

# Democratic Revival – an Agenda for Action

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by

Dr. Jayaprakash Narayan

**Lok Satta / Foundation for Democratic Reforms**

Flat No. 801 & 806, Srinivasa Towers, Beside ITC Kakatiya Hotel,  
Begumpet, Hyderabad – 500016 Tel: 91-40-23419949; fax: 23419948  
email: [drjploksatta@gmail.com](mailto:drjploksatta@gmail.com)

The purpose of a government is to make it easy  
for people to do good and difficult to do evil.

**William Gladstone**

# Democracy – Myron Weiner's Four Conditions

- Competitive elections
- Political freedoms for all
- Peaceful transfer of power and no retribution
- Real power with elected governments

# Distortions of state power

- Positive Power restricted  
Negative Power unchecked
- State organs are dysfunctional
- A system of alibis  
Victims of vicious cycle
- Change of players  
No change in the rules of the game
- Political process ought to be the solution  
But has become the problem itself

# Indian democracy is a work in progress

## **Policymakers have responded to emerging challenges :**

- 73<sup>rd</sup>, 74<sup>th</sup> Amendments – Local Governments(1993)
- Voter registration and electoral process reforms (past 15 years)
- Mandatory disclosure of candidates antecedents (2003)
- Political funding reforms (2003)
- Strengthening anti-defection law (2003)
- Limiting size of cabinet (2003)
- Rajya Sabha elections reforms (2003)

*Contd...*

# Indian democracy is a work in progress

## **Policymakers have responded to emerging challenges :**

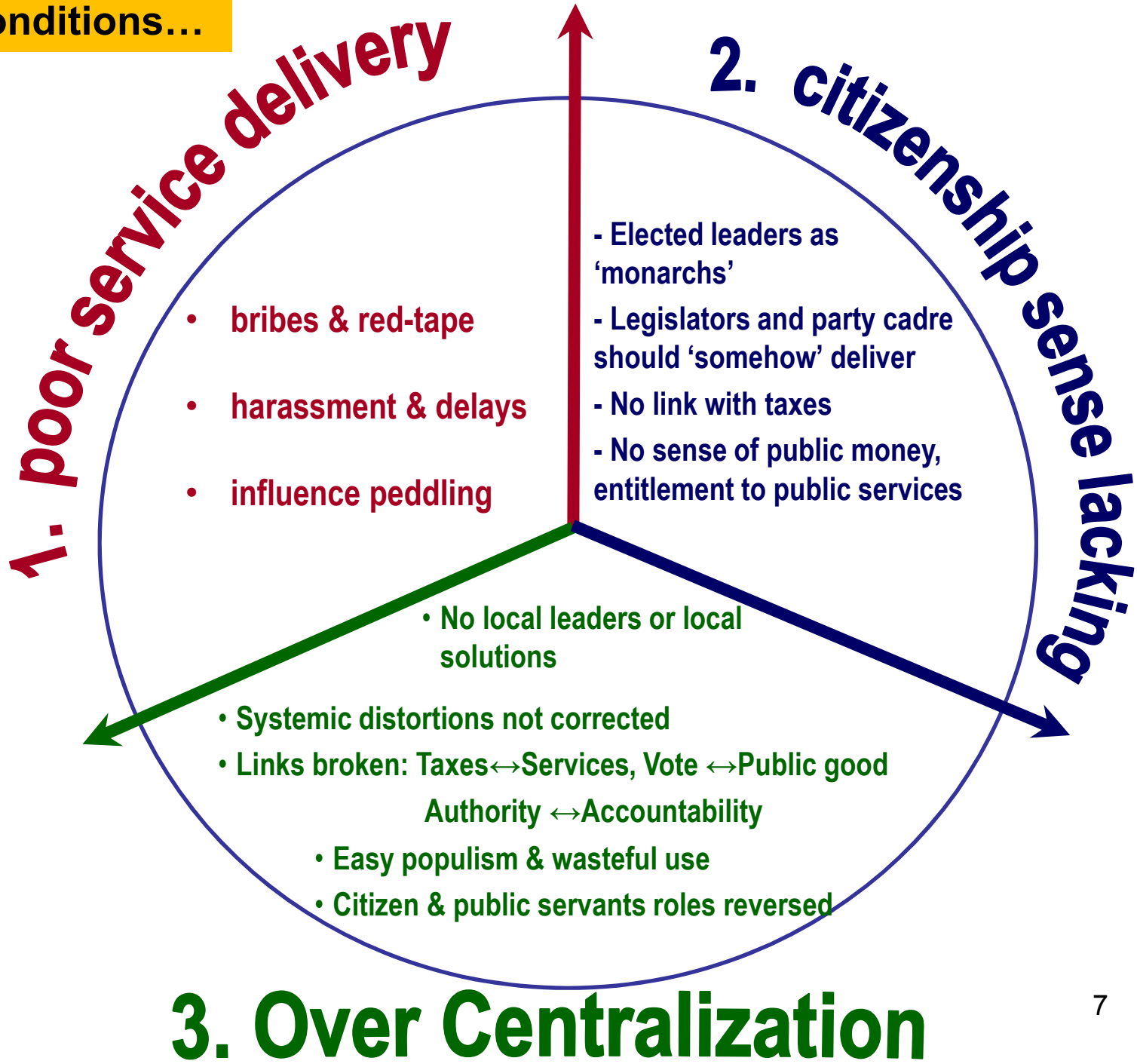
- Right to Information (2005)
- Gram Nyayalayas Act (2009)
- 97<sup>th</sup> Amendment – Right to form Cooperatives (2012)

