

# Blueprint of Political Reforms

Presentation  
by  
Dr. Subhash C. Kashyap

# State of The Nation

- Nation Passing through most critical times
- Need for citizens not to remain silent spectators of the ruin but to be vigilant and become active participants in the democratic process
- Ensuring security, equality, human dignity and freedom from exploitation to all
- Problems of all pervasive corruption, criminalisation, poverty, illiteracy, rising population, skyrocketing prices and utter callousness of the rulers
- Tackling governance deficit, making administration and justice delivery system citizen-centric

# Areas Needing Reforms

- Electoral & Party Reforms
- Assuring stability, good clean corruption free, governance with accountability to the people
- Union-State Relations
  - Misuse of article 356
  - 3 or 4 tier governance with maximum powers at the grassroots
  - Bottom-up instead of top-down model
- Executive and judiciary
  - Reduction of delays
  - Elimination of Corruption
- Making public administration
  - Transparent
  - Citizen-centric & People Friendly
- Parliamentary Reforms

# Electoral Reforms

- Elections as the foundation of representative democracy
- Electoral System – The mother of many of our problems of corruption, criminalisation, black money, governance deficit
- Systemic & procedural Problems
- Electoral Reforms Agenda
- Political Party Reforms

# Problems

- Motivation for entry – not sacrifice and service but getting rich quick
- Electoral system divisive
  - Casteism, communalism and vote bank politics
- Lack of any role for the People in selection of candidates
- Erosion of Representational Legitimacy
- Cost of Elections

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- Electoral Rolls
- Influencing Voters
  - Money, Muscle and Mafia Power
  - Criminalisation
- Independent Candidates
  - not serious, for illegitimate gains, dummies
- Judicial Delays in Election Cases
- Common Constituents
  - Panchayat to Parliament Members
- Appointment of CEC & ECS

# Reforms Agenda

## (1) Systemic

- Selection of Candidates – public role through meetings or primaries
- Simultaneous Elections – Panchayats to Parliament
- Making voting Fundamental Duty
- Recall and Negative Vote - impractical
- Reforming FPTP System by adding run-off.
- Making Membership less lucrative
- Speedy justice in Election case – spl. Courts

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## (2) Process Related Reforms

- Reduction of Election Costs – State funding in kind
- Foolproof Electoral Rolls – PRI to Parliament
- Video & other Surveillance Devices at Booths
- Disqualification of those with Criminal Charges
- Preventing Misuse of Official Machinery
- Movement for Citizenship Development & Voter Education
- Annual Declaration of Assets & Income by Members



# Gandhian Model

- Bottom-up approach
- Village-centric power at grassroots
- Direct election to local bodies only
- Indirect Elections to State Assemblies and Parliament
- Limits on Salaries and Perks of Members.

# Political Party Reforms

- Law for Political Parties
- Regulation of no., registration and recognition of parties
- Participation by Women and Youth
- Internal Party Democracy, Accountability and transparency
- Audited Accounts to be put in public domain

# Conclusion

- Necessary to restore to the institutions of democracy credibility, legitimacy and respect of the people.
- One word cause for the fall of Rome was “Corruption”. Public life is “to give” not “to take”
- Democracy and Freedom are tender plants, unless nursed with care they can wither away fast.



**THANK  
YOU**