

BANGALORE MIRROR

MORAL OFFENSE

Bangalore Mirror

Date : 24 - Apr- 2010

Title : **Nithyananda blesses CID's new air-conditioned lock-up**

- Nithyananda is not getting any special treatment in lock-up, for air-conditioner in his cell is no luxury, but necessity; it is located in a dingy cellar portion of the CID Annexe building. **The level of suffocation here is so high that there is a risk of detainees choking to death.**

Bangalore Mirror

Date: 25-Apr-2010

Title: **Swami faces heat**

- Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA)
The swamiji has received donations from abroad and built ashrams in several countries
without permission from the appropriate authorities, sources said.

Bangalore Mirror

Date: 26-Apr-2010

Title: **Sex, swamis and scandals**

Derogatory article about all the Hindu swamis

- An Average men can never, in a thousand lifetimes, even hold a candle to any of our randy swamis.
- Nithyananda who has a penchant for draping himself in silk saris and have his disciples address him as 'Mother' on Mothers' Day
(Outrage of the hindu tradition and the Devi bhava) Cross dressing/ Transvestite

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Bangalore Mirror

Date: 28-Apr – 2010

Title: **Normal swami back to jail**

- **Tantra rules violated - Sri Sri:** Art of Living founder Sri Sri Ravishankar has slammed Swami Nithyananda for deceiving the people. In a statement, he said, “Swami Nithyananda has violated UNAIDS guidelines as well as the rules of tantra. Only a householder is entitled for tantric sex. Claiming to be a monk and using so many people for one’s pleasure is unpardonable. He should have had one partner and announced himself as a tantric guru. It has caused damage to the faith of people in the institution and traumatised many”.

Bangalore Mirror

Date: 27- Apr- 2010

Title: Nithyananda's custody extended

- CID is yet to record the statement of Ranjitha, the tamil actress seen in the sex tape, and another woman identified as Gopika, who was allegedly raped by Nithyananda.

Nowhere in the FIR is any rape mentioned

Bangalore Mirror

Date: 29-Apr-2010

Title: **Nithyananda gets bail**

- CID has managed to collect only the statements some devotees. They are yet to record the statement of actress Ranjitha, who was alleged to have been raped by Nithyananda - **nowhere in the FIR is any rape mentioned.**

Bangalore Mirror

Date: 1-May-2010

Title: Ladies (God)man in women's cell

- Swami Nithyananda's rather ingenuous attempt to wrong-foot his **interrogators by claiming that he is not a 'man' and therefore cannot be accused of having sex with women** has no ice with the police. Instead of subjecting the **swami to a 'potency' test as he had wanted**, they packed him off to a cell meant for women.
- **Some prisoners in the jail known to be hostile to the swami and there is a chance of him being attacked.**

Bangalore Mirror

Date: 9-May-2010

Title: - With Nithyananda in lock-up, jokes
-Texting about the ‘kaami swami’ is again a pastime.

“Preach her by day, breach her by night!” and “Hari om Shanthi by day, hurry home shanthi by night!”

Nithyananda’s purported aphorisms: “ Science destroyed human’s peace the day the camera was invented” and “It’s easier to find god than a hidden camera.”

Bangalore Mirror

Date: 22 –May-2010

Title: **Another swipe against Swamiji**

- Discusses Arockiya Vimala case
- **But the next day she gave a statement to police & media that she was not kept captive in the ashram, which was not reported. Why?**

Bangalore Mirror

Date: 16-Jun-2010

Title: Kerosene Yaga

- Sanskrit & Kannada scholar Mahoor Krishnamurti: No one conducts this yaga for loka kalyana

Bangalore Mirror

Date: 3-Apr-2010

Title: **Closet swami, closet critics**

- Superintendent of Police Yogappa, had on March 29 requested members of the public to approach him if they had any substantive information about the godman.
- “As the inmates of the Swami's ashram are not cooperating with us, we have to rely on information from members of the public to be able to prepare a strong chargesheet,” he said.

