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From the President's Desk...

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Dear (s)

All eyes and ears were on the Worldcup 2007 which has unfolded many events which definitely were not thought in wildest dreams. The Cup has already witnessed the excitement of the tie between Ireland and Zimbabwe and six sixes in an over by Herschelle Gibbs. There were lots of other news also – there was the horrific story of Nandigram. Police gunning protestors is unpardonable in any democracy, it is more gruesome when this sanction was of a people's government which had propelled to power & kept enthroned for more than three decades by their claims of land reforms. The benefits of SEZs which are enclaves that allow 100% FDI & exemption from custom duties, central excise and various other taxes would continue to be hotly debated but none of the benefits can justify such killings.

Union Budget must begin with the recognition that the Budget is albeit a major one, of several economic policy instruments available with the government. The immediate buzz raised after P. Chidambaram's annual financial statement in the Lok Sabha was that he had just come up with a BETA-Budget for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. The quip followed his announcement that he was slashing import duties on dog food and cat food. This does not augur well at a time when there is so much resentment over soaring prices of basic food items.

For Indian fans, India's virtual elimination from the cricket World Cup so early in the competition is a crushing disappointment, this is the prime reason for our not having the announced WC contest. For the television channels that bought rights to beam the tournament to these fans, India crashing out is a financial disaster. History is kind and forgiving to the victor, but forgetful and blind to those defeated, for it is the victor who is seen as right and just and who will write history to suit their own cause. We have a full report on cricket in our issue primarily on what happens when meek defeat the mighty !!

Yours Friendly **T.J. Ramani**

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சிறந்த மருத்துவ சேவை புரியும் காஞ்சி சங்கரா பவுண்டேஷனுக்கு பாராட்டுகள்

ஸ்ரீகாஞ்சி காமகோடி சங்கரா மெடிகல் டிரஸ்ட், இப்பூவுலகில் மானிட நேயத்துடன் ஏழை எளியவர்களுக்கு மருத்துவ சேவை புரிய ஸ்ரீகாஞ்சி காமகோடி பீடாதிபதி அவர்களின் ஆசியுடன் 1985ம் ஆண்டு ஒரு சிறிய முயற்சியாக எளிமையாக துவக்கப்பட்டது. ஸ்ரீஜயேந்திர சரஸ்வதி ஸ்வாமிகள் 21.3.1985 அன்று இதை ஆசீர்வதித்து துவக்கி வைத்தார்.

ஆறே மாத காலத்தில் மூங்கில் கூரையில் இருந்து பக்த மண்டலியின் உதவியினால் கட்டடம் மேம்படுத்தப்பட்டது. ஆகஸ்ட் 1989ல் திருவான்மியூர் மற்றும் திருவல்லிக்கேணியில் மேலும் இரண்டு மருத்துவ மையங்கள் தொடங்கப்பட்டன. திருவான்மியூர் மையத்திற்கு அமரபாரதி நன்கொடையாளர்களும், திருவல்லிக்கேணிக்கு சைமாவினரும் ஆதரவளித்தனர். நான்காவது மையம், 1992ல் மயிலையில் துவங்கியது. இது தற்சமயம் ராமகிருஷ்ண தொண்டர் தேசீய இயக்கத்தின் ஆதரவுடன் தேனாம்பேட்டை வரதராஜ புரத்தில் ஆகஸ்ட் 2002ல் இருந்து இயங்கி வருகிறது. இந்த நான்கு மையங்களுமே குடிசைப்பகுதிகளில் உள்ள ஏழை எளியவர்கள் பயன்பெற எளிதாக அவர்கள் வசிக்கும் பகுதிக்கு அருகில் அமைந்துள்ளமை தனிச்சிறப்பாகும்.

