

CHALLENGES TO INDIAN DEMOCRACY: AN INTROSPECTION

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Abstract

India is the largest democracy in the world with a population of 125 crore comprising of people from all hues and colours. In spite of being a developing nation, it has the most successful and progressive democracy which has passed many litmus tests in the last six and half decades including that of Emergency (1975-77). So far the elections for 15 Lok Sabha and many Lagislative Assemblies, have been conducted smoothly and fairly whereas most of the democracies in the world, emerged with India could not sustain due to one reason or the other. However, the similar observations and apprehensions were also made regarding Indian democracy after the death of Pt Jawaharlal Nehru (1964), the first Prime Minister who provided sufficient grounds to nurture the democracy in the country through his fairly long tenure and charismatic leadership.

The model of Five Year Plan with mixed economy adopted in the country under his visionary leadership gave a big boost to development in all walks of life which contributed a lot in survival and development of democracy. However, the socialist model adopted could not respond to the expectations and Indian economy got stagnation in ninties, hence the LPG process was introduced to break this vicious circle. Accordingly, Indian Economy got momentum having the 2nd highest GDP rate after China and it has become the 4th largest economy in the world. The numbers of millionaires in India have also multiplied many times in the last two decades. The Indian economy has shown a growth rate of 8.1% in 11th Plan (2007-12) as against 3.5% in Ist Plan (1951-56) which is expected to be 11% during the 12th plan (2012-17).¹ The per capita income in India has grown upto Rs. 55,331 per annum and the size of economy at current prices rose to Rs. 71,57,412 crore and the GDP rate is 8.4% in 2010-11 which reflects India's growing

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prosperity.² India's GDP for budget estimates 2012-13 has been projected to be Rs.1,01,59,884 crore.³ According to William Heg, the Foreign Minister of UK, India will draw the outline of 21st century due to its significant contribution in world economy, hence advocated for comprehensive and deep relations with India well in time. It is noteworthy that India is the third largest market for the UK outside the European Union.⁴

Three crore Indians are living abroad and their contribution to National Development is significant one. The GOI has amended the People Representation Act, 2010 and made provision for their right to vote in elections for which they have come to India. However some NGOs and Social Organizations working for electoral reforms are advocating for absentee electoral process in which the postal voting, proxy voting or internet voting techniques can be applied.⁵ While speaking in an International Conference in New Delhi, justice Markandey Katju warned against the serious problem of poverty, unemployment, illiteracy, high rate of inflation, poor health and mal-nutrition imbuing over 80% of the Indian population today. He added that 48 farmers are committing suicide per day and 47% children are suffering from malnutrition which is far away from over national goals of health, education and nutrition to all. Food, cloth and shelter are the basic necessities required to any human-being to be a human-being and the same has been recognized at global fora. Thus Food security is essential not only for the survival of human-beings but also for their integrity and dignity.⁶ No doubt, the GOI has enacted a number of legislations and introduced a number of schemes for development, employment, health hygiene including democratic decentralization to bridge the gap and to meet out the objectives of the Constitution. The judiciary has played significant role in this regard. While deciding a PIL regarding rotten of food grains in go-downs, the Apex Court directed the Union Government to distribute it among needy people free of cost rather spoiling it therein. Accordingly, the GOI introduced National Food Security Bill, 2011 in the Parliament to give statutory status to food security. Moreover, after MNREGA it will be the second largest social welfare scheme of the present UPA government. As the socio-economic equality and justice are the parameters to decide the success level of democracy, hence a modest attempt has been made through the present paper to assess the impact of economic growth on Indian democracy, to highlight its main constraints as well as to give suitable suggestions to make it more viable and successful.