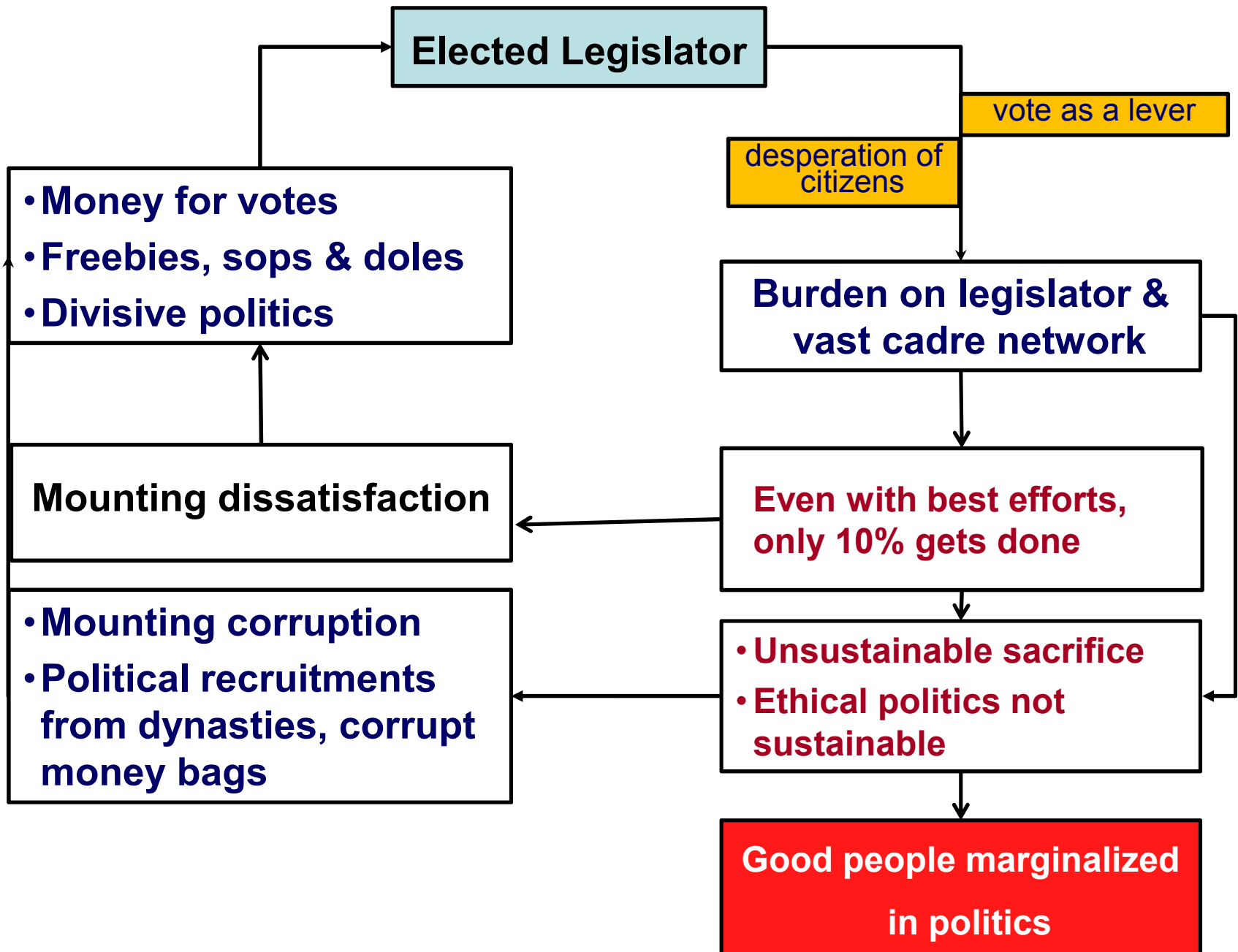
## **In the pipeline**

- Lokpal Bill
- Service Guarantee Bill
- Judicial Standards & Accountability Bill