Bangalore Mirror

Date: 23-Apr-2010

Title: **Club class to cattle class...**

- Nithyananda Swami of Dhyanapeetham used to hire chartered flights to fly within India and club class on board top airlines to global destinations However, all that changed after his intimate act with a Tamil film actress. Now, he was made to fly ‘cattle class’, in the last row of the flight (next to a toilet) on Thursday while being brought to Bangalore.

BANGALORE MIRROR

OFFENSIVE TITLE/ LANGUAGE/
CARTOONS/PICTURES

Bangalore Mirror

OFFENSIVE TITLE/ LANGUAGE/ CARTOONS/PICTURES

Sleuths want to grill Ranjitha too

BM, Apr 24, Pg 4
BANGALORE MIRROR BUREAU

Tamil film actress Ranjitha, caught in a steamy video with Swamy Nithyananda, will be summoned by the CID to record her statement after the investigating officers are done with interrogating the disgraced Swamy. The godman will be in CID custody till Monday. Though Ranjitha is learnt to have admitted to her role in the video, her statement is required for the purpose of the CID's investigation.

On Friday, CID officials headed by DIG Charan Reddy and Superintendent of Police Yoggappa interrogated Nithyananda from 11 am till late in the evening.

According to CID sources, Nithyananda was asked about his personal life and how he became a godman. "We asked questions about his family background, educational qualifications, his previous work before he became a Swamy, etc. We also asked him



about his ashrams across the world, and he said he has 14 ashrams of which two are in the US. He said some of the ashrams, including their land, belong to him while others have been taken on rent. We asked him what made him run away from his ashram in the name of 'spiritual seclusion', and whether he was simply trying to evade arrest, to which he said he had gone to Haridwar to attend the Kumbh Mela. We need to know under what circumstances he fled to Himachal Pradesh," the sources said.

The CID officials have sent the seized laptops, hard disks, mobile phones and pen drives to the Central Forensic Laboratory in Hyderabad to have their contents examined.

During the interrogation, Nithyananda, who has been allowed food of his choice, preferred to have dry fruits. According to the sources, he co-operated with his interrogators. He was allowed a half-hour break around 2 pm.

FUN IN SAFFRON

BANGALORE MIRROR | MONDAY, APRIL 26, 2010 8

Sex is the biggest nothing of all time, said Andy Warhol, avant-garde filmmaker. Obviously, some of the Swamis-in-Saffron do not share the same thought, find out
Sudha Pillai & Ipsita Basu Dasgupta

SEX, SWAMIS & SCANDALS

HURT LOCKER! — SWAMI AMRITA CHAITANYA



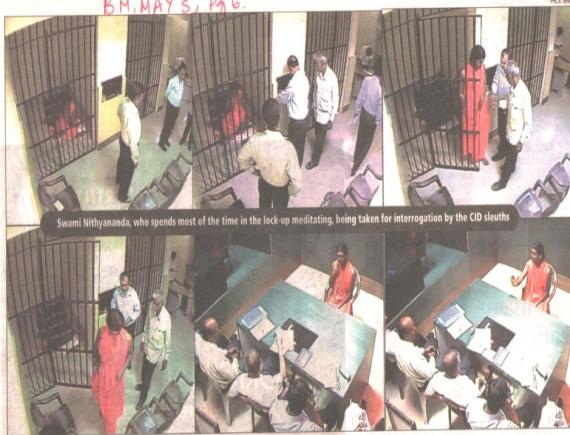
Bangalore Mirror

OFFENSIVE TITLE/ LANGUAGE/ CARTOONS/PICTURES

CID OVERDRIVE TO NAIL NITHYANANDA

A CID official says sleuths are boosting the confidence of the victims to stand up against the godman

BM.MAYS, Pg 6



BANGALORE MIRROR BUREAU

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) is making all possible efforts to nail down Swami Nithyananda, who is accused of rape and financial misappropriation, by convincing victims who are in touch with the sleuths to lodge a formal complaint against godman. KSR Charan Reddy, DIG of CID, told media persons on Tuesday that one of Nithyananda's victims of sex-

ual abuse is in touch with the sleuths.