Concept: Democracy has been perceived and defined differently by the scholars on the subject. It has originated from Greek words Demos and Cratia which stand for the people and the form of government respectively. Classical thinkers like Abraham Lincoln, Bentham, T.H. Green, J.S. Mill, Seeley etc considered it as the rule of the people. Whereas the Elite Thinkers like Pareto, Mosca, Robert C. Michels, C. W. Mill, Y. Gaset, Scheumpeter etc. considered it as the rule by the well organized and knitted minority over the majority. The Marxian Thinkers like Karl Marx, Engles, Lelin, Stalin. Mao, M. N. Roy etc. defined it in accordance with the nature of ruling class or in economic terms. Thus democracy has been widely perceived and defined varying from the way of life to the form of government.

Ideals for Democracy: For a sound and healthy democracy, the following attributes are required: (i) Fair and free elections; (ii) Elections at regular intervals; (iii) Free and impartial Media to take up public issues and to create public opinion; (iv) Rule of Law; (v) Healthy and sound Political Party System; (vi) Independent and impartial Judiciary; (vii) Vigilant and responsible citizenary; (viii) Rights and freedoms to citizens; (ix) Ethics and norms in Public Life; (x) Rational and scientific temperament of the society; (xi) Visionary and accountable leadership.

Challenges : No doubt, Indian democracy is the most viable in the third world. In spite of it, it is not free from all types of constraints and miseries. The followings are main challenges to Indian democracy :

1. **Corruption and increasing size of Black money:** According to Baba Ramdev more than Rs 400 lakh crore as black money is deposited in foreign banks by Indians. A similar observation was made by the BJP in the Parliament calling this amount worth of Rs 25 lakh crore and the same has been endorsed by Sh A P Singh, Director, CBI before the Apex Court while hearing a case of Hasan Ali a renowned tax evader and a horse trader. He also admitted that this black money is most frequently used in terrorist and anti India activities. As per the sources of Union Finance Ministry, the size of black money in India is almost two times to that of its white money. During the Budget session (2012-13), the government brought a whitepaper on black money in which more attempts were made to conceal the things rather coming out with the names of individuals and firms who have deposited the black money in foreign banks or the efforts made by the government to bring it back.

2. **Misuse of Power and Rising Opportunism:** The leadership of the day is becoming so shortsighted and opportunist that it does not bother for the future perspectives and consequences of its misdeeds. That's why most of the state governments are facing the financial crisis which is the result of their populist policies and programmes that may be extending free electricity or water or something like these. Every political party and politician wants to win the election by hook or crook. Violation of Model Code of Conduct (MCC) by two Union Ministers- Salman Khurshid (Union Minister of Law) and Beni Parshad Verma (Union Minister of Steel) in UP Assembly elections, 2012 as well as by B. C. Khanduri, Chief Minister of Uttarakhand during its Assembly Elections, 2012 when they directly indulged in such practices which are highly objectionable during the election process and against the minimum decorum of public functionaries like them. In case of Salman Khurshid, the Election Commission has not only issued him the show cause notice but also made a complaint to the President of India for his unconstitutional and unwarranted behavior during the election process. It is the first type of case in the history of independent India in which the Election Commission has to take such a stern step against a Union Minister. It is also noteworthy that the Election Commission has to issue show cause notice even to Mrs. Sonia Gandhi, Chairperson of UPA and her son Rahul Gandhi for violation of Model Code Conduct, what to speak of the regional stalwarts and leaders from opposition parties. Similarly, the allies of the ruling coalition like the TMC, DMK or even NCP can be seen opposing and blaming the Congress or its coalition government on petty issues and some times even come to road to oppose it publically. The examples of Railway Budget (2012-13), NCTC and hike in petrol prices Issues (May, 2012) are before us. Thus the rising opportunism and misuse of power have posed a serious threat to fair and free elections in the country.
3. **Nexus among Politicians, Bureaucrats and Mafia:** This rising Nexus has time and again put at stake the national unity and integrity. Moreover, it has pushed the Indian democracy in the dock. The N.N. Vohra committee (1999) in its report has categorically admitted this Nexus prevailing in Indian democracy and emphasized on the need to root it out to save the democracy. This prevailing nexus makes the mockery of rule of law and the law enforcing agencies become their handmaid. What to speak of civil administration even the defence installation are not beyond its clutches? After the most debated Bofors Scam (1988) , Coffin Scam (2000), the Adarsh Society

