

The Challenges of Good Governance in India, in the era of 21st Century

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ABSTRACT

This paper makes an effort to provide a structure for good governance in India. An honest attempt would be made to identify the essential characteristics and drawbacks in its working by focusing more on new innovative approaches as per the requirement, in this era of Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization (LPG). Since 1947, India has been successful in establishing good governance. Still, it is further aiming at expansion of social opportunities and eradication of poverty. Good Governance means empowerment of weaker section, securing justice, more employment and efficiently delivery of services to a common man. This paper will further focus on examining political and administrative weakness. Anna Hazare started an Indefinite strike on 5th April 2011, has again raised two main Challenges, namely Corruption and Criminalization of Indian Politics. It seems there is degradation in National Values. People in present generation seem to have lost faith in nationalism, democracy, secularism, non-alignment, and mixed economy. Hence it will have negative influence on the administrative setup, of Indian States. This paper will scrutinize several areas of concern that required to be addressed timely. We require full coordination amongst the State, the Market and the Civil Society. We require more innovative idea to uplift the problem of common man. We have to focus in two areas namely, generating more employment and empowerment of women. We need to formulate a national strategy that accord primacy to Dr Ambedkar and Gandhian principle of decentralization of power to the people. Unless citizens have power in their hand, there could be no democracy. Citizen should remains at the centre in the society. Also we require to focus on Gandhian philosophy of 'antodaya', the up liftment of all people, down to the very poorest, without surrendering the growth and hence making the state accountable to people and civil society for good governance.

Keywords: Good Governance, Civil Society, National Values, Corruption, upliftment, Market , State.

Meaning

It has been taught in Political Science that State has four basic elements namely,

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- a definite Territory;
- Population;
- Government and;
- Sovereignty.

Hence, state is master and Government is an agent and machinery through which the will of state is formulated, expressed, articulated and realized. The role of government and description of governance have been changing from time to time, as per the requirement and circumstances and even at a given point of time there is considerable variation when the form of government is a democracy or otherwise.¹

There is no particular accepted definition of governance or good governance. This term has been used to describe how public institution conduct public affairs by managing public and human resources in order to guarantee the realization of human right.² There are variances in meaning of Governance amongst liberal, neo liberal, capitalist, socialist, communist etc... Hence as per the World Bank, definition Governance means the exercise of political authority and the use of institutional resources to manage society's problems and affairs. It includes

1. The process by which Government are appointed
2. The capacity of government to execute the policy and;
3. The respect of citizens and the state for the institutions that govern economic and social communications among them.³

In recent years the word governance has become a very fashionable term and is being used in a variety of ways and that covers a large number of organizations both in public and private domains.⁴ But for our purposes, we are concerned with the form of Government which provide security to its citizen, maintain rule of law, maintain territorial security and delivery of services ranging from employment, education, health and food security.

Background

In this era of 21st century, only an effective democratic government can provide social justice and organized society. There is more focus on providing good administrative system as well as an orderly society. Also we must understand that the administrative arrangement should be region and area specific, taking in view:

- Its market;
- Its civil society;
- Its cultural values in the region;
- Its institution of governance;
- Its legal mechanism and last but not least;
- Its Regulatory system.

The Government is accountable to create a favorable environment where development plan can be implemented with fully utilization of material resources and human efforts, available under its disposal, so that new enterprises get a favorable leveled ground for its development. Hence State should be facilitator, enabler and coordinator for its people. The Civil society and Market has to rely on Government for theirs efficient function in society. The Government of India along with its Civil Society has to play vital role in switching over from Socialist system toward market oriented Capitalist growth model. It is for the Indian states along with its Civil Society to solve problem under public sphere and where more government role is required to provide welfare schemes like

- To cover social protection needs;
- To upgrade health-care;
- To protect children and;
- To empower women, depressed classes and the minorities.

It will assist India's policy makers, leaders, civil society members and business tycoon to concentrate theirs energy toward making India an economic-super power in 21st century. India has gained ample confidence by acquiring continuous high growth rate despite global recession, rising sensex figure and huge foreign exchange reserves. Presently India is considered as role model by the world communities for its

- high growth rate model, and;
- Also for its equity.