The person is hesitating to come against Swami in fear of the media. We will raise his confidence level and make him to express his grievance and get justice," Reddy said.

Meanwhile, the CID have received an interim report from the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) in Hyderabad. They will get a detailed report within a fortnight.

The sleuths had sent as many as 30 items associated with the allegations

to the experts for the examination. Reddy made it clear that, no "mutual contact" is valid when there is illegality. "The swami had no personal accounts in banks. We have found around three accounts in the names of trusts, one of which had a substantial amount of money in it. We have given the details to central agencies and they are examining the evidence," Reddy said.

Meanwhile, Ranjitha, the Tamil actress who is also allegedly involved in the scandal, contacted the sleuths through her advocate. "She had demanded for a copy of the FIR and we have provided it," Reddy said.

"The CID has been pressuring Nithyananda to give convincing answers to some questions during interrogation. While he was confident while answering some questions, at some points he was either shaky or numb," Reddy said, adding that the swami spent most of his time in the lock-up meditating.



Mounts the sets in July Promises spicy dialogue It's about a fun-loving guru

NITYANANGA

COMING SOON TO A THEATRE NEAR YOU

Sex swami inspires a Kannada movie starring Ramesh Aravind in the lead. Everyone's asking: Is romp-fame Ranjitha the heroine?

S SHYAM PRASAD

Nithyananda, the godman caught on camera having sex with movie star Ranjitha, is now in a position to film that goes on the big screen next month.

Ramesh Aravind, hero of many hits and comedies, plays Nityananga. The director is debutant Gajendra Achary.

"It is a movie that is only about Nityananda. It is about a swami who is a pervert, who is a guru, and there are women around him who love him. He is a fun-loving swami," Ramesh Aravind said.

"The movie circles are curious who the heroine is going to be. 'We have decided who will cast,' Ramesh Aravind said. Ranjitha, said Hindu Shiva, who is writing the dialogues and songs for the film.

But the as-yet-titled Kannada film has progressed further, and the team is in the final stretch.

July. "This is a commercial film which will show both the good and the bad side of the swami. It is a serious satire," Achary explained.

Nityananda has been held in bars and restaurants across the country. He went holding after a video of him allegedly having sex with Tamil actress Ranjitha.

The film includes various charges, including rape and hurting religious sentiments.

"Real life inspires filmmakers all the time. Hindu Shiva, Venapragada, Cyandee were all based on real people and real incidents.

"Reviewed our film is not a biopic," revealed Hindu Shiva.



SAFFRON PARTY

A preview of some masala dialogues from the film. Only in Bangalore Mirror!

■ You may have flunked the 10th Class ten times, but the moment ten people fold their hands before you, you're all set to take them for a ride!

■ When you have no work to do, and no brains in your skull, wearing saffron can come to your rescue.

■ Who sits in at your bhajan sessions? Wastrels from cultured homes, show-offs curious about a world that doesn't exist, women who'll stretch out their saris for those ready to shell out cash, and boys yet to sprout moustaches...



THAT'S ME: Ramesh Aravind

Bangalore Mirror

OFFENSIVE LANGUAGE

Date: 13-Jun-2010

Title: Nithyananda walks out of jail

- His advocate's '**cash offer**' delays release
(actually talks about surety being offered in cash)

OFFENSIVE TITLE & MORAL OFFENSE

CITY

BANGALORE MIRROR | THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 2010

5

Swami 'caught in act' with 5 more women

We have CDs to prove Nithyananda's acts: CID to magistrate

BANGALORE MIRROR BUREAU

Swami Nithyananda, whose bedroom act with Tamil film actor Ranjitha had been taped, is said to have been caught on video in a compromising position with five other women.

Disclosing this to the Ramanagaram district magistrate court judge, the CID sleuths on Wednesday said this was one of the reasons why they want his custody extended.

The swami, however, said, he had committed no

mistake. "If I had committed a mistake, then I would have confessed to the court even being questioned. If the court thinks I have done any wrong, it can hang me," he said.

CUSTODY EXTENDED

Magistrate Narayana Prasad, who did not buy his argument, extended the swami's police custody by two more days.

