

Have we let down
the true spirit of democracy
as enshrined in our Constitution ???

THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA

WE, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a SOVEREIGN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC and to secure to all its citizens:

JUSTICE, social, economic and political;

LIBERTY of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship;

EQUALITY of status and of opportunity;

and to promote among them all

FRATERNITY assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity of the Nation.

IN OUR CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY this twenty-sixth day of November, 1949, do HEREBY ADOPT, ENACT AND GIVE TO OURSELVES THIS CONSTITUTION.

Arindam Dutta
November 26, 2020

Caerus3 Advisors

Advisory | Assurance | Think-Tank

“A true democracy requires a civil society; it requires us to be honorable, generous, tolerant and respectful”

- Caerus3 Advisors & Think Tank

Now the Question is; have we been civil, honorable, generous, tolerant and respectful ?? Noted Blogger and Columnist Arindam Dutta tells us.....

Let's come straight to the point. Till we **learn to drive in lanes** without honking and till the **women find their space in the streets round the clock**, every day of the year, safely and without any prejudice, we can't call ourselves a civilized nation. Actually right now we are very far from it

Sounds two very different matters, but isn't. **Our medieval basic instinct hasn't changed.** A very misplaced version of manhood making us very dangerous to live with

As someone famously said," It is best to rise from life as from the banquet, neither thirsty nor drunken"

Many of us as Indian men are either thirsty or drunken or both. The result is that **our self-esteem is distorted. It manifests itself in streets. And it manifests the most in our big cities.**

A motorbike came from nowhere **against the flow of traffic**. I somehow brake my car, going out of breath in a second and thinking he should have been thanking me for saving his life. But there was no second for me to recover as vehicles behind me honked in unison ordering me to speed up and the Bike rider showed me the middle finger

I wondered if our democracy has given us this shameful free will. With that an indiscipline below human dignity

I am traveling to the airport at around **four in the morning in a different country**. It was approaching winter, it was dark, and it was mostly deserted. The driver dutifully stopped behind a stop line on a red light. I see a bus stop on the other side where a girl is alone, sitting with a beer in a very relaxed posture. There were few people, ones who were walking past her didn't even pause to look up at her, let alone judge what a woman is doing all alone in night at a bus stop with a beer in hand. Can this happen in India ? How would the woman be judged ? Would she be safe at 4 am alone ?

I wondered wasn't our democracy supposed to give us exactly this free will?

A free that isn't judged at best and taken advantage of at worst. A free will of being equal. But in our case this **notion of equality has instead come with multiple divisions**, none more starkly visible than in our Gender, Caste, Religion or even Region and Economic status

The fate of our nation will depend on our collective virtues and mannerisms. **Yet when we look at our various media forms, our collective idea of nationalism is very different**

It is as if we have given up on basic freedom of structural thinking. Or the indifference is staggering. Its painful that **we can't give way to an ambulance, but quickly fall in line for a VIP car**, it's disgusting when drivers nonchalantly cut out each other with a sly look, it isn't funny when people dressed up in their dazzling best driving in the most **expensive cars honk**, one starts and everyone starts to honk, all this while just waiting to enter a shopping mall for recreation. Not even the elites staying in high end condominiums will stop by without honking for a child and her care giver trying to just cross over. Troubling but a very common sight.

There is no respect for life, no respect for basic dignity. But then **standing in a queue is beneath our dignity!** It's a national culture not to including with the elites! At every Toll plaza in the Country you have a list of "exempted dignitaries", exempted from paying a toll of less than few hundred rupees !!!

We take that **distorted view of life to our women.** They just live through their lives with a constant threat of sexual harassment every second when they are out in the streets. The well-meaning people in their lives can only caution them not to venture alone, surely not in the night as will be judged in a certain way, just the way she would be judged for the dress she opts to wear

This society isn't a place for women. Actually most of us men haven't been conditioned at all to think of a woman without a protective company of men around. We get rattled when we see someone alone.

This society cannot endure. There is something seriously wrong. **Our family upbringing haven't been part of the solution, actually is where the problem might be.** A solution is nowhere in sight. It's about creating a completely new consciousness for Indian men. It needs to start from childhood. But that isn't going to happen anytime soon.

The more pragmatic way is for women to take over the streets. And say my way or the highway !!

Groups can be formed in small pockets, run as a proof of concept, the success made visible and then the movement will spread the entire length and breadth of the country. Then the flood gates will open, it will be not out of place to see many female truck drivers criss-crossing the country. Remember you have 50% of the vote share too

Once it all happens, the country will transform into civility, the foundations of nation building would be set. GDP growth, cultural events, festivities, all these would be meaningful then

Right now we are at wars in our own streets, with one another and with ourselves. Right now it's an assault on our basic humanity; on our democracy . It makes us live in a very inhuman place

We are the World's biggest Democracy (in size; 1.3Bn people and still growing), no history of civil dis-order or military dominance, we believe in fair elections and transition of power, **we are democratic**


Yet.....

we will be truly democratic when we will

- Act as a **Civil society**
- Honor** our hero's (both Civil and in Uniform)
- When we are **Generous** to the needy
- Tolerant** to Diversity of Culture and Views
- & more importantly
- Respect** Women

A word about

the Author



Arindam Dutta is ex Global head, Finance Operations, CFO Poland lead, Credit Suisse. He is ex Global head, BPS Analytics, Asia Pac BPS Hewlett Packard. He has 20+ years in GBS/BPS/ Banking- driving change and transformation. Worked in multiple locations/countries, led senior level and large scale teams across multiple countries and worked with internal and external CXO level stakeholders.

"Award for Excellence & Leadership in Outsourcing" from World HRD Congress (2013), Selected as Asia G6 Visionary by client community votes & panel speaker in SSON week in Singapore (2013 2012)& India I6 in 2013, Selected by buyer community as a sourcing superstar in SSON

Interviewed & quoted in multiple publications like Information week, Computer World, Dataquest, Global Services (2013, 2012), ,Invited in the speaking panel in NASSCOM, New Delhi (2013), keynote speaker in Dataquest summit, Gurgaon (2013),speaker and presenter in Deloitte Annual Shared Service conference , France (2012) , Joint interview with one of my client by the CFO Magazine on the Analytics success story (2012) Published multiple papers - "Making sense of big data in Finance & Accounting", "Wealth of data and shortage of resources", "From reporting the past to predicting the future: Analytics in Finance &Accounting", "Business Insights to F&A", "Compliance & Risk Analytics", "3As of Business Growth" (2014, 2013, 2012), " The lost pride - A tale of our cities" in the special edition of Consultant review magazine (2018)Multiple blogs in Times Of India (2018 onwards

Caerus3 Advisors & Think Tank

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