**CIVIL SOCIETY ACTION GROUP**

This is to bring together all committed organisations (under Society, Trust, NGOs etc) Against Bribery and Corruption as one force, to fight against mis-governance and its nexus in all spheres of society.

Aam Aadmi Party’s show in Delhi has woken up most citizens from their slumber of callousness and got them interested in committing to civic work and participate for societal improvement.

The window of opportunity need be utilised and optimised for networking, bringing together and working with each other alongside all sections of society to improve our common lot.

The politicians have captured power, cornered it in all respects through cronies and manage it with the system they are part of by sheer mismanagement to suit their needs and meet their ends.

Such plutocrats have taken over the entire system and money-power rules

But it can be set right by citizen’s coordinated action. That’s what this is about.

To vote and be a part of the system, by monitoring and demanding performance at all levels, regardless of one’s own party/politics/ideology leanings

Let us refine this as we go along with commitment

**Structuring for CSAG**

Let leaders evolve from doers once agenda is assimilated

All will be called co-ordinators with specific volunteered tasks and responsibilities

All areas (chapters, branches, territories..) to make their own budgets and contact lists with group id

And combine it at national level again with group email id

Designations will be only “coordinators” with suffix of region/territory

From these best performing ones will be moved up to national coordinator on rotational basis every calendar year or so or for specific time bound activities

In meetings, the youngest will chair, tabling what is called for, by the youth

The eldest will play the role of a referee

Everyone will get not more than 3mts to speak…only on the proposed action plan..specifics

Ex IIT & IIM Groups should be invited to join in sending representatives

School and College mate groups could be used to broaden the base and reach out

Persons from IT and ITES should be used effectively hasten the process using technology

**CSAG AGENDA**

To transform Indian socio-economic-political scenario for the better of all citizens

Convert the new-found enthusiasm and interest to, commitment and drive involving as many groups and citizens from all walks of life as possible.

Establish networks nationally, regionally, state-wise down to districts, towns, mohallas, villages and panchayats to collect views, opinions and inputs to involve citizens from social strata in making decisions

**Fore-note:** since the malaise is both top to bottom and bottom to top with students and youngsters pointing fingers at seniors including parents for precipitating the corrupt system, moral education at school level, in families and in society having failed, reinstating it through education is paramount.

Educating the public on the need and compulsion to be socio-politically active

Educate the youth and younger ones with moral, ethical and civic values we seem to have lost

Increase voter turn-outs to ensure cent percent participation by the youth

Work with the government and its agencies to improve the electoral process

To usher in Reject, Recall, Review and Referendum

Electronic voting using mobiles with fault free systems to be developed soonest

Monitor performance of elected representatives and parties, on individual and party basis

Monitor and Ensure performance and deliveries as per manifestos and promises made

Membership may be registered as necessary, letting activists opt for it as one of choice

***ACTION PLANS\*\****

\*\*Includes short, medium and long term ones; these all to be pursued simultaneously focusing on children, youth and grown-ups

Ban Criminals (the most difficult task by definition and process)

 Work to bring in: Reject & Recall

 Increase women’s participation at all levels (not as wives, daughters)

 Enable voting by remote means like using mobile, computer etc

 Protect/enable civil servants work diligently free of political pressure

Follow up on SCAMS, Enquiry Commissions, CBI,CVC, CEC, CAG initiated cases

Follow up on corruption cases and complaints

Recognise anticorruption success/efforts

Pursue matters for GREATER COMMON GOOD in socio-politico-economic fields promoting sustainable development with minimal environmental degradation

1. Bring back morals, ethics and meritocracy through education starting at lower school levels
2. Inculcate Discipline, Civic sense and Social commitment in youngsters at Higher School levels. Scouts and NCC to be made compulsory; Singapore’s example of NS (National Service) can be emulated
3. In Sports, improve facilities and exposure for Athletics, Football, Hockey, Volleyball, Basketball etc so that the craze about Cricket and its market over-reach is reduced
4. Amend/Rewrite Constitution and change/re-enact all outdated laws
5. The legal process and profession to be improved by time-bound process, taking punitive action against frivolous and dilatory tactics
6. Taxation and tax sharing between Central and State governments to be thoroughly overhauled
7. Scope of RTI to be widened so as to include political parties and all social activities
8. Citizen’s Monitoring Groups comprised of empowered Volunteers, good Samaritans, elders etc to monitor social projects run by all governments/agencies/tendered/under PPP etc
9. New political parties with inner party democracy and transparency to be supported/promoted
10. Voting to be made compulsory (except for specific exemptions) with penalties for non-participation
11. Electronic voting using mobiles to be introduced with reject, review, recall and referendum options
12. States to be reorganised on natural boundaries with egalitarian development focus so as to prevent rural migration to towns and cities. Let new conurbations blossom to serve regional requirements!
13. New state and federal capital to be developed –properly planned and laid out (like Chandigarh, Bubaneswar) with full electronic/on line facilities so as to decongest current ones and move development to new areas. This will impart multiplier effect under infrastructure and will not drive inflation.
14. Master plans for major activities (infrastructure: roads, rail, airports, seaports, health care, educational institutions for higher learning) to be drawn up, considering natural resources, development and aspirations of under-developed areas/regions.
15. Conscious efforts to be made incorporating ideologies from communism, socialism, capitalism, etc to minimise polarisation and historic benefits from all these are adopted/adapted for implementation.
16. Strict separation to be made and maintained between spiritual/religious practices and politics (Supreme Court’s latest ban (July ’13) on Caste based rallies is taken as a guidance)
17. All kinds of differentiations and reservations based on Caste, Creed, Money-power etc to be abolished within realistic time-frames.
18. Natural resources like food, water, minerals etc to be equitably used/distributed. Protection and preservation of environment to be taken into considering while pursuing sustainable development.
19. State funding of elections to be considered once it can be streamlined and properly monitored
20. Individual liberty over State’s interference as espoused by Liberals could be an ultimate goal