Scam (2011), attempt to offer Rs 14 crore bribe to General V K Singh, Chief of the Army Staff for clearing the purchase of weapons as well as Tatra Truck Scam (2012) are before us which not only poked serious threat to national security and integrity but also brought a bad name to the nation in international arena. A number of scams exposed in the last four decades explicitly admitted the presence of such nexus in the background that's why it becomes just impossible to book the culprit.

4. Criminalization of Politics and increasing use of 3 Ms : Politics today has not remained for sincere, honest and upright persons rather it has been criminalized to such an extent that some times it appears that it is only the game of some crooks. Moreover, the money, muscle and mafia are playing decisive role during elections, in spite of strict vigilance and stern legislation on the subject. In the 15th Lok Sabha, 199 MPs and 25% MLAs at the moment are indulged in criminal cases. According to Arvind Kajriwal, an ardent supporter of anti corruption drive launched under the leadership of Anna Hazare, 163 MPs in the present Parliament are indulged in serious criminal offences like murder, rape, booth capturing, extortion etc. then how we can expect that they will take up the issues of public interest and formulate legislation in the interest of the Layman. Huge crèche of liquor and narcotics were seized in Punjab Assembly Election (2012) and more than RS. 34 crore were captured by the election machinery appointed in UP Assembly Election 2012.⁷ The Association for Democratic Reforms in its report on recent result (2012) pointed out that 86 % of the MLAs in Punjab, 67 % in U P and 46 % in Uttrakhand Assemblies (2012) are millionaire. Whereas 47% of them in UP Assembly, 27 % in Uttrakhand and 19 % in Punjab are from criminal background having serious criminal offences. Thus the strength of such MLAs and MPs is rising day by day in our August bodies. Moreover, these factors are not only confined to the elections for Parliament and State Assemblies but also dominating in the elections of local bodies which is a serious matter of concern.

5. Decline of Ethics and values in Public Life and lack of statesmanship qualities in the leadership: The ethics and values have eroded to such an extent from the public life that none of the political party or leader has any reservation to go to any extent to capture power. Politicians and Political parties barking and abusing one another before elections are found together enjoying power after the elections. The examples of such unfamiliar and opportunist coalition like BJP-BSP in UP, SP-Congress in UP and national politics, AIDMK and DMK coalitions with

both congress and BJP as per the time and situations are before us. The NDA coalition of 1999-2004 and the UPA coalition of 2004-2009 and the present one are over 1.5 dozen political parties having heterogeneity in their character and even sometimes hostile to one another. It has created mess regarding the basic principles of Parliament democracy like uniformity and collective responsibility of Minister in Council. Many a times, the Prime Minister has also expressed his helplessness to take appropriate decisions in opportunist coalition e.g. In case of A. Raja, former Telecom Union Minister charged in 2G spectrum scam, the Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh publicly admitted that he could not drop Mr. A. Raja under the compulsion of coalition government. Similarly, the role of Mamta Banerjee, the supermo of TMC, a coalition partner of ruling UPA and C M of West Bengal is before us who not only forced the Central government to retreat from its Railway Budget (2012-13) but also took it on toe on the issues of NCTC and extension in the repayment of central loans by her government. The ruling Congress Party and opposition (INLD & BJP) conflicted to such an extent in the Haryana Assembly on the jat reservation movement that the Speaker has to call the marshals to shunt out the opposition MLAs 16 from INLD and 1 from the BJP. All of them were restigated from the house for the remaining period of the session on the ground of violating the rulings of the Speaker. It is pertinent to mention here that Anil Vij, the BJP MLA has given notice to the Speaker for call attention motion on the Jat movement ,but the later did not allow him and Mr Vij resisted for it. Then the speaker indicted him and directed to leave the House immediately but when he did not comply the dictate, then the Speaker called the marshal to push out Vij from the House. As they approached to Vij, then Abhay Chautala and Rampal Majra both from INLD objected it. Ultimately the Speaker shunted them all out with the help of marshals. The assembly passed 16 Bills on the last day (9-3-2012) of the Budget session amid chaos and noise in spite of this fact that majority of the opposition MLAs were debarred. Similarly, the reports of various committees were passed on the same day. Thus the rising mess in functioning of legislative bodies has erosion the faith of public in these temples of democracy.

