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In a democracy we get the leaders we deserve.

"Of, for, by the people"

- Abraham Lincoln, on Democracy

Plato writes in the 'Republic' an extract on the tale of a doctor and a sweet shop owner. The doctor intends to canvass support by theorising on how he cures maladies, secures precious health and harbours a balance of spirit and body. But the Athenians retort, "You synergise cringe, your medicines are bitter and your prescriptions proscriptive."

The sweet shop owner leans by stepping in his moment of adversity. He promises delicacies to savour - candies, chocolate bars and fruit pies. The Athenians are awed as if in a trance of hallucination prefer

ing the relishable sweet over the beneficial dose of demg. This Plato comments is the dement of democracy. A government relying on the sole wisdom of the electorate begets a ruler it deserves. If it is sagacious to identify merits of a tormentuous, yet gaiful treatment, it wins. Else the state is trapped in the snares of deceitful sweet shop owners that promise sugar, but yield disease.

Democracy as Winston Churchill claims is the worst form of government till we find a better one. ~~Democr~~ 'Social Contract' by Rousseau describes democracy as a enunciation of 'general Will' of the citizens who elect it to be a modicum of their common interests. Since the citizens conjure up a democratic government, it invariably is a representation of the citizens' merit and deserving.

Cicero, the Greek philosopher, says the sovereignty should be people's affairs. Thus democracy reflects the ability of its constituents. The gender sensitive electorate of Finland cherish feminine potentiality. Hence it is crowned with a progressive gender balanced government. Indian society, is tagged 'patriarchal' thus it has remained 'male dominated' polity with mere 14% representation of women in legislature.

As Thomas Hobbes proclaims in 'Leviathan', citizens compose their government. A caste ridden society would thus translate to a ~~real~~ fragmented democratic government splintered on the criteria of caste. Similarly the language agitation in Tamil Nadu added fuel to emergence of parties as DMK that vociferously propagate linguistic nationalism.

Democracies are built on edifice of deliberation. Hence Aristotle has claimed that common men deliberating together make better decisions than individuals thinking alone. Democracies offer citizens a podium to chisel out their governments. The voicing of opinion on draft National Education Policy led to additions and deletions to formulate the ultimate superstructure. When Indians clamoured together to end homosexuality, the government gradually caved in. Likewise in Greece the anti-austerity drive demanded by people made Alexis Tsipras victorious. The 'pro socialist' leanings of Verenguelos helped Nicholas Maduro cling to power opposing American neo colonialism.

Democracies are potent reminders to people of how the enlightened public opinion is in a country. If there is ignorance

of love and civic sense among individuals they are prone to be swayed by power of money to elect unware politicians. One prime reason why so many Member of Parliament or state legislative assemblies are under qualified is because the voter base has low academic qualification. Higher education enrollment is merely 26.1% in India, thus as J.S. Mill had noted death of intellectual voting by the citizens facilitates entry of equally dim politicians.

The stability of a democratic government as well bears proportional relationship with the cohesiveness a society deserves. Israel for instance connotes a poorly knit nation where Palestinians, Jews conservatives, and progressive are all intermingled. This portends an eclectic government that has hinderances in persistent survival. The country has had four elections in

the last two years.

The ideals that a democratic government exuberates are also a straight reflection of ~~the~~ valuable principles of its people. Ashish Nandy, prominent political thinker, has commented that Indian society has not secularised enough since religion still is a driving force in determining ethics. Hence despite restrictions, Indian polity too falls into the spiral of religious nationalism with questions of temple versus mosque attracting greater attention than bread and butter.

The person in a totalitarian regime succumbs to the dictates of its authoritarian rulers. But in democracy, we demand for our entitlements. A contrast can be expressed by witnessing how Hong Kong as a democratic state had its citizens conserve their rights to free

speech and liberty. But since the coercive Chinese government began to squeeze Hong Kong's autonomy pro democracy protesters are being gagged. Chinese flag and national anthem are being imposed on Hong Kongers despite their aspiration for independence. This has begotten since Hong Kong is petting its democracy away, hence citizens can no longer expect a government their free hearts would otherwise deserve.