இந்த மையங்கள் மாலை இரண்டு மணி நேரம் இயங்கி வருகின்றன. இந்த நேரம் ஏழை எளிய நோயாளிகளுக்கு மட்டுமல்லாது மருத்துவ ஆலோசனை பெற வரும் மருத்துவர்கள், உதவியாளர்கள் ஆகிய அனைவருக்கும் ஏதுவான நேரமாகும்.

நமது தேசத்தில் இலவசமாக கிடைப்பவைகளுக்கு மதிப்பு இல்லாத காரணத்தினால் மிகக்குறைவான பதிவு கட்டணமாக இரண்டு ரூபாய் மட்டுமே வசூலிக்கப்பெற்று நோயாளிகளுக்கு தரமான மாத்திரைகள் மற்றும் தேவைப்பட்டால் ஊசி மருந்தும் அளிக்கப்பெறுகின்றன. மருத்துவ மையங்களில் புள்ளி விவரப்படி இது வரை கிட்டத்தட்ட 6.5 லட்சம் சகோதர சகோதரிகள் மருத்துவ ஆலோசனை பெற்றுள்ளனர்.

இம்மருத்துவமனைகள் சிறப்பாக இயங்க சமுதாய அக்கறை கொண்ட சில மருத்துவர்களும், சில உதவியாளர்களும் தான் காரணம். இது போன்ற உதவியாளர்கள் மற்றும் மாணவ மணிகள் இம்மருத்துவ மையத்தின் முதுகெலும்பாக அமைந்துள்ளனர். ஒவ்வொரு வருடமும் பத்து மருத்துவ முகாம்கள் குடிசைப்பகுதிகள், பள்ளிகள், குழந்தை மற்றும் முதியோர் இல்லங்கள் மனநலம் குன்றியோர் இல்லங்கள் ஆகிய இடங்களில் நடைபெறுகின்றன. இம்முகாம்களில் சீராக நோயாளிகளின் உயரம், எடை, மருத்துவ ஆலோசனை ஆகியவை பதிக்கப் பெற்று தேவையுள்ளோர்களுக்கு தொடர்ந்து மருத்துவ மையங்களில் சிகிச்சையும் அளிக்கப்படுகிறது.

1990ம் ஆண்டு திருவான்மியூரில் எக்ஸ்-ரே மற்றும் பரிசோதனைக் கூடம், ரோட்டரி கிளப் ஆஃப் தென்சென்னை உதவியுடன் அமைக்கப்பெற்று ஏழை எளியோர்களுக்கு இலவசமாக பரிசோதனைகள் செய்யப்பட்டு வருகின்றன. ஒவ்வொரு வருடமும் சுமார் 15,000 பேர் இதனால் பயனடைகின்றனர்.

இம்மருத்துவ மையங்கள் பொதுமக்களிடமிருந்து பெறப்படும் நன்கொடையால் நடத்தப்பெறுகின்றன. இந் நன்கொடைகளுக்கு வருமானவரி விலக்கு உண்டு. இச்சிறந்த மருத்துவ பணியில் உங்களையும் ஈடுபடுத்திக் கொண்டு உங்களால் இயன்ற உதவிகளை செய்யுமாறு வேண்டிக் கொள்கிறோம்.

Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Sankara Medical Trust & Kanchi Sankara Foundation celebrate their 22nd anniversary at Bharathiar Illam, Triplicane on 31st March 2007.

SYMA has been associated with the Medical trust for very many years and we have played a small part in running a medical dispensary founded on the support and principles of the trust.

SYMA wishes the Foundation great success and continued glory in their endeavour to provide quality medical service at literally free of cost.

Q: India has had as many as 30 finance ministers after it secured independence from imperialist British rule in 1947. And, these gentlemen shaped up India's economy which has grown in size to about US\$ 800 billion. The Budget presented in the Parliament has assumed great significance. Do you know when was the first Indian budget submitted and by whom ?

(Ans. In Page No.4)

ITS ONLY GAME – NO PLACE FOR EMOTIONS; BE PRAGMATIC – LOSSES ARE BUT.....

