

INDIA AGAINST CORRUPTION

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www.indiaagainstcorruption.org

JANUARY 30, 2011

Dr. Manmohan Singh
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India
7, Race Course Road.
New Delhi -110011

Sir,

On behalf of a large number of civil society organizations and activists engaged in diverse fields of social, economic, cultural and spiritual development, we the undersigned beg to convey to you the fervent desire of the common people of India to have a credible and effective institutional framework for combating the all pervasive corruption and ensuring probity in public life.

The common people of India do not perceive corruption as a matter of political gamesmanship or intellectual debate; for them, it is a stark reality that deprives them of the necessities of life, denies them the benefits of economic growth and pulls them deeper into the morass of poverty, ignorance, ill health and indignity. Despairing of redress from the executive and the judiciary, they need an accessible, efficacious and independent institution to investigate their complaints, give them due relief and punish the guilty public servants regardless of status or political affiliation.

For more than four decades, successive governments at the Centre have held out the promise of establishing the institution of Lokpal to combat corruption and have gone through the ritual of introducing different versions of Lokpal Bill in Parliament on as many as eight occasions. Each time, the Bill was allowed to lapse for want of political will, even though a public interest litigation seeking the establishment of Lokpal had been pending in the Supreme Court since 1995.

You may kindly recall that the National Common Minimum Programme of the first United Progressive Alliance government headed by you had pledged to enact the law to establish the Lokpal, but your government broke with the tradition by failing to introduce a Lokpal Bill

in Parliament. This was despite the Union Government's averment in the aforesaid PIL that a draft Lokpal Bill had been considered by the Cabinet as well as a Group of Ministers and was to be submitted to the Cabinet for a decision regarding its introduction in Parliament.

Your second government has been in office for over twenty months. Once again, in an atmosphere heavy with the stench of scams and scandals of unprecedented magnitude, there are reports of a Lokpal Bill being on the anvil. There has been no attempt on the part of your government to generate a public discussion on the proposed legislation and involve civil society in its formulation. This is a marked departure from the consultative process adopted for the formulation of the first UPA government's landmark laws on the Right to Information and the Rural Employment Guarantee.

The scanty information that is available in public domain suggests that the institution of Lokpal envisioned by your government will be a toothless advisory body of truncated jurisdiction. Moreover, the procedure of appointment of its members will suffer from the infirmities of subjectivity and opacity that have compromised the appointments to Constitutional and statutory authorities made by various governments.

Against this backdrop, a number of civil society organizations, activists and social entrepreneurs have come together to draft a law for the establishment of an independent and empowered central institution for combating corruption at the political and bureaucratic levels. We have drawn upon international best practices in this regard and factored in the experience of our own state-level institutions of varying degrees of functionality. The central institution proposed by us will be radically different from the powerless advisory body envisaged in the official Lokpal Bill, which body will have no jurisdiction over the bureaucracy or the judiciary and will depend on government agencies for investigation and prosecution of the cases taken up by it.

The draft Lokpal Bill (we have called it "Jan Lokpal Bill") formulated by civil society has been endorsed and adopted by acclamation in a massive rally held today at Ramlila Ground, Delhi. The congregation has sent a resounding message to the powers that be that the people of India insist on enactment of a law to establish credible institutions to combat corruption and will not be satisfied with half measures.

The run-up to the rally has witnessed an upsurge of popular support. Individuals and organizations of diverse backgrounds, persuasions and affiliations have come forward to contribute their mite to the cause. The event planned for Delhi has spontaneously been replicated in over twenty five cities across the country.

There is reason to hope that the popular movement launched on the sixty third anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's martyrdom will go from strength to strength until the political establishment bows to the inevitability of establishing a credible and independent institutional framework for combating corruption and restoring probity in public life, starting with the People's Lokpal.

This is a critical moment in the history of independent India. If we are not relentless in the pursuit of the national imperative of cleansing all the organs of the state, and its extensions, of the taint of corruption, we will have missed a great opportunity to change the trajectory of our governance from a free fall to an upward climb.

Your public statements in favour of an empowered Lokpal and your express desire to bring the office of Prime Minister under the jurisdiction of this institution have encouraged us to seek your support for expeditious enactment of the law on Lokpal, incorporating all the essential features of the proposition put together by civil society.