PS: Rearrange on implementable priority basis as part of manifestos promising calibrated change

If we don’t, there is a great danger that violent revolution may be required to bring matters back to order and correct losing a lot of advantages of democracy and systems built up over the decades.

**EXECUTION PLAN:**

**Underlying concern**: at current levels of mismanagement vis a vis expectations of the people, a revolt by concerned elite, ex defense & aam admi seems inevitable. On the one side private investment is shy, the economy slows, rupee sinks, infrastructure deteriorates and people especially criminals, enjoying comforts of power are now an eyesore.

**Challenge**: Convert right thinking reformers, supporters and do-gooders to pursue monitored meaningful action.

**Objective:** Endeavour and realise cleaner governance in social and political fields through step by step betterment and wellbeing for the populace. In doing so, factor in history, diversity, resources, potential, desire and aspirations of citizens.

**Strategy**: Influence decision makers by networking and lobbying through citizen groups. By taking a position on matters of concern & taking an active role in suggesting policy formulation, execution, correction, periodical reviews & revisions for Greater Common Good

 **Activists:** Identify, introduce to each other, Nationalists who have intent to work and compliment persons with proven track record, character & are self-driven individually & in Groups for following through on decisions.

**Organisation**: Voluntary citizen’s pressure groups to guide and correct government to strengthen democracy and work like a citizen led shadow cabinet to ensure accountability and proper execution; e.g. Civil Society Action Group.

 **Structure**: Chief Co-ordinator with a Deputy as stand in, and Heads for each activity sector at National, Regional, State and local levels

**Principles :** Managementby Objective. Evolve responsibility centres, person responsible and accountability.

**Desirable activists**: Self-driven achievers, effective, efficient, disciplined with capacity to motivate, unite, delegate, monitor and deliver, facing adversities; willing to face and withstand scrutiny

**Communication**s: Emails and internet-based groups, through Skype and other such open channels

**Funding**: Donations through Trust/s specifically set up for the above (80G permission to be obtained)

**Tie–ups:** with like-minded organisations, set ups, think tanks, working on governance issues -apolitical bodies.

**Focus:** First time Voters, Youth especially from streams of Political Science, Law, Sociology and relooking at the functioning of our Democracy, Constitutional & Human Rights.

**Targets:** E **Organisation**: Voluntary citizen’s pressure groups to guide and correct government to strengthen democracy and act like a shadow cabinet to ensure accountability and proper execution.

Electoral Process, Administrative Reforms, Judiciary, Strengthening and Independence to Constitutional Bodies.

**Organisation**: Voluntary citizen’s pressure groups to guide and correct government to strengthen democracy and act like a shadow cabinet to ensure accountability and proper execution.

 **Targets**: Judiciary, Governance, Overseers (CAG,CEC,CBI, CVC, CAT..), Administration, Electoral process, Politics

 **Ideas**:

**Governance**: Good governance to be ensured through RTI, Tracking, monitoring, follow up………. Whistle-blowers should be compensated under *qui tam*

 **Electoral system**: to be revamped with `None`, Reject, Recall, Referendum etc and performance of parties and the elected reviewed based on promises made

**Constitution**: To be amended/rewritten and all outdated laws to be replaced

**Option**: Start a new political party, if objectives not attainable through other methods

**Overseers:** Proven Ex-Staff and Critics

E.g: Altamas Kabir for Judicial sector (minimum 3 for each); Krishna Iyer is too old I guess

Administration: Exemplary administrators (eg. Sreedharan) who have left a mark and similar others

Politics: Kejriwal…idea is to attract youngsters to politics

Involve William Bissell of Fab India, Dipankar Gupta, Ravi Chaudhry and others with such commitments for Citizen’s Oversight Group and in the planning process

**Challenge**: To convert right thinking activists, supporters and do-gooders to DOERS

**Activists**: Committed capable volunteers with proven track record, good character and background

**Organisation**: Voluntary citizen’s pressure groups to guide and correct government to strengthen democracy and act like a shadow cabinet to ensure accountability and proper execution.