Democracies ensure that governments respond to the desires of their citizens by creating robust mechanisms of grievance redressal. As Hobbes says without accountability governments are like Frankenstein monsters. Through open and accessible channels for airing citizens ensure deficiencies in governments, their desires are fulfilled. For instance, the righteous outrage

against the hideous gang rape on the chilly night of December 2012 in Delhi, persuaded the government to consolidate legislations on women safety. The 'Tago grehek Tago' campaigns on consumer activism persuaded the state to get stringent on food adulteration. Hence a proactive citizenry often coaxes its government in directions of its needs.

~~John~~ John Locke says 'Revolt is the right of people'. while dictatorships shun censure, democracies permit free demonstrations against government to press on them to change course. The slaves in USA were exploited till they had no political bargaining. But with the 13th Amendment that blessed them with democratic rights, the Blacks have been able to fashion powerful Pro-equality revolutions as Selma

Movement led by Martin Luther King Jr. Thus democracies enabled them to ask their government to imbibe sensitivity towards their plight and edge to egalitarianism.

As much as demonstrations move the state in democracies, indifference and sloth retards governments as well. Machiavelli remarks that the tyranny of a prince in an oligarchy is not as much dangerous to public welfare as the apathy of the electorate in a democracy. Administrative Reforms Commission had noted with consternation that the "public cynicism" against corruption that has accepted corruption as intimate part and parcel of life, has vitified India's battle against this perversity.

Similarly an example from a historic anecdote from one neighbourhood suggests that the Baluch people

under Khudai Khidmatgar has booted
at democratic referendum conducted
in 1947 to determine if they
wanted to join Pakistan. Since the Red
Shirts boycotted the plebiscite, they
could never voice their arguments. Thus
till present, the Balochs live in fear
and tear in Pakistan since they
turned their back to a democratic process.

It, hence can be safely understood
that democracies produce leaders that
the citizens demand for. However such
idealism is not always substantiated.
As Marx says democratic state in capitalist
society is executive committee of the
bourgeoisie. Thus the democracy fails
to be truly what the worker might
want it to be.

Similarly the merace of rigged
election means that democracy
fails to reflect the genuine willing-
ness of its citizens. Hence the

democracies as Russia scarce have Presidents, their citizens truly deserve. Also in complicated societies with deep diversity as say Ethiopia, there is a constant asymmetry in the deservedness of the citizens and the aptitude of their rulers. If a Tigray is in power, the Oromos community even though numerically significant might not have worthwhile stake in the state.

Then there is the anomaly of quasi-democracies as Myanmar that have powerful military groups hold the string of governments and thus they cannot honestly manoeuvre to satiate the necessities of their citizens.

What offers greater perplexity is the thin margin opinions that emerge in democracies. The Brexit referendum for instance had secured a ice breaking 49:51 opinion.

Is Brexit, then, authentically what Britons deserved?

Democracy, thus, as Hasbi says, "Will, not force is the basis of state, hence it is what the people deserve. To realise this tenth implies education of ~~pop~~ public opinion ^{is enough} in line with Dr. Ambedkar's slogan, "Educate, Agitate, Organise." In the same spirit citizens ought to deploy Socratic dialectic to appreciate what is most suitable for them. This will curb them from getting swayed by demagogues.

It is also vital that ~~democrats~~ ^{people} are progressive and embrace change in sync with Hegel's dialectic. This will ensure citizens have governments that are malleable with time to avoid rigidity.

Thomas Hobbes says, "Law is public conscience". Government and leaders too are manifestation of this consequence. It is imperative that this connectedness and leaders is democracy is sustained so that democracies with deserving leaders continue to underline the goal of "Power to the People".

Challenges of Water Management in India in 21st century

"The only substitute for water
is water"

- Former Estonian President

Everything was gold. The palatial walls, the shining throne, the garden trees. Before Midas' gold touch, nothing was any less valuable. Such riches of gold that could dazzle the eyes and covet the heart. But did this signify contentment? Alas! NO. Since if touch could turn stone gold, it transformed food to gold, water to gold. Could one drink this malleable, lustrous substance of novelty? Alas, again the reply was in the negative. Thus even with all luxury of wealth around, the paucity of food and water cast a gloom around Midas.