- 6. Glaring inequality among the citizens:** Inequalities always prevailed in Indian society, but under the impact of LPG process these have reached to the glaring heights i.e. a few people are so well off and advanced that their life style is at par to those of developed nations whereas on the contrary there is a significant part of population even deprived of basic amenities.

According to the Forbes Magazine, the number of billionaires in India has multiplied rapidly to such an extent that every 25th person among the list of 1226 is Indian (48). In other words, among the 100 every 4th name is that of an Indian. The list comprises of persons having more than 1 billion \$ (Rs 50 b.) property and Mukesh Ambani, the Chairman of Reliance Industry, is the richest Indian. The total property of these Indians is 194.6 billion \$.⁸ However, Indian society is a heterogeneous one, having glaring socio-economic disparities and still a large number of people (36% to 52%) are living Below Poverty Line (BPL). They are facing a lot of miseries including the food requirements, poor health, malnutrition and other disorders emerging thereby. A recent survey conducted by HUNGAMA (Hunger and Malnutrition) an NGO for the cause of downtrodden, on more than 1 lakh children of age group above five year in the country, pointed out that every third children in the world suffering from malnutrition, is Indian. About 42% children in the age group below 5 year are not only weak but 59% of them are also under height, hence the level of malnutrition in India is more than double to that of poor Saharan countries. While releasing this statistics, Dr. Manmohan Singh, the Prime Minister called this situation as shameful and un-acceptable, and declared to launch an intensive program to combat the menace in 200 worst affected districts in the country. He admitted that the ICDS, a renowned scheme of GOI in this regard, is not sufficient to cope the problem at its own. The children from SC and ST segments are the more adversely affected. As two-thirds of the mothers didn't enter in school for education, hence the percentage of their children suffering from malnutrition (45%) and under height (63%) is higher as compared to those whose mothers are educated upto metric and above where the respective data are 27% and 43%.⁹ Thus these wide inequalities are serious threat to Indian democracy which require immediate attention at the higher level.

- 7. Reckless and biased Media:** Under the impact of LPG process, the media is also going in the hands of capitalist class and is addressing their issues. Over sensitization of news, lack of ethics and public accountability are becoming the order of the day for most of the TV channels and newspapers owned and controlled by a specific class. It has taken the shape of most powerful pressure group and is try to take all odd benefits over the government of the day. Justice Markandey Katju, chairman, Press Council of India has advocated for an effective control mechanism to regulate the misuse of social media and emphasized on the need of correlating freedom of Press with its accountability. He further pointed out that none can be allowed to

defame others. It is noteworthy that a C D was uploaded on social website even after the direction of estoppel by the Supreme Court with the motive of defaming Abhishek Manu Singhvi, a senior counsel of the Supreme Court and M P of the ruling Congress Party. In this tailored CD Singhvi has been shown threatening a Union Minister.¹⁰