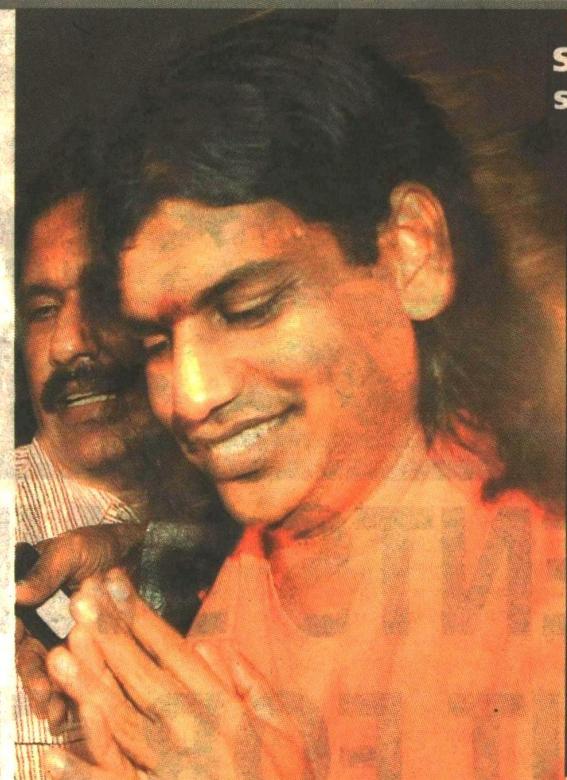
The sleuths said that after arresting Nithyananda, they raided his ashram at Bidadi, where they recovered many CDs and hard

discs. They were sent to the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) in Hyderabad.

The FSL authorities had told them the CDs and hard discs contained footage of five more women in compromising positions with Nithyananda.

"There is a need to know who these women are and what is their connection with the swami," said the CID officials.

The officials also said they have obtained important financial documents from the Bidadi ashram.



Swami in 'dhyan', sleuths 'chanchal'

"Swami Nithyananda either goes off into dhyan (meditation) or complains of illness," said a senior CID official, complaining that he was unable to properly question the swamiji.

"When Nityananda was taken into custody, he spent more than 24 hours in the hospital complaining of chest pain. We did not get enough time to question him," he said.

Meanwhile, Nithyananda requested the magistrate to get his 'rudraksh mala', which the police had taken away from him, returned.

When the court asked the CID officials why they had seized the mala, they said they had done it to prevent him from harming himself.

After questioning, the sleuths returned the mala, but took it back later.

According to the CID officials, Ranjitha has agreed to cooperate with the sleuths in the investigations.

Bangalore Mirror

OFFENSIVE LANGUAGE :

'Paisa feko, tamasha dekho'

CID chief goes on Facebook and appeals to victims to come forward and depose against Swami Nithyananda. So far, no one has bothered to respond to his pokes

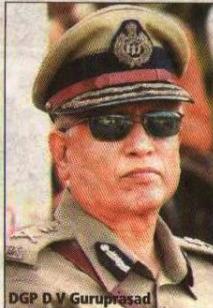
M K ASHOKA

Director General of Police (CID) D V Guruprasad is looking to Facebook for help in nailing Swami Nithyananda, kicking up a flurry of online activity in the process.

After Nithyananda's release on bail, DGP posted the following on the social networking site: "Swami Nithyananda got bail. In his complaint Shri Lenin accused the swami of rape, unnatural sex, criminal intimidation and hurting religious sentiments. Despite our best efforts, not a single 'victim' has come to us stating that the swamiji had unnatural sex with him/her or raped her. We got some emails from persons living abroad but they have not provided any evidence".

He also wrote, "Why can't you people motivate the 'victims' of swamiji to come out and give statements to us? So long as they keep quiet, what can the investigation do? The women in the tapes should depose that they were victimised. So far, this has not happened." He also said that the probe into irregularities in funds was on.

The DGP's rather innovative methods has had comments coming thick and fast on Facebook, some filled with contempt, some sympathetic.