Both of the aforesaid purposes are complimentary to each other. The dispute between both purposes arises only when the benefit of growth rate is diverted toward certain privileged classes at the cost of poor. The Indian policy makers are now forced to diagnose deeper into factors responsible for poverty, inequalities, injustice and suffering of common man. For this we require to evolve a justified value system at national level, which seems to have been ignored till date by media and scholars.

National Values

The value system and Governance of Indian state was deeply shaped by Mahtma Gandhi, Father of Nation and also by Dr BR Ambedkar, a founding father of Indian constitution and social revolutionaries, which is shared by its people and government. India pursued the policy of high value system at its inception by following nationalism with full vigor, non alignment, secularism and mixed economy system. The aforesaid value system were forcefully articulated by statesmen, academician, scholars and media, with intent to build New India, as they were aware of knowledge based trend of 21st century. These values system were formulated and articulated also debated in Parliament and in State assemblies. These value systems were further strengthened by action of business giant, Indian MNCs and occasionally judicial pronouncements. But now the scope of same Value System has been narrowed down to trillion dollars foreign exchange reserve, huge Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and less toward national integration of its territory.

As per Table No 1, between 1950 to 1980, the Indian economy witnessed “Hindu rate of Growth” and in fact it was dismal performance.⁵ Even during that time Inequality existed, but now it become a prominent problem. With the growth in GDP, the issue of rural-urban divide, regional divides and rich-poor divide became evident, which brought the importance of “inclusive growth” on high priority. The Indian economy has been growing at a faster rate in recent decades than it did earlier, hence the importance of narrowing rich poor divide are to be emphasized by providing better delivery system to the needy.

Table 1. Average Rate of Growth of Real GDP in India

Period	Growth (per cent)
1900-2008	3.16
1950-2008	4.79
1980-2008	6.08
1990-2008	6.39
2000-2008	7.19
11th Plan Period (2007-12)	
2007-08	9.2
2008-09	6.7
2009-10	7.2

Source: Bose and Chattopadhyay (2010) up to 2008 and CSO, Govt. of India for the rest of the information

As envisaged by Sardar Ballabhbai Patel. India adopted ‘Secularism’ and ‘Socialism’ structure of Government under 42nd Amendment. A Uniform Civil Code became Directive Principle of State Policy (DPSP), so that minorities could follow their religion in their day to day life and also they can pursue their code in respect of property rights, inheritance and marriage. But today religious, caste and ethnic ties has been politicized. Religion always had a major place in our private lives. Politicization of religious, ethnic and caste ties have reached unparalleled levels in ours polity both at national and regional level.

India decided to remain Non Aligned and free from two super powers, i.e. United State and erst while Soviet Union and provide leadership to NAM movement. However in Seventies, India tilted toward erstwhile Soviet Union after signing ‘Twenty Years Treaty’, but Cold War ended, and erstwhile Soviet Union collapsed under dynamic leadership of the President Gobarchav, India started tilting toward United States. Hence Non alignment concept also went through revolutionary changes, after the Cold War.

Since 1947, ideologically, policymaker emphasized on Public Choice and public opinion, while implementing policy. Socialism was considered to be fashion during cold war, rather than being a conservative or rightist. The Mixed economy, was considered as ideal concept, which meant equal role for public and private sector, but still preference was for former one. Public Sector, hence enjoyed commanding heights in Indian economy. It was found that Colonial model of Government of India Act 1935 was not success in Good Governance.⁶ Still, India adopted path of Universal suffrage, where one person vote system was followed, hence power got decentralized and common man got benefitted. India followed the path of Democratic governance, however there were many loopholes as follows:

1. Bureaucrats and civil servant seems to be less accountable toward their Political authority and legislature;
2. Corruption and over sightedness at higher level of administration;
3. Poor supervision by the Parliamentary Committee, and;
4. Poor output and dominance of the Civil Servant as it was suffering from some inherent problems namely as follows;
 - Low salaries;
 - Over staffing;
 - Corruption and;
 - Political interference

Despite that in the early period, the performance of Indian Executive was praiseworthy as they functioned independently, with less interference from their political master. Their work in following field is really commendable:

- Implementation of Land Reform;
- Regularly solving Public grievances on merit basis;
- Maintain public order specially controlling ethnic and religious turmoil's and;
- Delivery of services through Community Development Project.