8. **Naxalism, Terrorism and other tension areas:** Still three-fourths of India or more than 18 states are suffering from the Naxalism and terrorism which is a serious challenge to its national unity and integrity. In some areas the law enforcing agencies are hapless or the Naxalite or terrorists are dictating not only the general public but also the civil and police administration. The incident of Dantewara in Chhattisgarh (2010) is before us in which the naxalists killed 76 para-military troops in an ambush attack and it is largest in independent Indian history from the casualty point of view. Similarly, the abduction of Jhina Hikaka, the ruling BJD MLA from Odisha on 24-3-2012 and Alex Paul Menon, the Collector of Sukma District in Chhattisgarh on 20-4-2012 by the Maoists are the other examples to narrate the gravity of the matter.¹¹ The rising awareness regarding human rights and judicial activism have made the situation more challenging to the law enforcing agencies in the disturbed areas.
9. **Poor and Faulty Grievances Redressal Mechanism including Service delivery system:** In spite of far and wide mechanism and processes available in the country in this regard, our service delivery system and grievances redressal machinery are poorly responding to the demands of the public which ultimately forced them to come on the roads or to take the law in their hands. It also leads to corruption and other related evils. Hardly any day passes when we do not come across news regarding the band, strike, violence, demonstration or even murder to settle petty and personal issues. On the one hand the size and sphere of social welfare administration is increasing day by day, on the other hand **the governmental machinery is responding properly and timely to address these demands.**
10. **Prolonged and expensive Judicial System:** Though Indian judicial system is very extensive and well knitted, instead of it, it cannot respond efficiently and effectively to the needs of the layman or redress one grievances promptly. All this paved way for the rising trend of road justice. It is note worthy that about 3 crore cases are lying before the courts in the country and generally it took 15 years in finally disposing of a case. Moreover, the fees charged by the advocates are also so high that it is too difficult for a layman to pay and the decisions are badly

interpreted by the enforcing agencies. In most of the cases the court passed a vague judgment regarding the consequential benefits and the implementing agencies hardly give the benefit to the petitioner which resulted to another litigation. That's why in more than 75 % cases or litigations lying in various courts one of the parties is the State; hence a comprehensive policy on litigations is required, besides prompt and judicious execution of court orders.

11. Fractured Mandate and unstable Governments: With the decline of national level and charismatic leadership in national parties, the state politics has slipped to the regional stalwarts. Moreover, the petty and parochial issues are taking the centre stage which resulted into fractured mandate in general and Assembly elections. What to speak of Lok Sabha, even in smaller states like Goa, Manipur single party rule is becoming a far cry? Since 1989, no political party got majority in the Lok Sabha, hence paved way for coalition governments which are not only weak but also unstable one. In 16th UP Assembly elections (2012), the Congress party could not perform as per its Mission-2012 through which it wanted to come in power in the state. Congress candidates come in fray over 350 seats but it could win only 28, a little more than the out going Assembly and remained second only on 30 seats, on 80 seats it was at No. 3, at 121 seats at No. 4 and at 61 seats at No. 5 and so on. It is the devastating stage of the oldest and largest party in the country. Moreover, the party used all its triumphant cards including Rahul Gandhi who addressed more than 125 rallies during this elections. Over 125 seats, the security deposits of Congress candidates were forfeited.¹² The rising domination of parochial outlook and outfits like caste, creed, region, religion etc. and the politics of Vote Bank and policy of Appeasement are the serious challenges to Indian democracy regarding which even the Constituent Assembly was not aware. Not only the state government and politics is fueling these issues for their instant political goals, but also the central government is not far behind in this race.

12. Rising Fiscal deficit and Foreign Debt: In spite of global recession and uncertainty, the foreign direct Investment (FDI) has increased by 31 % during 2010 (21 b. \$) to 2011 (27.5 b. \$). The maximum investment came from Maritius, Singapore, the USA, the UK, Netherland, Japan and Germany. The GDP rate will be 6.9 % in 2011-12 as compared to 8.4 % in 2010-11 as per latest estimates. During the first quarter of 2012, the foreign institutional investment (FII) has reached to Rs 36827 crore in Indian shares. The RBI has decided to reduce CRR from 5.50 % to 4.75 % and it will bring an additional amount of Rs 48000 crore in operation for the banks.¹³ Moreover,