We are attaching the following documents with this memorandum for your kind perusal:

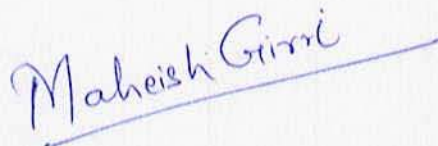
1. A detailed note on what is wrong with our anti-corruption system
2. Draft Government Lokpal Bill, which is under consideration of the government. This has been provided to us by friends in media, who claim to have obtained it from Law Ministry.
3. Our critique of government's draft
4. Copy of Jan Lokpal Bill, as drafted by civil society
5. Salient features of Jan Lokpal Bill
6. A comparison of Jan Lokpal Bill with Government's Lokpal Bill
7. A table showing how will enactment of Jan Lokpal Bill improve the present system
8. Jan Lokayukta Act

We would be grateful for an early response.

Yours sincerely




(Swami Ramdevji)



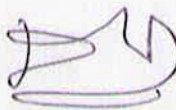
Maheish Girri
(Aot of Living)

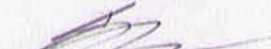
- ① प्रमोद कुमार, पूर्व कलिंग सरकार
IC Centre for Governance,
- ② सत्या-महिला जेन्द्रीय उमरी, पतंजलि योग पीठ एवं
भारत स्वामिमान ट्रस्ट हरिद्वार Satynvati
Mehta
- 3 Col Kr Pratap Singh GURGAON
President Citizens Alliance - For Elbair
Responsive Governance.
- 4 ANU PESHAWARIA
PRESIDENT SEVA LEGAL AID ANU
46560 Fremont Blvd
#205 CALIFORNIA
ANU@ANUATTORNEY.COOP
Tel 001 510 299 1907
5. K K Gauram Dy. S.P. NOIDA (Ret) President India
cricket foundation. com 09899555999
6. AJAY AGRAWAL
ADVOCATE, SUPREME COURT - 9811021565
ajay-k-agrawal@yahoo.co.in
- 7 big (etd) R C Aggarwal Gurgaon 9560375199
⑧ Fr. Dominic Emmanuel fdominic@gmail.com
Spokesperson - Delhi Archdiocese 9810018071
9. Archbishop Emeritus M. Cosentino 9811038001
Archbishop of Delhi
10. H N नरेश 9810976705
(Swami Agnivesh)
11. Ram Jethmalani 98100-99629
12. D. S. Tewari 9810123170
13. Sunita Godara 9811139985

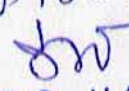
14. RIKAN Bedi (IPS)

15. मुमता शमूज काराम - ~~संस्था~~ प्रमुख मध्य सीकव शिफ्ट म प्रमाण परीक्षा - विज्ञान 
992774686

16) विश्वास उदगी. ~~सेक्रेटरी~~ AIBEA (9820147897)

17) जी.जी. रस्तोगी ~~जॉइंट सेक्रेटरी~~ AIBEA (9810338018) 


18) भारत ~~उदक~~, General Secretary
Foundation for Restoration of National
Values (FRNV)
+91 9958722199 

19) ~~अपना को त्रि जे जे जे जे~~, निदेशक, वांछित कार्य, 9810117077 

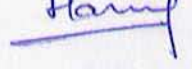
20 Lt Col AB Sharma President NDA & A Schools. 9818014518 


21. Sur. Poojyamma ~~Shastri~~ ART OF LIVING FOUNDATION 


22. Derinder Sharma ~~President~~ ~~Secretary~~ New Delhi 

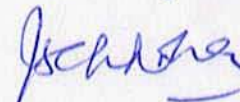
23. Virander Singh (Chairman) ~~सूचना अधिकारी और संरक्षण सल्लाहकार~~ ~~विज्ञान (G.P)~~
9690007358
9627896844 


24. Manoj Kumar Arya, G.S. Tejharajan Kalaya 9756385360

25 s m Bagai Samiti Dhikana (Baghat) ~~Farmer Vigilance~~ ~~commissioner Nagaland~~ 9818481576 ~~Sanjay~~ 

26 JAIDEV SINGH Nyaya Bhawan
Vice President 9312216538 

27 Sharada Pandey INFORMATION COMMISSIONER 

28 JAGDEEP S. CHHOKAR jchhokar@gmail.com 

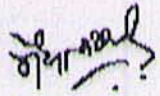
29 Ambika Shukla ambikashukla@yahoo.com 

(30)


Harsh Mander,
Anam Bwadan

H. Mander

(31)


(Medha Patkar)

(32)


(Arvind Kejriwal)