Democracy has really moved beyond periodic elections towards 'good' governance. Since, 1991, under dynamic leadership of then young Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi, India diverted its path toward privatization, and started moving though gradually towards Capitalist path. Now common people, have asserted themselves, by changing their representatives and enforcing changing the government both at state as well as at center. The following group also played dominant role in bringing accountability in the Decision-making;

- Civil Society;
- Electronic Media, Internet;
- Active Judiciary.

Good quality Governance

Citizen expects good governance and high quality performance from Government. Good governance brings prosperity. Instead bad governance, brings conflict result in civil war, as it restricts opportunities of its citizen which make them frustrated. Hence citizens are allowed to participate openly and freely in the political process of the state. The good governance is characterized by accountable civil servant, high quality political leadership, independent and vibrant media, dedicated policy maker and independent judiciary. In Indian context, 'good governance' as stated by Jawaharlal Nehru in his popular, '*trysts with destiny*', speech of 14th August 1947 is, "*ending of poverty and ignorance and disease and inequality of opportunities*'. Hence good governance means empowerment, securing justice, employment and well-organized delivery of services.

Empowerment :

The common masses of India need to be empowered without any discrimination as they are themselves principal agency for development and also object of the development programmes. Our constitution is committed to two set of principles, namely

- The Principle of equal opportunities for all.
- The principle of upliftment of economic and social backwardness.

The poor are doing well in Self-Help group of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh and also involvement of woman in micro-financing institution ins SEWA group of Gujarat have demonstrated that if deprived section are given chance and empower through education and skill development, they can outperform all others in profitability.

Now the role of Market and the Civil Society has increased manifold in present circumstances, but still State continue to play vital role in transformation of society toward equality. The reservation in Government employment will benefit socially, educationally and economically backward person. Earlier, there was provision of Reservation for SC/ST candidate, which was then extended to Other Backward Caste (OBCs) as well, after acceptance of Mandal Commission in 1990. This Affirmative Action has improved the distribution of opportunities amongst Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, also to other notified OBCs. Now Children of poor and lower status parents can be selected for All India Services like the IAS, the IPS or other services. Still the advantage of Reservation has not been distributed equally amongst the entire community of poorer and lower status parents.

Since constitution provides reservation in government employment to only notified “*educational and social backward people*”, hence poor and economic backward people were completely ignored till. The Supreme Court, in *Sahnwney & Others vs. Union of India*, directed for 27% reservation in favor of OBCs. It also directed to exclude “*the Creamy Layer*” from reservation provision in appointment for Government Job. The Government of India has directed that sons and daughters of persons having gross annual income of Rs 2.5 lakhs per anum, are excluded from said reservation of services, so that reservation helps needy and poor.

The constitution under scheme of Affirmative Action also provides reservation of woman and children, apart from aforesaid reservation for SC, ST & OBCs, in government employment Government has made provision of reservation of woman to the extent of 33% in Local bodies.

Despite that direct election in village have promoted democracy, which was further strengthened by Print & Electronic media, Judiciary and Civil Society. In this era of Privatization, Indian Policy maker insisted upon private sector to adopt affirmative action policy, which will further lead to greater empowerment to weaker classes, and it will make Private sector to be more accountable to society. In India, more than 200 million citizens are suffering from malnutrition as they are below the poverty line. Most of the citizen living below poverty line is from states of North and East. In fact Indian Government should collect accurate data through proper mechanism and automation, so that adequate benefit measures can be taken for the eradication of poverty. The economic criteria, is the best option to provide benefit to needy, cutting across religion, caste, region, gender etc.

As per UNDP, Human Development Report 2009, India ranked 134 out of 182, which project its dismal performance.⁷ However the HDI Index has increased from 0.427 in 1980 to 0.556 in 2000e However, the HDI value of India has increased gradually from 0.427 in 1980 to 0.62 in 2007, still we are behind from our neighbor China, Sri Lanka and Indonesia. As stated in Table No 2. In fact India lags behind in various social indicators of developments.

