

**June 27, 2013**  
Chennai

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu,  
Fort St. George  
Chennai -9

**Sub: Corruption in SC/ST Schemes by FANA Institute, Coimbatore and its owner Navaneetha Shivakumar –Shocking Retaliatory Arrest of the Whistleblower and Anti-corruption Activist – Request for immediate release of Whistleblower and Anti-corruption activist, Manoj**

We bring to your kind notice a corruption scam by which funds under Schemes intended to benefit the SC/ST communities have been diverted by fraud for personal benefit of FANA Institute, Coimbatore around the period from 2006. An enquiry was initiated in 2011, but appears to have been sabotaged. Instead the whistleblower and anti-corruption activist who brought the story to light has been targeted and arrested.

**Discovery of Theft of Government funds by FANA Institute, Coimbatore under schemes to benefit SC/ST:**

1. In February 2011 there were several media reports(attached) highlighting the details of the *modus operandi* of Navaneetha Shivakumar of FANA Educational and Charitable Trust, Coimbatore in stealing government funds earmarked for the welfare of students of the SC and ST communities. Navaneetha Shivakumar set up FANA Institute around 2006 to claim funds from Tamil Nadu Adi Dravidar Housing and Development Corporation (TAHDCO) for allegedly providing vocational training to SC/ST students in sound recording, cinematography, digital film making, broadcast journalism, sound editing, digital photography, ancillary nursing midwife, etc. In reality, he had no equipment and organized no courses, but only created a façade by maintaining a register of students and showing a couple of students on his premises during inspection. He colluded with one Dr. Alva of Dr. Alva

Paramedical Institute of Pollachi and used the profiles and certificates of students of Alva Institute to show as beneficiaries of the TNADHCO scheme in his Institute. He had, as a media report says, a fake college and imaginary students; only for the purpose of swindling public funds.

2. Shri Manoj, an anti-corruption activist, while working for a few months with FANA Trust discovered all these corrupt practices and the fraud being played on the government and on the SC/ST community at large. He resigned from FANA and brought these issues to the media. The media followed up on the allegations, and media reports detail out the students whose profiles were abused and used by FANA to receive monies. FANA had in their possession ATM cards that were issued in the names of the alleged beneficiaries, and Navaneetha Shivakumar used his staff to withdraw TAHDCO funds using these ATM cards. It is pertinent to note that the then District Manager of TAHDCO, Mr. Gopal, who had suspicion of this fraud while inspection, was also transferred on false complaints, immediately after the story hit the media.
3. The then Collector of Coimbatore, Shri P.Umanath had made press statements on February 11, 2011 that his office and also TAHDCO were enquiring into this matter and criminal action would be taken against FANA Trust. The then Minister of Adi Dravidar Welfare, Smt. A. Tamilarasi had made press statements on February 09, 2011 that investigations were launched against the Institution and assured serious action for misappropriation of funds. Strangely, those investigations have not yielded results.

**Retaliation against the Whistleblower and Anti-corruption activist:**

4. However, the whistleblower Manoj is now being subjected to harassment at the hands of the corrupt Navaneetha Shivakumar!
5. Navaneetha Shivakumar has given a false complaint under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act against Manoj at B-12, Ukkadam police station in Coimbatore. On 25.06.2013, Tuesday

morning, Manoj was arrested and remanded to Judicial custody, under the said Act.

6. It is unfortunate that Manoj who stood up to protect the funds that were intended to benefit the students of SC/ST community is now being harassed under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, and that too by the man who did injury to the SC/ST community by stealing money that was intended to be used for their welfare!!
  