it is too difficult to attain the goals of 12th Plan (2012-17) particularly the GDP rate of 9 % and to curtail the fiscal deficit upto 4 % which is 5.9 % at the moment when there are serious challenges like uncertainty and recession in global economy, slow growth rate of Indian industry as well as decline in domestic saving and investment rates. India's foreign debt has reached to an alarming height of 335 billion dollar by the end of 2011.¹⁴ According to D Subbarao, Governor, RBI, "The rising fiscal deficit and short term debt levels are quite disturbing, but the nation is not facing a repeat of a 1991 balance of payment crisis. In 1991 the fiscal deficit was 7 % and the current account deficit at 3.6 % is higher than 1991 and short term debt at 23.3 % of GDP in 2012 is much more than 10.2% in 1991. Thus there are serious concerns about macroeconomic management, policy environment and governance."¹⁵ The government has to raise Rs 4.79 lakh crore from market as loan to meet out Its expenditure in the current financial year which 27 % higher than the previous one (2011-12) where it was 4.36 lakh crore. There seems to be no specific improvement in the economy in the forthcoming year.¹⁶ The constant decline in exports has resulted into serious trade deficit in India. As per the status in February, 2012 the export is decreasing with a growth rate of 4.2 % whereas the imports are growing with a speed of more than 20% . The rising protectionism in the developed world will further worsen the situation. The target of 300 billion dollar export during 2012-13 is becoming difficult to achieve which has remained 267.4 billion dollar during April,2011 to January, 2012 causing a trade deficit of 166.7 billion dollar. In spite of unexpected hike in petrol prices and excise duty, the car industry in the country is under serious challenge. The sale of Maruti, the biggest car company in the country, has increased @ of 3.3 % in March, 2012 and it sold total 11,33,695 cars in 2011.¹⁷

13. **Overcautious people to their rights, but dereliction towards their duties:** People are becoming more and more aware regarding their rights day by day but trailing on the front of duties. Most of the population has no hesitation to extract benefit from public exchequer if assessable but hardly they want to contribute in it. Results are before us as a number of well to do persons are engulfing the vital resources meant for social welfare and development of the deprived sections. As er K.V. Thomas, Union Food Minister, 2.21 crore bogus ration cards were identified and deleted in 26 states and UTs in the country while digitization of PDS during July, 2006 to December, 2011. The maximum number such Bogus cases hailed from West Bengal

(59.67 lakh) followed by Maharashtra (42.20 lakh) and Andhra Pradesh (27.27 lakh). Haryana has comparatively lesser number of such cases (3,000) followed by Punjab (7,900) and Chandigarh (8,000). Thus Digitization will tone up the PDS and will prove vital to keep a check on corruption. Therefore, the government is considering the proposal for direct disbursement of food subsidy in cash to BPL/AAY families¹⁸

Conclusion and Remedies: Indeed a number of challenges are there before Indian democracy which need to be addressed well in time. Failing which these may not only hamper the development but also put at stake its sovereignty and integrity. Ethics and Values in Public Life must be ensured and these can be restored by top down bottom method as still the mental make of the people can be changed by establishing examples by the persons at the helm of affairs. The recent anti-corruption Anna movement has proved that the masses in the country have an urge for a transparent, open and corruption free society. Statesmanship qualities in Leadership are direly required, hence need to be inculcated, failing which it will become impossible to retain the national unity and integrity.

The Model Code of Conduct should be strictly enforced to ascertain fair and free elections. The role of Election Commission in post Seshan era has remained appreciable. It is worth praise that the Election commission in India has become a well established institution known for its impartiality and objectivity around the globe. The political parties and leadership need to cooperate it in performing its duties more objectively and freely. Tainted and criminal background persons should be kept away from the law making bodies. Not even a single MLA in Manipur Legislative Assembly (2012) has criminal background whereas the number of such MLAs in UP, Bihar, Jharkand Assemblies and even in Parliament is far high. It is indeed a very good symbol of healthy democracy and to make our public life more fair and free, it needs to be followed across the country. Though 16 MLAs in this Assembly (out of 60) are crorepati whereas this number was just one in the previous Assembly.¹⁹ Voters need to be more vigilant and aware so that they cannot be duped by the ill designed and rogue politicians. They must appreciate the honest, sincere and dedicated candidates as their representatives.