Table 2. Human Development Index

Country	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2005	2006	2007
China	0.533	0.556	0.608	0.657	0.719	0.756	0.763	0.772
Sri Lanka	0.649	0.670	0.683	0.696	0.729	0.752	0.755	0.759
Indonesia	0.522	0.562	0.624	0.658	0.673	0.723	0.729	0.734
India	0.427	0.453	0.489	0.511	0.556	0.596	0.604	0.612

Source: Human Development Report, 2009

The Government has to enhance and enlarge skills of its citizen by imparting them basic and vocational education to poor students. They have to uplift the meritorious student by providing them soft loan through nationalized bank and credit institutions. We require an effective administrative system to fulfill demands of masses. There is sudden increase in conflicts and recent happening force us to take corrective measures to allow fruit of affirmative action reach to the needy.

Securing Justice

Human security in India is related with various aspects of securing justice including rule of law, Right to justice and threat to peace.

1. Rule of Law

A democratic government in India is totally devoted to protect citizen's right to life, liberty and property. Hence Rule of Law is vital for attaining security of common man. Under Rule of Law, law is supreme and everybody subjects to law. Rule of Law is different from Rule by Law. Rule 'by' Law means, government is above law and law is an instrument through which government rule over people. But Rule of Law as Dicey stated means equality before law. Hence Independent Judiciary is very important instrument of good governance. A good qualitative leadership in executive, judiciary and legislature play vital role in upholding supremacy of rule of law in

- Shaping tradition and customs
- Efficient delivery f services to poor citizen.
- Strengthening democratic machinery.

In Indian Constitution, every citizen is entitled to equal protection under the law and equality before law. No individual can be deprived of his life except as per the procedure established under law. In "*Keshavnanda Bharti vs. State of Kerala*"⁸, apex court declared that "Rule of Law " and "democracy" is the basic structure of the Indian Constitution which cannot be changed through Constitutional Amendment under Article 368 of the Indian Constitution. Hence it is established that Court has legal and final authority to test the legality of

administrative action. If any executive action failed to meet standard of legality will be declared as ultravire or illegal and invalid before law.

Recently we have seen increase phenomena of “*Judicial Activism*”. Thousands of Public Interest Litigations (PILs) has been filed in High Courts and Supreme Court, against the weariness of Executive. Though it is also observed that same PILs are being misused by vested interest, Hence in ‘*Divisional Manager, Aravali Golf Club vs. Chander Hass*’ *Supreme Court* directed to maintain self restraint since that vested interest under grab of Public Interest , settle their political score and publicity.⁹

2. Right to Justice

A citizen has right to avail timely justice , but there are several factors, because of that a common man doesn’t get timely justice because of following factor;

- Some citizen is not aware of their rights.
- Poor person cannot afford legal aid to advocate on their behalf.
- Prosecution rate is very low even in some cases to the extent of only 5%, and most of time it is poor, who are prosecuted, since rich manage to escape clutches of law through loopholes in legal system.
- Lack of personnel and logistic under disposal of court. It is to be noted that at the end of 2006 over 4 million cases (42.42 lakhs) were pending in high courts and over 25 million (2.54 crore) in the sub-ordinate courts in the country. Systematic solutions are, therefore, needed for strengthening access to justice. At the same time ad hoc measures are required to provide immediate assistance to the needy citizens.

3. Threats to Peace

Security to Life and property is most vital public good, which a citizen expects from the government. India is facing threat from terrorism (in Jammu & Kashmir), insurgency (In North Eastern States) and Naxalism (scattered in main land from Tirupati to Pahupati i.e.. from Andhra Pradesh to Nepal) escalated in more than 200 districts in India. Indian state has to use all resources under its disposal to eliminate terrorism, insurgency and naxalism, in the interest of common man.

Employment

Indian economy is facing most challenging task of unemployment. India’s working age population exceeds 50% and in future it is estimated to reach above 60% by 2050. Hence fast growing working population ensure more workers, result in more salary, more income, more saving and more investment, which will further generate employment in Indian economy. There is an urgent need to educate and provide vocational education to our youth population. Since India has 300 million illiterate, State should promote Civil Society, Self Help Group and micro-financing institutions for creating entrepreneurship skills amongst them. Government should widen the scope of Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. And accelerate the rate of implementation of Bharat Nirman Scheme and other programme. For this State must take assistance of

- Private sector;
- Self Help Group & NGOs, and;
- Micro financing Institutions.