SWAMI OR MINISTER?

Harsha Raju wrote that the Swami had gone on record to say that he was neither a man nor a swami. "The CID has no evidence against him, it seems. What is a video tape, then? If he was not guilty, why was he hiding then? I guess this is India. Same will be the case with Halappa (former BJP minister) — he will also come out on bail as no evidence will be found against him also. And people who call themselves his devotees will be happy — wow! Time to become a swami or a minister..."

PAISA BOLTA HAI

Vishal Diggewadi was contemptuous about a corrupt sys-

tem. "Paisa bolta hai India me, paisa feko tamasha dhekho. Everything happens for money. Pay millions in India and do anything, you will get bail. Or else have links with big ministers... hmmmm... I agree ...India is great... someone said if you don't believe in God, come to India... only God can run this country."

However, the DGP's post did find some sympathetic Facebookeers. Radhe Shyam said the bail was not unexpected. "It was question of when rather than whether. No wonder, public opinion has softened its stand on the swamiji's deeds. And if some sensational news surfaces, this swami will go free. Yes, the police are the victims of low conviction rates and all their efforts [will go in vain] with such judgments. But still, the police will have to work within the system."

Writing in a similar vein, Anita Mendonca Mathias said, "Let us work towards forming a better and less corrupt system."

The DGP also found a staunch supporter in Anoop S N who wrote, "This is happening because of us... not because of the money... not because of the police... not because of the system. We have developed this culture! We have no b***ls to fight for justice and we blame the system for every-

thing. And so-called society, they will screw the lady who comes forward against the swami :(. And they might even worship the swami again."

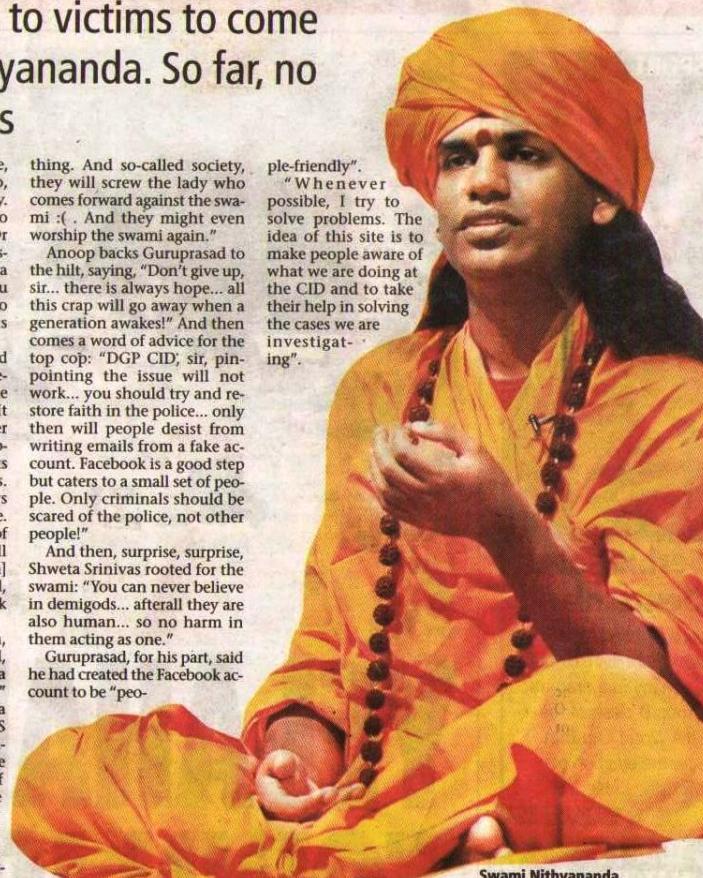
Anoop backs Guruprasad to the hilt, saying, "Don't give up, sir... there is always hope... all this crap will go away when a generation awakes!" And then comes a word of advice for the top cop: "DGP CID, sir, pinpointing the issue will not work... you should try and restore faith in the police... only then will people desist from writing emails from a fake account. Facebook is a good step but caters to a small set of people. Only criminals should be scared of the police, not other people!"