**Structure**: Chief Co-ordinator with a Deputy as stand in, and Heads for each activity sector at National, Regional, State and local levels

**Principles**: Lead, Follow or Move: Get it DONE. Accountability with responsibility

**Desirable activists**: Self-driven achievers, effective, efficient, disciplined with capacity to motivate, unite, delegate, monitor and deliver, facing adversities; willing to face and withstand scrutiny

**Communication**s: Emails and internet-based groups, through Skype and other such open channels

**Funding**: Donations through Trust/s specifically set up for the above (80G permission to be obtained)

**Tie-ups**: with like-minded organisations, set ups and political parties

**Focus**: In involving youth, first time voters, canvassing all to play active parts in democratic process

**Targets**: Judiciary, Governance, Overseers (CAG,CEC,CBI..), Administration, Electoral process, Politics

**Ideas**: must be Doable, Workable, Deliverable within timeframes with equity and fairness to the masses

**Multiplier/Trickle down**: Any work done/proposed must have multiplier and trickle down benefits

**Governance**: Good governance to be ensured through RTI, Tracking, monitoring, follow up………. Whistle-blowers should be compensated under *qui tam*

**STOP CORRUPTION\*\* At MACRO & MICRO Levels by Cleaner Governance**

**At MACRO Level: (Government, Public Domain, Factories, Offices, Establishments)**

**People: Select, Induct, Train, Supervise, Monitor, Mentor, Promote, Culture**

Document enshrining beliefs committing to ethical values signed by one and all to be displayed. Deterrents, Rewards and Punishments to be made well aware of. Declare Policy, Align employees, Review compliance of individuals, groups and systems, and publicise success and failure stories with real life examples.

Apart from the preceding HR and Ethical policies and procedures:

1. Set Standards: Ethical behavioural standards to be implemented and practised must be clearly spelt out, leaving no room for doubt/mischief.
2. Motivate: Managers/Staff must be motivated to work with transparency
3. Correct: Transgressions if any, must be found out/reported and corrected
4. Recognise: Compliance to be demonstrated, appreciated and publicised
5. Reward: Appropriate rewards must be handed out for good track records
6. Highlight `clean’ achievers & the methods/ways used/innovated by them
7. Punish: Corrective/penal punishments must be meted out as necessary too
8. Encourage: reporting of suspicious and nefarious activities
9. Set up: Inter-department and peer audits (in addition to Internal audits)
10. Counselling systems by senior groups to remove persistent doubts
11. Educate/stress the need for clean governance per new Intl Rules/Acts
12. Monitor strictly on regular basis, laying traps if necessary
13. Systematically enquire suspicions/allegations with transparency
14. Mentor to ensure that those with potential are of impeccable standards
15. ENSURE BY ALL MEANS COMPLIANCE CULTURE PREVAILS
16. Encourage complaints and whistle-blowing

\*\* Honesty Standards (HSO like ISO) drawn by [www.AntiBribeCoalition.org](http://www.AntiBribeCoalition.org) through [www.wikihonestcitizen.org](http://www.wikihonestcitizen.org) could be adopted and adapted to start with

**At MICRO Levels\*\*: (Individuals, Home, Educational institutions…)**

**Morals, Ethics, Values, Character**

**\*\*Philosophically, it seems simplistic or naïve; the basic problem lies with compliance: starting with Morals, Discipline, Ethics, Values, Civility, Character, Ethos, Culture *et al***

1. Fundamentals of morals, ethics and values in character building be emphasised
2. Self-respect as epitome of disciplined behaviour must be inculcated and instilled
3. Sacrifices will be called for by individuals and groups to set standards
4. Examples must be set by few to demonstrate that ideals are workable
5. Individuals and groups to develop best practices that will withstand the tests of temptations
6. Pursue non-co-operation with bad elements and unacceptable practices
7. Isolate the wayward and trouble makers
8. Expose bad practices and those who indulge in the same
9. Report malpractices right from the beginning
10. Whistle-blow when systems and people fail to adhere to set standards
11. Those with discretionary powers must make efforts to be transparent
12. Since people who make the difference at all levels, they be empowered to take bold/decisive actions instead of dithering -atypical of corruption
13. Use technology seamlessly to meet expectations transparently
14. Think globally; act locally: adapt proven practices and improve them
15. Declare and comply with HONESTY STANDARDS; audit externally
16. Get recognised and certified for HSO to boost organisational morale