Regional Inequality: The economic development of Northern and Eastern States are very slow, instead the economic development of Southern and Western states have enormously developed, hence, were facing frustration in society result in increase in Naxalism and insurgency. Government should strive for containing unemployment in northern and eastern states and reduce the gap between rural and urban India. Fighting against Generation of employment among the youth in rural areas in northern and eastern States could be the catalyst.¹⁰

Employment Growth has been declined during the period between 1994 and 2007. Employment in the organized sector grew at 1.20 per cent per annum during 1983-94, but declined to (-) 0.03 per cent per annum during 1994-2007 (Table No 3). However, the decline in employment during the later period was mainly due to a decline in employment in the public sector establishments from 1.53 per cent in the earlier period to (-) 0.57 per cent in the later period, whereas the private sector showed moderate growth of 1.30 per cent per annum.¹¹

Table 3. Rate of Growth of employment in organized Sector

(per cent per annum)		
Sector	1983-94	1994-2007
Public Sector	1.53	-0.57
Private Sector	0.44	1.30
Total Organized	1.20	-0.03

Source: Economic Survey, 2009-10, Government of India

Delivery of Services

Both Central and state government have been assigning huge public funds to health, education and creation of infrastructure, but such services has been enjoyed more by non-poor rather than poor or deprived classes. Hence the institutions which can play notable roles in improving public delivery service in India are:

The Civil Society: There is sudden increase in activity of Civil Society, Self Helping Groups (SHGs) and NGOs, which has emerged as Social Capital. They are involved in various fields like food distribution, education, etc. They are involved in various activities like:

- Facilitate micro financing.
- Community based Food security assignments.
- Dairy Development Programme.
- Marketing of goods.

- Facilitate distribution of old-age pensions.

Hence Government must assist the NGOs in coordination and incorporation of its service in attain target in different programmes.

The Media; Both Electronic (including social sites) and print media pressurize proper delivery of services for the common masses by also exerting pressure on executive to deliver the public goods to common masses with special focus on poor and needy.

The Judiciary: Judiciary intervention has been proving successful in plucking the loopholes and facilitating proper service delivery of goods. PIL has been always proved assisting tool in hand of NGOs. Even Apex or High Court has improved delivery of services by timely intervention. Still Courts are overloaded with pending cases, under staffing and less infrastructure at its disposal. In fact ours policymaker should strive for fixing time limits for case disposal, which may improve the situation and help to needy would be possible.

Administrative Responses

The Indian Administration has been facing following problems:

1. The general weakness in accountability mechanism in administration, which hamper improvement of services.
2. Bureaucratic complex procedure, create communication gap between people and the administration.
3. The lack of transparency and secrecy enlarge the scope of corruption and non delivery of services to common masses.
4. Favoritism, and frequent transfer of honest bureaucrat hamper the delivery of services to the needy. In many case the average tenure of District Collector used to be even less than one year.
5. The Indian administrative scene is marked by few successful innovations and practices in public service delivery and a large number of pathetic performances.
6. Unstable Government invites uncertainty and poor delivery of services.
7. Poor coordination amongst different department force the common man to run from pillar to post with less or no relief and more harassment.

Central and State Government require to exploit Information Technology, to assist the citizen to communicate to theirs government. Karnataka has taken lead. They have made available land records for some 25 million farmers, by putting all detail online under Bhhomi Initiative. Same experiment was successfully done in state of Andhra Pradesh. India has also prepared 200 Million Adhar Card. Subsequently in Jan 2012, Cabinet has given sanction for 400 more ADHAR Card, which will make public distribution system more efficient, less time consuming , hence lesser leakage. Application of Information Technology will also assist common man in admission of their wards to school, maintain Health Record and

Security of all citizens. Such step will also improve the image of administration by delivering quality services in time.

Capacity Building

Multi level Capacity building is very important to achieve quality services as per the customer's satisfaction. In a federal form of Government, decentralization of power is essential in both urban as well as at Rural Area. The term capacity building mostly rely on high quality and professionalism of civil servant. Good leadership by civil servant is aimed at improvement of organizational culture, which further assists capacity building.

