

The Weekly

## OBSERVER

Mobocracy  
at large

Mob lynchings hogged headlines of every newspaper worth its money for at least the last couple of months. Myriad reasons ranging from frustration to breakdown of law and order led to these disturbing incidents. No wonder then that slightest of provocation is leading to a mob lynch.

In a desperate attempt to catch thieves the villagers of Dhelapurva village in Bihar's Vaishali district killed 10 innocent men. Justice A.K.Mehta and Justice Markandey Katju, both Supreme Court judges, said, "People in the country are fast losing faith in the judiciary." This is a cause for concern because the largest democracy in the world cannot plunge into the stygian realms of anarchy like Myanmar is in right now. After all, our country gained its existence from the cauldron of carnage.

Call it coincidence or a planned move of stemming the rot; on October 24th -surprise, surprise- 60 convicts were meted punishment by courts in four separate cases. And that too high profile cases like Coimbatore blasts, Madhumita case, fake encounter in Connaught place and Babri riots. These follow the conviction of Anand Mohan and Lovely Singh and who knows Ashok Todi might join this (in) famous list. Vigilante justice is a crude form of justice and it's assuring that the courts have intervened at an opportune moment.

This, however, does not suggest that the simmering rage among

people will abate because it's an open secret that the strong will tame the weak once the judiciary turns a blind eye. Thus, demonstrations of vigilantism are rarely clandestine. They are brazen acts like gouging eyes out or lynching a suspected rapist. The fact that Uma Khurana has filed a suit against India TV and its CEO is not only an act of retaliation against the channel but also the people who get deluded by anything that is shown in the channels, which are forever in a quest to grab eyeballs.

Fortunately or unfortunately this gory form of justice is threatening the politicians. In what should be a landmark judgment, considering the checkered history of Indian judiciary, the Delhi High Court said to the politicians that they are not "national assets" and wryly told them to remain in the confines of their homes and offices if they feel threatened by citizens.

A staggering three crore cases are pending and if the 120th Law Commission report is to be believed there are a mere 10.5 judges per million. All these aforementioned factors beg for a drastic revamp of Indian judiciary and the Central Government needs to definitely spend more than just 0.2% of GDP on one of the four pillars on which it stands.

Speedy justice should not sound like an oxymoron. As the saying goes, "justice delayed is indeed justice denied."- Otherwise mob lynch will be a part of our social fabric.

## Letters to the Editor

SOHINI DATTA

I was very impressed with the first issue of your publication. It had some very interesting articles. The names of the pages have been innovatively kept. The lead stories were particularly well done. The editorials were quite insightful and the tongue-in-cheek article was fun to read. The pic(k) of the week was a very well-taken photograph which depicted the rich-poor divide in the most heart rending manner. However, I was unable to make any sense of the cartoons. They were well drawn but they seemed to make not much sense. Please ensure that from next time, you conceptualise them properly.

Also, it would be nice if you had a few features, book reviews, movie reviews etc., All the city stories focussed only on open drains and potholes. On the whole, it was a commendable effort and I wish you all the best for the future issues.

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## End of the age of innocence

ADITI SONI

November 14, celebrated every year as Children's Day is a way of paying a tribute to Jawaharlal Nehru. 'Children' ...the word itself holds synonyms like innocence, delicacy, playfulness and all loving tenderly words for them.

Though India still celebrates the day every year, but the question here arises is that how many 'children' in real sense celebrate this day or any day of their life for that matter? Schools organize events and activities that their students thoroughly enjoy, but there is an entire populace of young ones that are left ignored on this special day - the downtrodden street children, children who are below poverty line and many other such ignored strata of society. With their entire

childhood being lost in construction sites or the small-scale industries, their tiny hands are not just made for this. Even a little scratch to our own kids makes us to rush them to doctors or put a band-aid. But this doesn't mean that we have to act really insensitive towards someone else's kid who also feels the pain. On one hand we see parents buying all expensive gifts for their kids, on the other hand we cannot ignore how many children are dying of

hunger every minute.

On this children's day itself more than 3 lakh children died of hunger globally. What kind of justice is being done to these little souls? It's a very common statement of people that they can't do much about the children in other corners of the world. But what exactly are they doing for the children of their

worldwide, excluding child domestic labor. So how this children's day actually made any difference in the lives of these million of children who according to Pt Nehru, are the 'future' of nation?

When the future itself is dying today, what kind of global development do we talk about?

Celebrating Children's Day is about giving children the right to enjoy and grow into healthy and educated citizens of the country. It should not be just limited up to your own domain. If you can teach your child the value of sharing with others what they are lucky to have, then not only your child will grow into a responsible human being, but also another child who otherwise



- Pic courtesy Google Images

could have ended up being a delinquent, will have a difference in their life. Thus, belonging to the educated strata of society, I think we all should take an initiative of revolutionizing at least life of one child around us, who is not as privileged as we are. So maybe by next children's day we may have a new generation of children who are capable of transforming their own children's world!

area? Child labor still exists in spite the fact that the government has made efforts to prohibit child labor by enacting Child labor laws in India including the 1986 Child Labor (Prohibition and Regulation) Act. It states that children under fourteen years of age could not be employed in hazardous occupations. According to United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), there are an estimated 218 million children aged 5 to 17 in child labor

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## Move away white, Pink is here

SHILPA KRISHNAN

Cricketers worldwide have finally mustered enough courage and come out of the closet. Yes, they have openly declared their allegiance to Pink. And no, we are not talking about the music band that masquerades noise in the name of music but of the colour Pink that is so sacred to the gay community. And no, by gay we do not mean happy. So we have Mike Gatting, former England captain coming out in the open and making statements such as, "We have tried white and orange balls and perhaps pink ones will last longer. This is a very interesting and very wise development and a colour may have been found that is easier on the eye." And while the caption mentioned above is obsessing over the colour of his balls, we have the board coming up with many other suggestions to add some bling and zing to the gentleman's game.

Taking inspiration from sports like tennis, it has been unanimously decided that even

cricketers must strive to practice the principles of indecent exposure. Studies have shown that cricketers have fine legs (pun intended). Some may be short legs (pun intended again), but presented in the right light, they can be quite deadly as well. The board has therefore decided to substitute the boring pants with Pink hot shorts. And in an attempt to create the superman effect, the batsmen will now wear their protective guard over their Pink hot shorts.

Meanwhile, the board has noticed the latest trend among cricketers - that of sporting long, lustrous, wavy tresses. However, this has been found to be distracting to the opposition. Therefore, the board has made it mandatory for all cricketers with long hair to tie up their hair with pink ribbons.

It has also been brought to the board's attention by the cricketers themselves that their complexion is going for a toss. The board has therefore decided to hold all further matches in indoor stadiums. Moreover, after every four overs, there will be a make-up break. The

make-up vans will roll onto the fields and the cricketers will be allowed to powder their noses.

Apart from all this, it has also been decided to inculcate the fine art of cheerleading into the sport of cricket. The extras and the substitutes touring along with the teams will be part of the cheer leading squad. Outfits for the same are being designed by the students National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), New Delhi.

Meanwhile, followers of the Invisible Pink Unicorn (for the uninitiated, the Invisible Pink Unicorn is the religious deity of all atheists and agnostics) have appreciated the move of the cricket board to bring Pink into cricket and in honour of this move, have adopted cricket as their official sport. Hail the mighty Invisible Pink Unicorn.

Who knows maybe the white flannels worn for those five days might just be replaced by pink ones. We have to wait with bated breath till 2009 when the Marlybone Cricket Club (MCC) will use the pink balls in Twenty20.