There have been upset victories in wars and sports. All though the nuances of one-day cricket rests in its thrill-a-minute characteristic and element of unpredictability, It will be very hard & sometimes foolish to accept that failures are the stepping stones to success and defeat is really the quintessence of victory. Whether you are humiliated, destroyed, crushed, or merely defeated, losing is an ugly experience. The dictionary meaning of UPSET is to defeat or overthrow an opponent that is considered more formidable, as in war, politics, or sports. The Minnows are person or thing that is comparatively small or insignificant.

The 2007 World Cup in cricket is likely to go down in history as a tournament that all lovers of the game, especially from our subcontinent would like to forget, not only because of the shock exits of Indian & Pak teams; also due to the dark shadow cast by the death of Bob Woolmer.

Shock, disbelief, anger, morbidity, melancholy, gloom, dejection, dole, sorrow and despondency are some of the emotions that swept across the Nation and Shambolic would be strong word to describe the condition after that stunning defeat to Bangladesh, tame surrender to Sri Lanka & crashing out of the tournament before the meaningful round began. The danger now is that some ad hoc decisions will be taken and knives will be unsheathed to make victims of some scapegoats.

When confronted with such unexpected situations, for individual players it is time to retire when one could realise their best is behind them. But collectively, to improve there are some viable alternatives : View the poor performance as a lesson learned; Identify aspects of the performance that are controllable. Examine competition goals. Evolve proper strategies and draw positive things from such outcomes which will provide insight, control and motivation from the experience. How and when the team can bounce back is anybody's guess but you may get placated by the fact that history (of World Cup) is replete with instances of many upsets.

In the inaugural version in 1975, 8 teams participated of which East Africa & Srilanka (not a test nation until 1982) participated. WC began with Madanlal bowling the first delivery. In the intial round there was absorbing clash in WI Pak match which ended in a one-wicket victory for the Clive Lloyd-led side. In the second tournament in 1979 the minnows Srilanka defeated India by 47 runs at Old Trafford.

The Third version in 1983 would be cherished always by the Indians for obvious reasons. Australia were joint favourites with holders West Indies. They not only failed to make it to the semi-finals, but also lost a crucial match to Zimbabwe. The man of the moment was Captain Duncan Fletcher, who is present coach of England. West Indies's first ever defeat in the World Cup came against India at Old Trafford.

In 1987 WC moved out of England with India & Pak playing joint host. It was also the first time that the format was changed to 50 overs an innings from the earlier 60. Chennai, witnessed a great finish in which India went down to Australia by just one run. Zimbabwe gave great scare to NZ when Houghton made a valiant ton.

In 1992 - 9 teams with SA joining, played all other in a qualifying round. Pakistan started dreadfully, losing to West Indies by 10 wickets, and would have gone out if rain had not saved them at Adelaide after England bowled them out for 74. Zimbabwe caused the biggest upset of the tournament beating England by nine runs. South Africa's defeat against England in the semifinal was the worst example of the lopsided rain rule.

There was plenty of drama when the ICC Cricket World Cup came to the subcontinent for the second time in 1996. The shock defeat was handed over to WI by Kenya who bundled them out for 93 runs. The lankans savoured their victory in the final by thrashing fancied Aussies.

In version 7 in 1999 Zimbabwe sprung two major upsets, defeating India and South Africa. Bangladesh's defeat of Pakistan in a dead rubber sparked justified celebrations ... but deep suspicion has since been cast over the result. Aussies started poorly and were facing elimination but won seven games in a row to triumph the cup. The semifinal was a tie and Aussie went into final as they had beaten SA in the league stage.

In version 8 – 2003 there were 14 teams with Canada, Holland & Namibia also entering the fray. Canada briefly enlivened proceedings when they beat Bangladesh. Kenya went through to the Super Sixes courtesy of the win they were handed when New Zealand refused to play in Nairobi, but whatever the circumstances, their success provided some welcome highlights.