Capacity building assists in collegiate effort, where individual are made accountable and responsible for their action. Capacity Building insists staff to behave responsible and concentrate all resources toward production of desired result.

Other Major Challenges to Good Governance

The criminalization of politics and corruption are also considered as major challenges to good governance.

Criminalization of Politics:

Now a day political process of state has been criminalized because there exist nexus amongst politicians, Business Empire and Bureaucrats, which hamper the good governance, hence Political class are losing the respect and public opinion are formulated against them.

India is also facing threat from terrorism, which scattered from Jammu & Kashmir to other part of India. National Integration further got challenged from expansion of insurgent in North East and naxalite elements in Mainland. But now, Indian Government is able to contain Terrorism, Insurgent and Naxalism, to much extent through political dialogue. Both Central and State Government are able to discharge their basic responsibilities of protecting life, liberty and property of its citizen.

The Gandhian values in public life are rapidly depleting. Criminal minded people are entering in State as well as Central legislature for seeking private gain and making lot of money. Eventually such notorious elements have found place in ministries and Prime Minister or Chief Minister are unable to take action against them, since in this age of coalition government, it might leads to collapse of Government itself. The rule of law seems to be replaced by rule of men. Still this is the fact that Judiciary has succeeded in sending several legislatures and ministers to Jail, but same criminal go scot-free by abusing the process of law either because of want of sanction under section 197 Cr.P.C. or they get admitted themselves in five star hospitals.

Now time has changed, at the behest of Election Commissioner, Parliament has enacted laws to close the door of democracy for criminals. Now the candidate contesting election has to declare his property return, his education and his criminal background. Since any candidate convicted of any offence punishable under law for one year or more have to declare it to voter, hence it created favorable environment for curbing criminalization of politics. It is crucial to amend Section 8 of Representative of People Act, 1951 to disqualify a person, against who charges has been framed in court for any heinous crime or for corruption etc..

Corruption

The high level of corruption in India is considered as major obstacle in good governance. Some of other factors are as follows, which contributed rising graph of corruption in India:

- Poor law enforcement;
- Non transparent system of Command & Control
- Monopoly of Government as service provider;
- Lack of information;
- Weak notion of Citizen's right;
- Underdeveloped legal structure

The Right to Information Act 2005, have provided strong instrument in hand of common man and Civil Society to combat corruption. It ensures that people's resources are rightly used for common masses.

Outcome of Electoral Reforms

It is agreed fact that state funding of election parties will provide relief from corrupt means. With public financing, poor candidate through his motivation can challenge wealthy and well funded candidate. It will curtail the tendency of over expenditure by political parties. Political Party will not adopt corrupt means to regain the amount spent on election. Also Public financing should be followed by free media space. State funding of election regime should be followed by strict accounting and auditing procedure, which will create a leveled play ground, and also a strong move toward opening of the system. It will also reduce the interferences of religious, caste and business houses. Even it will improve the image of political parties in the eye of common man. Hence Political Parties must play a vital role in state's development, by leading dialogue in fractured society and discouraging anti state behavioral pattern in the society.¹²

RECOMMENDATIONS

Our policy makers are required to concentrate following area of concern, to strengthen our democratic institutions:

- At least 1/3 of seats in Parliament and state assemblies should be reserved for woman.
- Person who is charge sheeted by court should be barred from contesting election. In parliament and state assemblies.
- Public expenditure should be properly audited periodically even at village, Taluka district level to ensure proper utilization of Public fund, and any discrepancies if found by Audit officials, should be transferred to Police agencies through a formal complaint and it should be followed by also initiating Departmental Inquiry.
- Civil Servant should be made more accountable for delivery of services in approved government scheme or programme.

- Partial State funding in election should be started immediately.
- Poor people should be directly involved in policy making process in poverty alleviation program,mme.
- State financed development programme should aim at generating more employment and increase productivity level of workers.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

There is fall in basic core values that make negative impact on functioning of the Government. India was not always market friendly. It is the state, which control the market mechanism with intent to obtain desired result in the interest of society. But in practical, power of the state to control market mechanism spoilt into '*Inspector Raj*' or '*License Raj*', which hampered the Growth rate. We have entered into new era of capitalist innovation. Market laws dominated natural environment and crippled lot of people and there were more causalities. State is back, because of fear of growing inequity, but 'licensed Raj' is ruled out. We are linked with global market, still we can develop better delivery system and good governance by strengthen government activities, as we cannot leave the life of millions on market mechanism.