The anecdote tries to bring home the worth of water - a resource that is the essence of human existence. Scientists have marvelled at the concept of "goldilocks zone" that could survive life only because it holds the promise of presence of water. Water is thus dearly crucial and so is wise water management.

Water management is a virtuous cycle of efficient extraction of water, prudent consumption, proper storage, innovative recycling and stellar administration. Water management is vital for Indian growth as NITI Aayog has claimed that water scarcity could impact Indian economy negatively by plummeting Indian GDP by 6% by 2030.

Even though pantheistic religions in India have revered water as "Varma Deva", water

management in India has slighted due to multiple deficiencies. According to World Resource Institute, India is one of 13 major economies facing water stress.

Water management in India is beset with a plethora of challenges. The foremost is the depredations that have been done on the origin of water sources Indian rivers as World Wildlife Fund for Nature are net source of plastic and nutrient pollution in the oceans. The rivers have abnormally peaked Biological Oxygen Demand due to haphazard disposal of sewage and effluents. Hence as Central Water Commission ^(CWC) noted, even water of auspicious Ganges is not potable along its stretches.

The sorry state of groundwater also exposes a challenge to sagacious water management. UN water has claimed India to be the largest extractor of groundwater. As agriculture is

doled out generous subsidies, overextraction of groundwater has steadily expanded grey zones of depleted water source. The mindless withdrawal have exacerbated uranium and arsenic contamination in the aquifers with children in lower-ganga plain facing metal poisoning and neurological disturbances.

The onslaught of global warming has long the death toll on glaciers and wetlands alike. Ministry of Earth Sciences claims that Indian subcontinent witnessed a spike of 0.7°C from pre industrial level temperatures. These glaciers are succumbing to warmer environs, threatening water supply further.

The frequency of coastal flooding due to cyclones has vitiated coastal water reservoirs with salinity. While the lakes are dying a slow, monotonous death due to indiscriminate dumping of sewage and expansion of urban sprawl.

Since the seign has been disrupted, there has not been much proficiency in the supply and consumption either. As the ~~Central~~ Ministry of Rural Development next data sets convey, merely 18% of rural India has functional tapped water supply. This implies that a large proportion of population is deprived of clean and safe water that according to NITI Aayog leads to 2 lakh deaths every year, with the poor bearing maximum losses.

Likewise the exploding population has intensified stress on water resources. India has only 4% of world's water, yet has the arduous responsibility of supporting 18% of global population. To worsen things, water use efficiency has not been ingrained in Indian ethos. Taps are left running for hours to wash a vehicle, construction of houses implies limitless extraction of water from tubewells. Rainwater harvesting too has remained mere intent than practice.

The enthrall use of water in cropping has done Indian water management tremendous setback. The irrigation efficiency in India is around 30-40%, which trails before that in China at 65-75%. Arid belts in India from Punjab to Vidarbha continue to defy logic by sowing water-thirsty crops as sugarcane and rice. The flooding of farms to grow crops, sanctioning of mega canals that have enormous evaporation losses and the snail paced adoption of microirrigation means water management in agriculture is in a feeble state.

Industries have been no conscious as well. Coal plants in India run at around 45-50% efficiency with farbearing impact on water demand for cooling. The tanneries along Varanasi have transformed the pristine waters of River Ganga. Though India prides to be the Pharmacy of the world, the medicine firms offload tonnes of poisoning untreated effluent to water bodies, aggravating ~~water~~ microbial resistance and stimulating the demise of the water bodies.

If the usage of water trails conservancy, one would expect the administrators to be alert and responsive to the crisis. However the regulators of water in India have been found napping with the Central Water Commission lagging in deployment of sensors, proactive audit of water quality or actions on delinquent industries.

