at the time served as the deputy chairman of the Planning Commission.

The soft-spoken PM thus has the extraordinary misfortune of having been humiliated by two generations of Gandhis. He would, of course, have never had the honour of the PM's job had it not been for the Gandhis' magnanimity. Rahul's outburst had some of the flavour of the impatience with the system that his father had come to be known for in the mid-eighties. Reporting from New Delhi in February 1987, Shiela Tefft of the [Chicago Tribune](#) wrote: "The PM has been accused of being irritable and petulant. There are reports of outbursts that have humiliated senior government bureaucrats."

That year, [Rajiv Gandhi](#) practically fired a foreign secretary at a press conference. Rahul has also shown some disdain for the system in the past.

He has spoken against dynasty and the need to broadbase power and decision-making. In his only memorable intervention in Parliament, he said the government ought to make a constitutional amendment to fight graft instead of introducing a Lokpal Bill.

In his speeches, he has projected himself as an outsider, someone who wants to change the system and bring internal democracy to the grand old party.

His message has been consistent — I may appear to be part of the rotten political class, but I'm different and have other ideas. What these ideas are, he has never bothered to articulate.

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/rahul-gandhi-issues-an-ordinance-harsher-than-opposition/articleshow/23184813.cms>



**In one stroke, he (Rahul Gandhi) changed his party's line. He left Congress and the government — and Maken — flummoxed and red-faced. Gandhi spoke for barely four minutes.**

That was the time Maken had to do a hasty volte-face from what he was saying in the first 15 minutes of the programme — he had even termed the ordinance as "perfect in law". "What Rahul ji has said is the most important thing. Rather than what happened in the last 48 hours, we should go by what Rahul ji has just said," he said. (Personality cult, Dynasty Rule?)

[http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2013-09-28/news/42481631\\_1\\_ajay-maken-congress-v-p-rahul-gandhi-ordinance](http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2013-09-28/news/42481631_1_ajay-maken-congress-v-p-rahul-gandhi-ordinance)

### **Picking up after Rahul**

Rahul Gandhi has made a habit of dropping in on unsuspecting journalists. And each time he has done that, he has exploded a bombshell. In March this year, he told a gathering of hacks in Parliament's Central Hall that he was not interested in becoming Prime Minister. This was months after he had become Congress vice-president, a presumed precursor to his running for Prime Minister. On an unannounced visit to the Press Club of India in New Delhi on Friday, he roasted his own party and government for their decision to promulgate an ordinance aimed at preventing the disqualification of convicted lawmakers. He called the Representation of the People (Amendment and Validation) Ordinance, 2013, which has been cleared by the Union Cabinet, "complete nonsense" and a piece of paper to be "torn up and thrown away." The potshots did not stop here. Rahul said he had got the party line from the Congress's communication chief Ajay Maken, which was that no political party was above making small compromises. But he, Rahul Gandhi, did not buy the line, and indeed, it was his personal opinion that corruption could not be fought through small compromises. Rahul said political parties, the Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party included, needed to stop citing one another's example to justify wrongdoings.

Unexceptionable as this was, it came not from an Opposition rabble-rouser, but from the son of Sonia Gandhi. If Rahul's intention in lambasting his own government — which he said had "wrongly" cleared the ordinance — was to play the outsider, he has done it once too often. He cannot be both Congress vice-president and a rebel with unlimited licence to attack. If he thought the ordinance was "nonsense," he should have spoken his mind at the outset, while it was still in the form of a bill in the Rajya Sabha. And the most effective forum for him to air his dissent would have been a party meeting and not a media conference. Intervention at that stage would have likely stopped the ordinance, whose objective has been questioned by the President, much to the government's discomfiture. The true mark of a leader is his capacity to speak his mind at the right time and place — and speak it knowing the consequences. In the event, Rahul has left a mess in his wake. He has bypassed protocol and mocked at the "party line", which from anyone else would have been treated as sacrilege. Worse, he has deeply embarrassed the Prime Minister, who was forced to take time out of his Washington visit to issue a statement indicating a rethink on the ordinance out of deference to Rahul. If the Congress vice-president's outburst was meant to show he's the boss, he could have accomplished the mission with greater grace.

## **Trinamool suspends Rajya Sabha MP Kunal Ghosh**

The Trinamool Congress on Saturday suspended MP Kunal Ghosh with “immediate effect” for making derogatory comments against the party leadership, maligning the party image and for anti-party activities.