Our policy maker should concentrate on strengthening our democracy by

- Encouraging commitment of ours civil servants, both in Executive and Judiciary.
- Giving boost to the output of country's performance in key areas, namely employment, empowerment and effective and timely delivery of services.

Ours policy maker should be guided by magic of Mahatma Gandhi, which he prescribed for social and political strengthening of democracy. It stated: "I will give you a talisman. Whenever you are in doubt, or when the self becomes too much with you, apply the following test. Recall the face of the poorest and the weakest man whom you may have seen, and ask yourself if the step you contemplate is going to be of any use to him. Will he gain anything by it? Will it restore him to a control over his own life and destiny? In other words, will it lead to swaraj for the hungry and spiritually starving millions? Then you will find your doubts and yourself melting away."¹³

We should stop giving regard to the interest of market at the cost of common masses in the name of rapid economic growth.. Hence we should give primacy to the principles of 'Antyodya', without forgoing growth. Such governance will bring accountability under a sensitive leadership. In the post Gandhi-Ambedkar era, the involvement of civil society in governance has become crucial. Civil society in any form, like religious group, trade union, cooperative, trust, guilds, NGOs and woman organization will encourage inclusive growth. We require participation of common masses in implementation of poverty alleviation programme. We need innovators in two areas as follows:

1. Livelihood Programme

2. Woman

1. **Livelihood Programme:** India cannot blindly follow capitalist model of growth that relies totally on market mechanism. Such model would destabilize Indian polity.

Still rapid growth in exclusive form is remedy to all problems, hence we have to devise a way and mean to secure fast growth rate and Gandhian moralities. Social and political process is getting interlinked with ultimate aim of welfare of common masses. Livelihood should be related to social economy and local resources. Livelihood upgrade existing and traditional skills, that farmer possess since time immemorial in rural India in field of Agriculture, Fishing, poultry, animal husbandry etc..Investment in up gradation of such skills will bring harmony in society. People will be able to invest for their future, which will bring peace in society and it will be incentive to stable society.

2. **Women:** Woman is a key to good governance. Their participation will provide politic stability. Woman is constructive, sensible and creative. They are really leaders, care taker and educator.

We have heard about ‘million mutinies’, but now there is need to go for ‘*million participations*’ or ‘*million negotiations*’ that will bring Government, Market and Civil Society together in same platform, that will make every Indian happier. The prevailing trend of Corruption spreads like cancer. It has nullified all the constitutional safeguards of democracy. Corruption has

- Spoiled bureaucracy by making it partial;
- It thwarts media;
- It threatens Independence of Judiciary.

Thus it is destroying foundation of democracy. So the Civil Society should wake up the people at once and force the political parties to mend their ways.

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9. See 'Judicial Activism versus Judicial Overreach' in Times of India, 12.12.2007, New Delhi, and a series of three articles entitled 'Has judicial activism become excessive?' in Indian Express, 18.12.2007, New Delhi.
10. See Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India's article entitled '*We're off to a good start*' in The Times of India, New Delhi, dated 25.10.2007. The relevant portion reads as follows:
"There isn't any lack of thinking on what needs to be done to sustain and further accelerate growth. There is also fairly wide recognition of the importance of this agenda. However, given the nature of competitive politics and the much fractured mandates given to governments, it has become difficult sometimes for us to do what is manifestly obvious."
11. [planningcommission.nic.in/about us/committee/tsk_sg10m.pdf](http://planningcommission.nic.in/about-us/committee/tsk_sg10m.pdf) retrieved on 24 Jan 2012
12. Foresti and Wild 2010. Support to Political Parties: a missing piece of the Governance puzzle, London: Oversea Development Institute.
13. The signature of Mahatma Gandhi on the text is in the Devnagari and Bengali scripts. As regards the date, no specific date is given, but August.