

# From the Desk of the Editor-in-Chief

**The winners in life are not those who have never tasted failure but rather those who have failed again and again and never gave up.**

Good Governance is nothing but an idealistic and unrealistic phenomenon! The question of good governance is looming large in the minds of all since the time India went for polls. If this critical question is ignored, then it would lead us to another dismal failure, while if strategically successful, it may change the face of the world, and bring India on the map as a powerful nation.

In a panel discussion on "**Priorities before the Nation: Roadmap ahead for the Country and Roadmap ahead for Amity**", I commented on the lack of love and respect for the nation as well as amongst us as citizens and, how it (love and respect) can be generated by fulfilling the basic needs of the people. They do not have massive expectations, but basic expectations like improved living standards, good quality education for their children which may make them wiser, ensuring security, in terms of jobs and protection of their major interests.

Though, the basic concept of 'governance' is as old as human civilization, in simple terms, it refers to the process of decision making and the process by which decisions are implemented. Governance can be used in varied contexts, such as, corporate governance, local governance, national governance and international governance. Since governance is the process of decision making, good governance depends upon the formal as well as the informal players involved in the decision making process.

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) highlighted the 8 major parameters of good governance. Good governance is participatory, consensus based, accountable, transparent, responsive, effective and efficient, equitable and inclusive and follows the rule of law. It ensures that corruption is minimized, the views of minorities are taken into account and the voices of the most vulnerable in the society are heard in decision making. Hence, leadership emerges as the kingpin of good governance.

Generation of gainful employment for the youth is another big challenge, keeping in mind that 65% of people are less than 35 years of age. There are approximately 300 million illiterate children, whose future is bleak and enveloped in darkness due to ignorance. This problem of abject poverty is of high priority.

The foreign policy is the tool by which India interacts with other countries of the world. The two major objectives of India's foreign policy are: a) protection of India's national sovereignty and territorial integrity; and b) promotion of the well being of the Indian people. Hence, the next stupendous challenge is to consciously build an appropriate and progressive foreign policy. On a positive note, I would like to state that 'innovation' has become the key term which is playing a strategic role in linking up the government with the market and the civil society for the upliftment of the poor. I am sure that the continuing negotiation between these players will ensure good governance and enable the nation to shine and be recognized as a powerful nation. The government is not answerable to the party but to the nation. Hence, the biggest emerging challenge that the new government faces is to fill the vacuum created by the previous government and address the people's concerns which had been neglected for long.

These five years are going to be crucial for the nation

I have an ardent hope that you will enjoy reading all the articles of the present issue. Looking forward for your valued comments.

**Sanjeev Bansal**