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IDEAS

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Editorial—

The Department of Political Science is one of the oldest departments of Sipajhar College in Darrang District which opened Major in 1985-86. As one of the remarkable products, the Department has made a great endeavour to publish this annual journal titled '*Ideas: A Journal of Multidisciplinary Thoughts*' which is expected to focus on different ideas and concept of the political events concerning primarily with different aspects of the society. It carries out analytical views on several facts regarding principles of Government as well as the new ideas incorporating the matters-political and non-political; government and non-governmental and thus resolves to come forward for action, reaction and interaction.

India's democracy without opposition

In the world political arena, India has come to be known by its political system i.e. parliamentary democracy which has been running since its independence. Not for the reason that it is democracy but the reason that India has come to lead a democracy without opposition constitutionally formed. Successfulness of democracy mainly depends upon the effective opposition which is also equally important with the Government in regard to its all-round development. In a democracy, the people or the groups of people irrespective of the rightist, Centrist or leftist, have the equal rights to play the role in not only making laws but also in executing the same. It certainly points out the fact that the opposition plays an indispensable role in attaining the goal. But however, the chief duty of the opposition is not to oppose the Government in all aspects. It is the duty of the opposition to keep keen and analytical observation on whether the activities of the Houses i.e. the Law Making bodies properly or constitutionally perform. In its etymological sense, democracy requires therefore a strong opposition, even stronger than the Government. But it is unfortunate that there is no such opposition in the Parliamentary democracy, Not to speak of other alliances but even the Congress which had been playing a dominant role in the field of politics for more than six decades has failed to secure the requisite number of opposition i.e. 55 members (10% of the Lok Sabha). In the last two elections, 2014 and 2019, the Congress could be able to secure only 44 and 52 seats out of 542 seats respectively in the Parliament.

In the political history of India, the new trend which the country has come to experience is opposition-less democracy which is mostly essential for such a large democracy as India. The opposition must maintain vigilance eternally all the activities of the Government. It plays the role of a wall of limitation which cannot be crossed by the Government. Usually, the cold conflict and dissension arise only between the ruler and the ruled only and not against the opposition. Opposition is not only the opposition, it can be regarded as the fifth estate which plays the role of safeguarding the democracy in both substantial and procedural aspects. The opposition is prepared to prevent the Government from being arbitrary rulers if the latter somehow tries to be so. Further if

the Government thinks about the party or next election instead of next generation, it is the only strong opposition in the Parliament. The new democracy without strong or constitutionally formed opposition may lead a great threat to the democratic ethics if Indian Parliament has to continue taking breathe in future without opposition. Experiences reveal the fact that any voice which ought to be raised by the people is raised by the opposition only in the parliament. From this point of view, opposition is not less important than the Government.

CORRUPTION IN ADMINISTRATIVE MACHINERY AND ITS IMPACT ON PUBLIC LIFE

Corruption is not a new phenomenon. History is replete with innumerable instances of corruption through the ages. The only things which differentiate it from that of old age are its scope and levels. As the years roll on, with the establishment of democracy, where decisions are made and carried through administrative institutions, corruption spreads everywhere in the changing societies. Especially, decentralization system in a democracy has made it feasible to have the way of becoming addicted to corruption which in any form grows among the people from grass-root level to the administrative heads. Corruption implies bribery, subornation, extortion, dishonesty, fraudulence, venality, turpitude, lewdness, contamination, nepotism, misappropriation etc. To speak the truth, corruption is perverted form of natural fact or law; it is a kind of sin. All these attributes are of primarily two aspects viz. social aspect and political aspect. Social corruption includes breach of social customs, habits, creeds affecting people; sexual harassment, creation of social evils like moral cheating, blackmailing, forceful collection of taxes etc. Besides, widespread irregularities in education system have now been a great threat to the growth and development of the literary society. So far as educational aspect is concerned, corruption results in poor educational outcomes like higher dropout rates and poor enrolment. Here monetary value of petty corruption excepting the bribes paid in recruitment, transfer and promotion of teachers in the country is estimated to be around Rs. four thousand crores per annum. Besides internal structures including teaching responsibility in educational institutions have been mostly corrupted which deteriorate the educational standard and failed to generate high qualitative products. The other aspect of corruption is political or politico-administrative which generally defiles the entire structure of society much more than social aspect. The path of corruption is clear and smooth when democratically elected people have come to constitute the administrative machinery. This machinery is constituted by the Executive Branch of the Government the members of which cannot claim to be uncorrupted.

Dibakar Ch. Das