Thus upsets have not been new and the cricket fans would certainly would take solace from the past and continue to enjoy the good games that are in the offing. The Indian administrators meantime, have managed to market a massive captive television audience to acquire financial muscle that relies little on the capabilities of the national team.

The passion of the fans is the biggest strength of cricket in the sub-continent but we need to learn from Sri Lankan fans who are far more stoic about their team's fortunes and far more accepting of failure. Here exaggerated glorification is matched by proportionate vilification. Nationalism should not hinder this analysis and the game needs a reality check to put end to delusional bubble and look with semblance of sanity for enjoying the thrills of the game.

பாராட்டுகிறோம்

Our February issue carried an article on the good work of Rajasthan Cosmo Club. It was heartening to see them in news again. On Sunday, 25th of March 07, RCC organized a function at Music Academy celebrating donation of one millionth garment. This was done to commemorate its 13th foundation day.

About 80,000 sets of clothes were distributed to underprivileged children and representatives of 50 non-governmental organisations in and around the city. RCC has also been in the forefront providing uniforms to thousands of school children every year. SYMA appreciates the spirit of Rajasthan Cosmo Club in providing dignity to humanity by distribution of clothes. BLISS wishes them all success in all their endeavours.

We had facilitated our K Kesavan on his becoming BCCI qualified scorer in our Jan issue. We have something more to celebrate. International Cricket Council is the governing body of world cricket, which has nearly a hundred countries currently in membership, began its life as early as 1907. India was accorded Test status in 1932. In August 2005 ICC left its base at Lord's to set up new headquarters in Dubai.

Recently during Feb/Mar 2007 a Quadrangular tournament for women was held in our own Chennai fielding India, England, Newzealand and Australia. Australian Ewes won the tournament defeating Kiwis in the finals. K Kesavan was the official scorer and his work has received commendations. In the words of Mr. Samiul Hasan, Communications Officer, ICC - "Thanks a million for taking the pains throughout the competition to send me the scorecards which were of tremendous help.

I wish you all the best in your future endeavors and would also like to put it on record that you showed excellent professionalism in the discharge of your responsibilities." BLISS wishes Kesavan more recognitions.

SYMA facilitated free dental camp organized jointly by Kanchi Sankara Foundation & Meenakshi Ammal Dental college and Hospitals. More details of this camp in our next issue.

இரத்த தானம் செய்வீர்

இன்னுயிர் காப்பீர்

நமது சங்க உறுப்பினர்கள் திரு. வி. நாகேஸ்வரன், திரு. ஆர். கஸ்தூரி ரங்கன், திரு. வி.பி. முரளி மற்றும் திரு. வி.பி. மணிவண்ணன் ஆகியோர் இரத்ததானம் செய்தனர். BLISS இவர்களை பாராட்டுகிறது. இரத்ததானம் செய்ய விருப்பம் உள்ளவர்கள் நமது இணைய தளத்தில் பதிவு செய்து கொள்ளுமாறு கேட்டுக் கொள்கிறோம்.

உறுப்பினர்களிடமிருந்து செய்திகள், துணுக்குகள் உபயோகக் குறிப்புகள் வரவேற்கப்படுகின்றன.

அணுக வேண்டிய முகவரி : **சைமா** BLISS
சைமா மெடிக்கல் சென்டர்

29, துளசிங்க பெருமாள் கோயில் தெரு
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Answer to Pg.2 : While three Prime Ministers held the coveted portfolio of Finance, only four ministers presented more than five budgets. In the interim Govt 1946-47 Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan was assigned the finance portfolio. The first budget of independent India was a review of the economy and no new taxes were proposed as the budget day for 1948-49 was just 95 days away. This interim budget was presented by R K Shanmukham Chetty, on November 26, 1947. It is widely believed he was asked to resign by the then PM, due to a minor dereliction of duty by a subordinate official, so as to ensure pro-bity.

To