The dual role of water authorities that seek to monitor water quality as well as its treatment means there is complacency in the former to evade accountability for the latter. Water pricing in India is not pendulous that the bill for consumers does not reflect the price of water, something the Dublin Principles have iterated to be ideal.

To make matters worse judicial activism without corresponding commitment from the executive or the tussle between Central Water Commission and Central Ground Water Board have made water use more ad hoc.

Inter state ^{river} disputes on water often boiling to law and order conflicts have hindered germane use of water in spirit of cooperative federalism.

by National
green
Tribunal

If water is scarce and inaccessible, recycling of water could offer a bright light to meet water woes. However the percentage of sewage treatment remains abysmal at 37%. Similarly there have been lacklustre performance of water treatment plants with readers of Oshla staging powerful anti-Sewage Treatment Plant demonstrations due to the plant itself generating more effluent than clean water.

Water management in India thus is fought with challenges. However there is light at the end of the tunnel since there are solutions that can make India a Water Plus Country. The foremost is a coordinated approach at salvaging the rivers. Initiatives as Namami Gange with siltage clearing, effluent treatment and riverside afforestation can turn our rivers lively again.

The guidelines on Groundwater Extraction mandating licensing for use and compulsory ^{rain} water harvesting can help to audit groundwater use and

impose cost on extravagant groundwater extraction. Wetlands can be conserved by strong State Wetland Authorities that impose ~~also~~ heavy penalties on encroachment and engage civil society for persistent wetland restoration.

The Tal Ki Teesam mission along with Hae Ghee Tal are ingenious programmes to bring about greater water ~~are~~ accessibility to each house community managed water resources as Swajal 401 one encourages have turned water scarce villages of Uttarakhand to water abundant ones.

National Water Policy 2012 has exhorted governments to implement water pricing that reflects scarcity value of water.

Agriculture too can be a day of hope with novel techniques as soil solidification helping in reducing water demand. Peer Deep More Crop has enabled water smart agriculture as demonstrated by drip irrigation and fertigation. Restoration of traditional water bodies through Tal Sirchar as done by Rajendra Singh in Alwar can be a model for rest of the country.

Likewise industries can be nudged to be more mindful of water conservation by proportionate tariffs and incentives on water conservation measures. Mihir Shah report on efficient water use ga gives several lessons the industries can build on.

It is also vital that administrative structure of water management is resolved by merging CWC and CQWB as recommended by government experts. State water regulators ought to adopt technology as water meters, Internet of Things device smart water taps, etc. to enable efficient water usage.

The Indian government must continue laboursome endeavours with foreign governments to treat waste water. The partnership with Netherlands is exemplary where 10 Vital Urban Filters have treated waste water to yield a resource from waste.

India's water management also rests on bilateral negotiation with our neighbours. Water woes as floods in Assam can be cured if proper data sharing with China on Brahmaputra is possible. Similarly the

swift resolution of Teesta water dispute with Bangladesh will enable India to have adequate water supply for with the farmer in North Bengal.

Also as Gandhi has said the prestige of a government depends on the apparent voluntary association of its citizens. Thus non government organisations as Centre for Science and Environment must be grouped in so that we can enable people-led water revolution or conservation, as by the Maoris in New Zealand.

And ultimately negotiation as Paris Agreement will help to stave off the dark shadow of climate change that threatens good water management. Due to alteration in climate, monsoons may become erratic, water demand may hike, & water bodies may run dry and extreme weather events may damage clean water sources. Thus ensuring an equilibrium in heat balance through pro-climate action as National Action Plan on Climate Change is a wise move.

Civilisation from Mesopotamia to Harappan have exhumed due to shoddy water management. The UN predicts world war III may be sparked due to water wars. Water is one of the vital elements of Sustainable Development Goals that aim to usher an equitable and prosperous world. Thus efficient water management must become a routine in Indian lifestyle from governments to individuals alike. Water as a component of nature must be nourished and protected as Atharva Veda suggests:

"Let our interaction with ourselves and mother Earth be harmonious".

"A civilisation that appreciates the worth of water, grows sustainable, inclusive and smarter".