The unanimous decision by the party’s disciplinary committee to suspend the journalist-turned-politician came after seven days of hectic political activities within the party, which started with the show-causing three MPs, including Mr. Ghosh for anti-party remarks.

“Despite being show caused, Mr. Ghosh continued to speak against the party, behave in a manner that belittled the party’s image. The party’s disciplinary committee met on September 27 and unanimously decided to suspend him,” Trinamool general secretary Partha Chatterjee told journalists at the party headquarters.

Final disciplinary action against Mr. Ghosh would be taken after following the usual procedure, he said.

Mr. Chatterjee, who is also the convenor of the party’s disciplinary committee, said action would not be taken against MPs Tapas Pal and Satabdi Roy as both tendered written apologies to party chairperson Mamata Banerjee for making anti-party remarks.

Signs of dissent in the party came to the fore at an event organised by rebel Trinamool Congress MLA Shikha Mitra on September 20, where the MPs publicly criticised a section of the party leadership.

Though Mr. Pal and Ms. Roy have kept quite since then, Mr. Ghosh levelled fresh allegations against the party leadership.

The Trinamool MP, who has been accused by the scam-tainted Saradha Group chairman and managing director Sudipta Sen of taking money from him, had said he would not allow a section of the party leadership to make him a “scapegoat” in the scam.

Mr. Ghosh, who has faced police grilling thrice since his outburst on September 20, had also alleged that a Trinamool leader demanding his resignation now, (for the scam) had in the past asked for Rs. 4 crore from Mr. Sen.

He also alleged that three Trinamool Lok Sabha members secretly met Congress president Sonia Gandhi’s political adviser Ahmed Patel in Delhi.

### **“Punished without a trial”**

Asked to comment on his party’s decision to suspend him, Mr. Ghosh said: “I have been punished without a trial. I have not even received the letter of show cause, though I had heard

from the media that such a letter will be given to me,” he said. He added that Mamata Banerjee continues to be his leader and Trinamool Congress his party.

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/trinamool-suspends-rajya-sabha-mp-kunal-ghosh/article5181358.ece>

## **JD(U) suspends MLA for hobnobbing with Modi**

After Janata Dal (United) MLA Chhedi Paswan sparked off a defection scare in the ruling party after he met Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi in Gandhinagar on Saturday, the JD(U) suspended him for six years for anti-party activities.

“I have told the State general secretary to look into the matter. For six years he [Mr. Paswan] will not be able to return to the party fold. He has broken the party discipline and has been issuing statements [against the interests of the party],” JD(U) president Sharad Yadav told *The Hindu* over phone.

Bihar JD(U) president Bashishtha Narayan Singh said the party had every right to suspend Mr. Paswan without issuing a show-cause notice. “For a long time he has not been taking any interest in party activities. Therefore, we think he has made up his mind [to leave] the party. Even today, there was a meeting in his constituency, but he is absent from it. This is a serious matter and the party took a strict view of it,” he told *The Hindu*.

Mr. Paswan, a four-time MLA, is now likely to join the Bharatiya Janata Party. “If he expresses his willingness to join, we will welcome him,” BJP state president Mangal Pandey told *The Hindu*. Asked if the MLA was in talks with the BJP, Mr. Pandey said the meeting with Mr. Modi was a clear sign that he was a BJP sympathiser. Many important leaders, the BJP leader added, were joining the party ahead of Mr. Modi’s Hunkar rally here on October 27.

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/jdu-suspends-mla-for-hobnobbing-with-modi/article5180927.ece>

***Animal Farm*** (1945) is a satirical novella (which can also be understood as a modern fable or allegory) by [George Orwell](#), ostensibly about a group of animals who oust the humans from the farm on which they live. They run the farm themselves, only to have it degenerate into a brutal tyranny of its own.

He basically means that people (generally those of the upper class) often say that all people are equal, but in saying that, they don't include people in some groups e.g. working class, women, black people are some historical examples. They see them as less entitled etc, so when they are saying all people are equal they mean all people within a certain group. This group is therefore 'more' equal than others. Saying all people are equal is more a claim to make them look virtuous, but they do not really believe it in practice.

George Orwell paraphrased the statement from the Declaration of Independence in his novel *Animal Farm*. Some may think and politicians frequently declare that in the modern day and age

we have successfully narrowed the great divide between rich and poor, but if that's the case how do you explain this dichotomy?

<http://www.hoklife.com/2010/09/14/all-men-are-created-equal-but-some-are-more-equal-than-others/>