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Editor

BABUDDIN KHAN

THIRD CONCEPT aims at providing a platform where a meaningful exchange of ideas can take place among the people of the Third World. The attempt will be to communicate, debate and disseminate information, ideas and alternatives for the resolution of the common problems facing humankind. We welcome contributions from academics, journalists and even from those who may never have published anything before. The only requirement is a concern for and desire to understand and take the issue of our time. Contributions may be descriptive, analytical or theoretical. They may be in the form of original articles, reactions to previous contributions, or even a comment on a prevailing situation. All contributions, neatly typed in double space, may be addressed to:

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Designed by: Pt. Tejpal

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Deliver or Perish!

The political discourse in contemporary India is taking a dramatic turn towards new horizons where the old and hackneyed style of bizarre politics may yield place to more transparent, accountable and proactive politics that would survive on the mantra of deliver or perish. Surge of a new politically and socially conscious class of young people could be the harbinger of this new political discourse. The old political order has been incapable of meeting the emerging challenges which call for innovative solutions. The dispensation that may be called upon to guide the destiny of India towards the end of May 2014 will be confronted with a vast array of problems. The new Government under a New Prime Minister will have to face many odds in setting the house in order because of the poor legacy of the past. The new dispensation will have to restore the sanctity of the Parliament and democratic institutions, which has been vastly eroded in recent years.

India cannot take pride in being the world's largest democracy when the very democratic norms are flouted and decorum of the Parliament is thrown to the winds. Credibility of the Parliament has been vastly eroded and the members often show disrespect to the Chair. Other democratic institutions have been weakened. No single political party can be held responsible for the deterioration of parliamentary system in the country because all are equally responsible for this. Hence it should be the joint endeavour of all political parties, irrespective of ideological hues, to strengthen parliamentary system in the country by strengthening democratic institutions. The new dispensation should devise means to impart training to newly elected members of the Parliament and state legislatures in parliamentary and legislative procedures. Such a training programme should be institutionalized at the Central and state levels. And imparting such training should be made compulsory for the elected representatives.

The elected members, both of the Parliament and state legislatures, who are found guilty of misbehaviour and showing disrespect to the parliamentary or legislative procedures frequently, should be unseated and debarred from contesting elections for next two consecutive terms. Besides, political parties should select competent and qualified persons as their candidates who can bring laurels and not disgrace. The new political order is in the offing and only those political parties will survive in this new order that will be able to deliver what they have promised. Tall promises are easy to make because these prove instrumental in heightening expectations of the gullible masses and when these promises remain unfulfilled and people become frustrated, then comes the decline of the existing political order and masses look for an alternative.

The outcome of the ensuing general election may not be that encouraging for strengthening democracy in the country because of a large number of parties being in the fray and the expected verdict may be a fragmented one. However, it will test the level of political awareness of the electorate and may teach some hard lessons to some political parties which have played with the passions of the electorate by taking them for a ride. The post-May 2014 scenario may see even decimation of old guards and their replacement with many unknown players who may be able to provide more stable and durable spell of reign. At this juncture it is difficult to say as to what percentage of youth will be represented in the new Lok Sabha, which has thus far been ignored by almost all the parties. However, the next parliamentary election to be held in 2019 will certainly be dominated by the youth.

Even the new dispensation which will assume office after May 2014 can ill-afford to ignore the interests of the youth. Many young well-educated executives, technocrats and others are entering the mainstream politics by sacrificing their lucrative careers to reform the system from within and they nurse their ambitions of a great and prosperous India. They represent the new order of the day which is dominated by the social media, technology and dedication to the cause. This order is based on transparency, mantra of deliver what you promise or perish, a corruption-free and violence-free society where democracy prevails and due respect to law is accorded. This order holds a great promise for the dawn of a new era.

—BK