7. We appeal to the Hon'ble Chief Minister for the following:
  - (a) To bring to light the results of the enquiry against FANA Institute and Navaneetha Shivakumar, and take appropriate action against all those involved in the scam of stealing funds under schemes intended to benefit SC/ST community.
  - (b) To protect whistle-blowers and anti-corruption activists in Tamil Nadu from the corrupt elements, so that people's confidence is not eroded.
  - (c) to direct the Police Department to release the whistleblower and anti-corruption activist, Shri Manoj immediately.
  - (d) To direct the police Department to take action against Navaneetha Shivakumar for abusing for vindictive gain the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

Yours Sincerely

D.Jagadheeswaran,  
President,  
Lok Satta Party, Tamil Nadu

## Enclosures: Media Reports

1. *"Criminal Action against Fana soon, says Collector"*, Media report, February 11, 2011
2. **"ஒடுக்கப்பட்ட மக்களின் பணம் கோடிக்கணக்கில் அபகரிப்பு "**  
media report in 2011
3. *"Minister Assures action"* Media report, February 09, 2011
4. *"Fana runs fake college, has imaginary students"* Media report, February 10, 2011
5. *"Kovai Trust cheats TN of funds – Fana Trust Fudges documents of Professor, students and get funds"*, Media report, February 09, 2011.
6. *"Official reveals scam, punished"*, Media report, February 09, 2011
7. *"Fana ISO certification under scanner"*, Media report, March 06, 2011

## Copy to:

1. The Chief Secretary, Fort St. George, Chennai
2. The Home Secretary, Fort St. George, Chennai
3. The Director General of Police, Chennai
4. The Commissioner of Police, Coimbatore
5. The Secretary, Ministry of Adi Dravidar welfare, Fort. St. George, Chennai
6. The Chairman, Tamil Nadu Adi Dravidar Housing and Development Corporation (TAHDCO) Chennai
7. The Managing Director, TAHDCO, Chennai
8. The Secretary, Ministry of Adi Dravidar welfare, Fort. St. George, Chennai
9. The District Collector, Coimbatore
10. The Director, Vigilance and Anti-Corruption, Chennai
11. CENTRAL VIGILANCE COMMISSION, New Delhi
12. The Inspector, B12, Ukkadam Police Station, Coimbatore
13. The district Manager, TAHDCO, Coimbatore
14. ALL National, State PRINT MEDIAS
15. ALL National, State TV MEDIAS

# Anti-corruption Crusader Arrested under SC/ST Act

**Express News Service**

**Coimbatore:** A city-based anti-corruption activist was arrested under SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act on Tuesday and remanded in judicial custody.

The activist, A Manoharan alias Manoj is a member of Lok Satta Party and has been crusading against corruption by highlighting irregularities in various government-sponsored schemes.

Manoj was arrested based on the complaint of one Navaneetha Sivakumar, against whom the activist had earlier raised corruption allegations. In 2011, the activist had written to various officials claiming that an institution run by Sivakumar had swindled nearly ₹2 crore from the funds granted by Tamil Nadu Adi Dravidar Housing & Development (TAHDCO) to provide voca-

tional training for SC/STs. Manoj had also produced evidences which he claims proved that Sivakumar swindled the money by registering fake beneficiaries.

Manoj was also opposing selection of another institution run by Sivakumar as the implementation agency of the SJSRY's STEP-UP (Skill Training for Employment Promotion amongst Urban Poor) scheme.

Incidentally, Sivakumar has alleged that he was abused by Manoj on June 18 on the City Corporation office premises when he had gone there to collect the funds under the scheme. "The complainant had alleged that Manoj abused him by referring to his caste and used derogatory words," Ukkadam police said.

The case was registered by Ukkadam police three days after the alleged incident and

police have invoked section 3(x) of the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. On Tuesday, Manoj was arrested and remanded in judicial custody by a court.

However, members of the Lok Satta Party say this is a case of abuse of the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. "This is entirely a cooked-up case and filed only to take revenge upon Manoj for highlighting corruption in implementation of the government-sponsored schemes. On the particular day, Manoj had gone to the city Corporation Office to represent a civic issue in a locality. It was Sivakumar who abused him and issued threats. We left the place after police intervened and asked us to leave to avoid unnecessary tension," said a petition submitted by the party to the city police commissioner.