## **Under consideration**

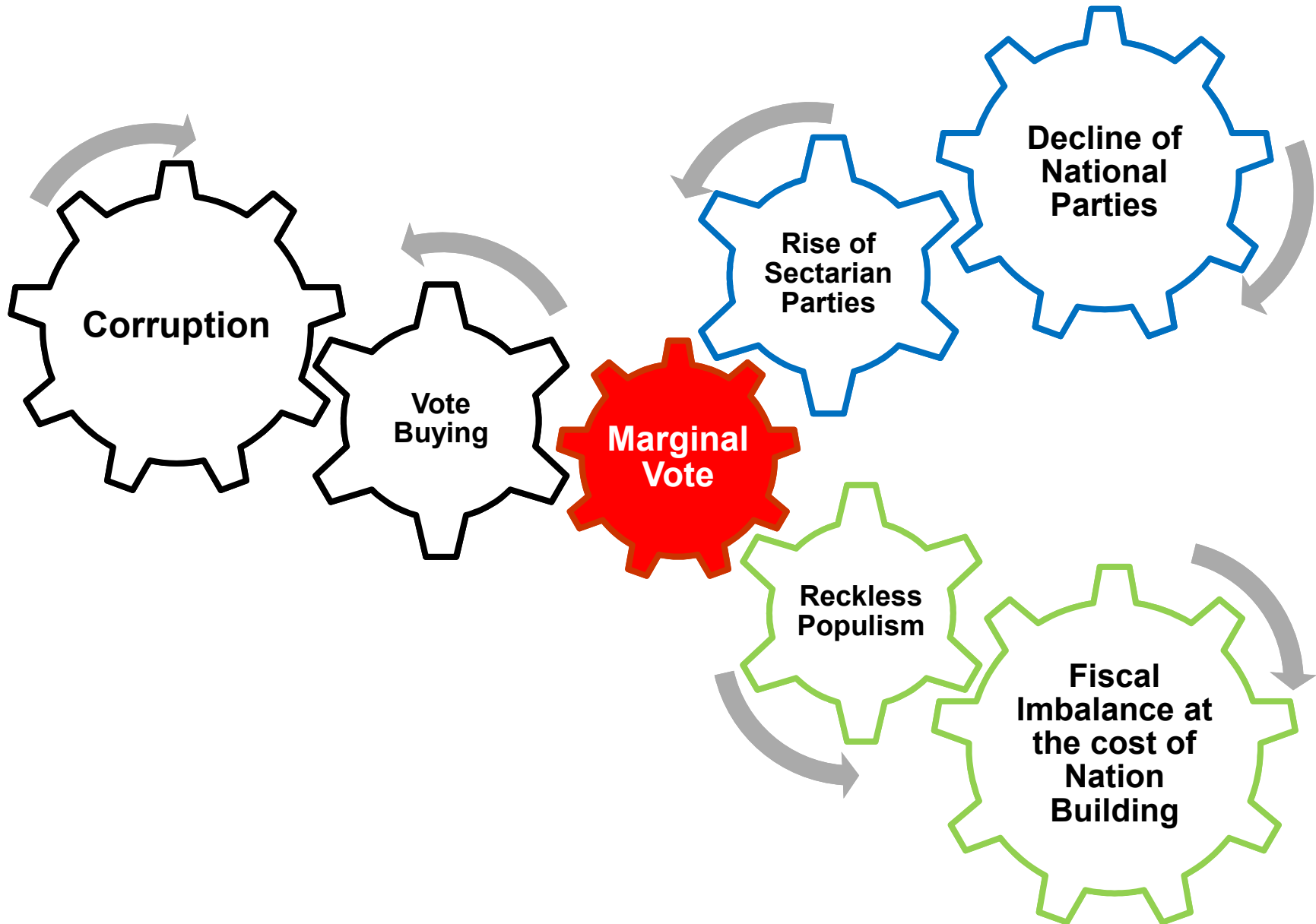
- National Judicial Commission
- Indian Judicial Service







# Consequences of Marginal Vote





SUNNYVALE

This is an aerial photograph showing the border between Sunnyvale and Cupertino. The top half of the image is Sunnyvale, and the bottom half is Cupertino. A major road, Homestead Rd, runs horizontally across the middle. Other streets shown include Lachine Dr, Lowell Ct, W Homestead Rd, Noranda Dr, and Dr. Tang Acupuncture Clinic. The word 'SUNNYVALE' is written in large white letters across the top, and 'CUPERTINO' is written in large white letters across the bottom.

CUPERTINO

Lachine Dr

Lowell Ct

W Homestead Rd

Homestead Rd

Homestead Rd

Homestead Rd

2104

Noranda Dr

Dr. Tang  
Acupuncture  
Clinic