And then, surprise, surprise, Shweta Srinivas rooted for the swami: "You can never believe in demigods... afterall they are also human... so no harm in them acting as one."

Guruprasad, for his part, said he had created the Facebook account to be "peo-

ple-friendly".

"Whenever possible, I try to solve problems. The idea of this site is to make people aware of what we are doing at the CID and to take their help in solving the cases we are investigating."



Swami Nithyananda

Bangalore Mirror

OFFENSIVE LANGUAGE :

Nithyananda's real crime

People are angry with him not because he had sex with a woman, but because he too couldn't transcend what they can't

Sahana
Udapa is a
visiting scholar
at the
University of
Pennsylvania

Every time I passed Nithyananda's imposing banner on the busy Bangalore-Mysore highway, my eyes would squirm with strange uneasiness. The gush of fresh air and the lush greenery of 'Mysore Road' would disappear for a second. A string of questions would rush into the mind. Why should this young man in saffron clothes desperately beckon the on-goers by flaunting his broad smile? Do we need yet another swami who gobbles large tracts of land solely because he promises a vague inner solace? I would grudgingly contemplate that it is indeed a profound irony that healing the sacred inner world would need flagrant claims on large tracts of fertile land.

The recent sex scandal involving the swami has greatly vindicated me. Nithyananda has come across as an antithesis for everything he preached – simplicity, transcendence and spiritual asceticism. In the videos, he appeared to epitomise greed and the vulgar materiality of human desire. It is vain, vaunt and vicious. The swami is rightly trapped in the very vulgar circuits of media. People are greedily consuming these images on the internet, television and papers.

Perhaps men could be secretly envying the swami for the 'rare' privileges. Everything that the swami so carefully built has tumbled down like a pack of cards. The carefully crafted image now appears to be beyond redemption.

While on the one hand, I feel happy that the man is 'exposed' for being a 'plain' human, I have begun to squirm for a different reason.

As audiences and readers whoavariciously con-



Protestors remove a poster of Swami Nithyananda in front of Dhyana Peetam Ashram in Bidadi

sumed the images of swami's sex video, are we not guilty of hypocrisy? Why do we expect the swami to absolve of things that we so gleefully indulge in? Why do we expect a swami to abstain from sex and yet bless our child who is the very product of such an act?

The hypocrisy becomes stark when one compares the parallel social movement of alternative sexualities. The great LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) movement has picked up momentum across the world, although slow in India. This movement emphasises sexuality as a key marker of one's identity. It fights for rights, freedom and representation of sexual minorities. LGBT campaigners have secured an official history month in the West. Application forms for jobs and education are sensitive to include alternative sexual identities.

There is an entire social movement that foregrounds sexuality and frames

the demands around sexual freedom and sexual identity. On the other hand, we witness that people are infuriated with a swami's heterosexual and consensual 'sex'pisode. Are people who fight for sexual freedom different from those who feel that the swami is wrong in having a sexual affair? Are the former group 'progressive liberals' and the latter 'regressive conservatives'?

Perhaps the answer lies in what the legalese terms as 'breach of trust'. People are not unhappy because this man had sex with a woman. People are angry because they feel cheated. They feel that the swami has breached their trust. Hypocritical as they are, people believed that the swami has been able to transcend something that they themselves could not. They believed that the swami is indeed beyond material desires. When they saw him doing just what they do, it hit them strongly as breach of trust. It disappointed them that the swami is just one among them.

I do not care if people are dejected. But what is cruel is the sheer arrogance of the swami to expect a woman to extend unconditional sexual favour and to expect the bhaktas to extend unconditional respect. It is on this point that we cannot support the sexual freedom of the swami on liberal grounds. Because, his relationship with the world is highly unequal.

I am happy that the swami, who led an enviably easy and luxurious lifestyle, is battered by the embarrassment of media exposure. He can no longer think it is his divine right to have women press his legs and offer sexual service. He can no longer make claims on land which is incommeasurable to his abilities to spiritually 'heal' and provide psychological relief.

Write in your comments to
bmfeedback@gmail.com