



**Smithsonian Institution**

*National Museum of African American History and Culture*

## **National Sports Vol. VII No. 7**

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Editorial

MR. SALVI DROPS A BRICK

Mr. R. C. Salvi, Inspector General of Prisons, Bombay has hurled the first stone. His scathing denunciation of the Maharashtra Cricket Association and his call for open defiance of its authority have highlighted the squabbles and dissensions that have now come to be associated so intimately with the administration of sports, not only in the state of Bombay but all over the country.

It is not in cricket alone that feuds[[feuds]] and factionalism hold the field; the ranks of almost every sport in India are cluttered with disputes and violent differences amongst[[amongst]] sports officials. Now and then stories of corruption, favouritism and unabashed attempts to use positions of authority for selfish ends are flashed in the newspapers and the uninitiated are able to get a glimpse of the seething cauldron of malpractices, mismanagement and shady goings-on in the sports world. If an independent enquiry committee were to go into the affairs of sports in India it could uncover a state of things that would make the Chicago under-world look like a Salvation Army Jamboree!

With a few honourable exceptions, sports management today has become a paradise for thugs and all sorts of picturesque characters whose sole aim is to line their pockets, stick to power by hook or crook and help themselves and theirs to all the loaves and fishes they can lay hands on. These are hard words, we know, and it gives us no pleasure to have to employ them, but they reflect even harsher realities. With the Government pouring hundreds of thousands of rupees into the national stadia, the situation has come to resemble a catch-as-catch-can scramble in which neither scruples matter nor fear of retribution deters. Almost every institution which has wangled a place on the receiving end of official aid is in the thick of this highly rewarding free-for-all. Tensions and tribal loyalties are therefore inevitable. Hence these brawls and bickering and washing of dirty linen in public.

The Inspector-General of Prisons of Bombay has come out with his outspoken obiter dicta not a day too soon. It was indeed time that a man in his high position tore off[[off]] the veil that hides tin-pot despotism, cynical disregard of rules and conventions and underhand tactics of antisocial elements in the sporting world. But mere denunciations, good as far as they go, cannot fill the bill. The need of the hour is a steady influx of good men and true into the ranks of sports so that a noble cause is not lost by default. Government help has come to play a vital role in the sphere of sports at the present time. It is

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