***India Deserves Better*: We WILL Deliver**

***Concerned Citizens***

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| ***India Deserves Better In: Politics, Governance, Justice, Public Participation, Education, Health Care, Cost Control, Waste Management, Sustainable development protecting Environment*** |

Certainly we deserve better in all fields of life and social activities through cleaner Politics, Governance, Administration, Judiciary, Resource Allocation and Management etc.

**Let us make a strong visible uncompromising campaign: till these are improved**.

Facts, knowledge, ideas, philosophies, ideologies etc have no value unless they are converted to actions to achieve desired results. Have no doubt, we have to start with politics itself. For, it encompasses all activities and without governance, accountability and justice, nothing will work properly. No point planning, strategizing, allocating funds and resources. Politicians with discretionary powers acting as despots and cronies in connivance drive the processes to their liking, whims and fancies. Master Plans and well meant-intentions on most fronts are sabotaged and altered to suit circumstances, arguably to serve vote banks but in reality to pocket funds.

Whilst social efforts and activities by NGOs, Good Samaritans and Do-gooders, as also activities of Rotary, Lions, Free Masons etc are laudable, they in fact end up serving the needs where the State has failed, neglects or mismanages by siphoning off funds. As such they unburden the State, but in effect they are excusing and forgiving the States for malevolence. Many are the stories of monies expended on non-existent/duplicated projects with nepots and cronies pocketing down the line up to 90% of budgets allocated. Under the disguise of socialism, `welfare India’ is full of colossal abuses of: power, money, cronyism and wastage of valuable resources. The whole cash money cycle starts at elections with parties as conduits and ends up driving real estate and stock markets. Its impact on our basic budgets is between 30-40%; imagine if it can be removed and curtailed, tax rates lowered and developments pursued!!

As per our Constitution, it is the people that are supreme; elected representatives and the administrative systems set up by them are subservient to the will, desire and needs of the people. This indirect power of the people enshrined in the Constitution is to be expressed and executed by/as the directly elected representatives, and not as members of the parties (under whip) making a mockery of the democracy. True, the elected represent the populace and democracy has its limitations. To begin with, we elect our representatives and not the party, though candidates may have been thrust on us by parties despite their unsavoury and criminal backgrounds, and so owing allegiance to such system. Isn’t cusp of change now sensed in Supreme Court’s latest ruling on criminally convicted but elected!! Let us continue the struggle.

Party system that was imposed on us through Representation of People Act, seems to have demeaned the sacrosanctity of Constitution. So isn’t it fair to fault it and point it out as a handicap? Nonetheless, it is very well embedded; no point harking about alternatives unless they can be legislated through or when all else fails, pursued through a revolution! The latter, seriously; as the former is doubtful. Likewise for Reject, Recall and Referendum under current system itself! A proper mischief-proof *Jan*-Lokpal Bill turning into a legislated Act carrying wishes of the people, remains elusive as a distant dream!

True also that the parties have hijacked the system with ideologies, the elected and all activities too; but they fail to deliver, compromising on everything, just to cling on to power as seen in coalitions. Though absolutely un-envisioned by our founders, the party, the elected and politicians have per force hijacked the administrative system by favouritism, nepotism and threats. Powerful reward and punishment mechanisms!! A hangover of the constitutionalised `socialism’ we are promised? Is that the entrusted administrators have failed by bowing down to powers that be and are? Is it their failures, then? Shouldn’t they be taken to task?

Under liberalisation, with PPP –public private partnership- approach due to failures to deliver under chosen systems and methodologies, Parties & its members, in cahoots with all & sundry down the line to municipalities and panchayats, have captured the machineries of the systems and of late the bourses too through benami investments. Corporate honchos in Rajay Sabha and all state awards for the favoured turning partisan! With the parties being dominated by dynasties, a full circle can be traced back to kingdoms of yore, king makers and a monarchy at the federal helm to boot! What is VVIP? Emboldened Courts are asking!

Democracy is what it does and citizens get what they deserve. Is it that we do not understand democracy, value it and independence, deserve it or haven’t learned to practise it in letter and spirit? With commitment and involvement at all levels from villages to the Centre? Or like the British, are we preserving a monarchy to avoid anarchy? Whatever, it is time to stand up and demand what we were promised through the Constitution and what we deserve. If they are not good enough, let us revolt to usher in changes. A revolution seems to be in the making!

**WE DESERVE AND DEMAND\*:**

**(**in the order\*\* of time-bound priorities)

EQUITABLE JUSTICE with fairness, speed and timeliness

EFFICIENT ADMINISTRATION and Governance with transparency

CLEANER POLITICS with Accountability

Public Participation: Citizen groups can effectively contribute within 5 years

Universal Economic Health Care: can be introduced in stages within 5-10 years

Education: Educating the masses to derive social benefits could take a generation or so along with which population control could be achieved.

Reorganisation of the States (say up to 50) based on natural boundaries, resources, population etc so as to spread the benefits and prevent lopsided development.

\*\*Based on pragmatic corrective process cleansing judiciary first within 2yeras and then they setting right others

The Administrative/Executive can be revamped within 5 years and freed of corruption and political stigma

The political process may take 5-10 years to clean up

Cost Control & Waste management: minimising leakages of the system must be tackled on war-footing

Sustainable development protecting environment: should be an on-going commitment at all stages

***Tackle, reform and empower judiciary*** first so that all else will naturally follow. There are issues of conflicts and separation of powers between Judiciary and Executive, but the purpose of serving people’s will and desire must be placed foremost. Indiscipline in citizens–from teens and youth to elders- as seen at traffic signals with policemen becoming bystanders, is so widespread and entrenched, that it shows that we have lost faith and respect for the system. This can only be regained and re-established by the judiciary. Hence the prioritisation of correction of judiciary.

Then the administration! Once judiciary functions properly, it will oversee administrators through the well provided for and established checks, balances, and investigations vide CBI, CVC, CAG, CEC et al. *These must be made independent of politics –autonomous but accountable- supervised by Judiciary, reporting to the President; they should be manned by persons with excellent track record selected by non-politicians.* Justice must be done and seem to be done by meting out punishment to the erring by recovering losses caused and illegal wealth amassed. Cleaner politics will naturally follow. It is not about electioneering expenses and won’t be, even if the state contributes, but of setting right the societal and moral decay driven by greed. Of the four pillars of democracy, only the media seems driven and working, with the citizens forced to create a fifth one to prop up the edifice. So the call is to repair and correct the three fundamental pillars. Sooner the better, lest a violent revolution becomes unavoidable.