The socio-economic disparities should be minimized to eradicate thwarts to our democracy as the nexalite, maoist and terrorist activities are the by-products of glaring inequalities. Media should act more impartially, sincerely and accountably. It should desist from sensitizing the news

and keeping itself confine to enhance the TRP. It should always keep in mind that freedoms and duties move hand in hand and it has a far and wide role to play in the society. Appropriate mechanism should be developed to regulate its reckless and autocratic functioning in the national interest.

There should be Zero tolerance to Corruption and other Parochial outlooks. While rejecting the SLP to quash the criminal proceeding in the forgery case, the Apex court ruled that criminal cases against persons who try to cheat a bank or a financial institution would continue even after the disputes were settled and dues cleared by the defaulters. This would be so particularly in cases “where the emphasis is more on the criminal intent than on the civil aspect”, the Bench observed. The petitioners have secured a credit of Rs. 1.88 crore in 2000 by submitting forged property and import documents. They have even settled the dispute with bank concerned in 2010 under a compromised formula a paid the dues.²⁰ The higher judiciary is taking a serious note in this regard, that’s why a number of potential persons are behind the bars which has given a loud and clear message in the society. The Union government in its budget (2012-13) has also emphasized on more transparency and accountability in public life as well as to curb the menace of black money.²¹

Healthy Customs and traditions should be developed and catered because it is not possible to bind all the thing in rules and regulations. The example of Britain is before us which is the most vibrant and successful democracy of the world with least rules and laws. Personal score and ego should not clash with public cause and issues. The political and economic agenda of Political Parties should be loud and clear. Public Grievances Redressal and service delivery mechanism need to be toned up and it should be quick and economic. The RTI Act, citizen charters, e-governance etc. can prove instrumental in this regard. Law and Order should be maintained at all cost and tendency of Road justice must be curbed for which the vacancies in all public services particularly in the Police and Para-Military troops should be filled up well in time. One fourth of the total posts in Police are lying vacant in the country which varied upto 60 % in case of U P , having the highest crime rate followed by Andhra Pradesh (31 %), Bihar (28 %) and Gujarat (27 %). Similarly a PIL had to file in the Delhi High Court to fill up half of the vacancies (5) in the CIC resulting into huge heap of RTI appeals and complaint (over 30,000).²² Similarly over 30 %

of the seats are lying vacant in High Courts and Supreme Court which need to be filled up instantly. Transparency and accountability in public functioning should be ensured.

Social welfare agenda need to carry on but over populism must be avoided. Simultaneously it should be ensured that the funds allocated for such schemes should not be gobbled up by the existing nexus. With India set to become the youngest nation by 2020, the government continued to raise education budget to reap the benefit of demographic dividend and increased allocation to this sector by 18.6% in 2011-12. The proposed overall spending on social sector is up by Rs. 30,931 crore over the 2011-12 budget (Rs. 1.87 lakh crore) and become Rs. 2.18 lakh crore in 2012-13 which is 16.5% higher than the previous year. The lion share of it goes to education where the rise is of Rs. 9,665 crore i.e. Rs. 61,427 crore for 2012-13 as compared to Rs. 51,742 crore in 2011-12 and a greater part of it is meant for school literacy (Rs. 45,659 crore) as compared to Rs. 15,458 crore for University and Higher Education. The governments focus is on RTE and SSA is the vehicle to implement it for which Rs. 25,555 crore has been ear-marked with a hike of 21.7% to 2011-12 budget. The SSA is being implemented with the collaboration of states and will cover 192 million children among the school education budget Rs. 34,511 crore has been ear-marked for elementary education to provide free and compulsory education to children of age group 6-14 years for I-VIII classes. Similarly the allocation for health is also increased by 21.5% in 2012-12 budget (Rs. 30,702 crore) as compared to 2011-12 (Rs. 26,700 crore). The bulk of this budget (Rs. 20,822 crore) goes to NRHM, a flagship program for rural health. The government has also purposed to set-up National Urban Health Mission in 12th Plan (2012-17) but no budgetary allocation is made in the current year for this. In spite of it, the budget allocation for health only is 0.2% of the GDP for the year 2012-13. Low funding have been made for Medical and Research.²³

Terrorism, Insurgency and tension points must be dealt firmly and on priority. The sand and mining mafia brutally murdered Sh. Narender Kumar, the young IPS officer of Murena (MP) on 9-03-2012 by crushing under the tractor just on the ground that he was performing his duty sincerely and honestly. Manoj Gujjar was arrested in this regard on 11-03-2012. The action initiated against this Mining Mafia disclosed the surprising fact that in Panna district 60% of the shares from illegal Sand Mining in Ken River belong to the SHO concerned. A former dacoit Kuber Singh used to supply this sand illegally to Banda district in UP for which an illegal an

temporary bridge was made over the river when the police and district administration demolished it, Kuber Singh and his men fired on them.²⁴ The Liquor Mafia in Khargon district (M.P.) attacked on Police party and killed R.N. Singh, the Head Constable, seriously injured R.B. Goel, the ASI and brutally beaten Jaidevn, the young IPS officer while they are on duty to check the smuggling of liquor. It is not worthy that the state is under prohibition of liquor and the mafia in this attempt was lead by the ruling BJP MLA. Similar incidence happened many times in Yamunanagar district of Haryana where the Mining Mafia didn't hesitate even to illegally detain the official concern or attack them (20-01-2012) In Kalesar range of Yamuna River the team comprises of SDM, DSP, Officers from Mining and Forest Department. There after no one dare to check the illegal mining during night inspite of clear-cut directions from the High Court in this regard.²⁵

Democratic decentralization process needs to be strengthened to make democracy more participatory and viable. The number of registration of voters in Haryana has remained highest in 2011 and more than 73 % young voters are registered which is a healthy symbol to democracy. With the latest revision of voter lists , the voter-population ratio in the state has increased from 51.6 % to 53.75 % . A net 8,66,316 new voters were registered in the two massive campaigns launched during 5th January, 2011 to 29th February, 2012 by the government. At present, the total 1,38,87,514 voters are on roll in the state of which 75,54,050 are males and 63,33,464 are females.²⁶ The rising consumerism and ruthless exploitation of national resources should be avoided and sustainable development should be the goal of the governments. In this hectic task the people also need to extend their cooperation. Moreover, the government should keep future perspective in mind while making decisions of the day. According to Sh Bhupinder Singh Hooda, C M of Haryana , the consumers in the state were supplied 10.09 crore units of electricity daily in 2011-12 as compared to 5.78 crore units in 2004-05 whereas its production in respective period has remained 4390 and 1587 M Ws. Thus the consumption of electricity in the state has increased @ of 7-8 % annually in the last few years as compared to 14 % of it at the moment. It is noteworthy that no other mean of power generation in the state is effective except the thermal. The government is planning to enhance its production upto 5000 MW, accordingly it has given top priority to develop infra structural facilities for electricity in the state and spent Rs 25,524

crore on it during the 12th Plan (2007-12).²⁷ Similar steps are required to be taken by other states to meet out the power challenges which is an important ingredient of development.

The GOI as well as the state governments should maintain their fiscal health at any cost . Over populism and appeasement politics need to be curtailed. The GOI is planning to collect Rs 4.79 lakh crore from market for the financial year 2012-13 which is higher than Rs 4.36 lakh crore in 2011-12. The government has to take all precautions to ensure that the market should not affect adversely due to deficiency of funds.²⁸



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