

# From the Desk of the Editor-in-Chief

Mahabharata, The Great Indian Epic, highlights that Pandavas, under the guidance of Shri Krishna, an incarnation of Lord Vishnu, broke all the rules of war, whereas, the evil *Kauravas* broke no rules. At the same time, it is also true that *Pandavas* broke no principles and Shri Krishna broke all. On a similar note, I would like to take the opportunity here to quote from the contemporary that a depressed and a helpless person tries to end his life, fails and lands in jail for one year or is penalized as per section 309 of Indian Penal Code. Is it justified? Should he be punished or deserves treatment and care? *Is it time to review the archaic laws?* Legal and ethical issues may not be positively correlated or at times may be even inversely correlated; one thing is for sure that it is time to review the archaic laws.

A path breaking initiative taken by The Indian Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi to weed out the archaic rules and legislations from the statute books is going to change the face of India on the map of the world. Majority of the laws surprisingly dates back to the time when India- the 'Golden Bird' was chained in slavery under the British Colonial Rule. These laws are obsolete which are constantly hampering the governance and acting as an impediment to the economic growth of the Nation.

The decision to scrap the outdated laws is a follow up of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's first address of the joint session of the Parliament in June 2014. A committee has been constituted to review the dysfunctional laws which have become obsolete within the last ten to fifteen years. Based on the recommendation of the committee, a bill will be introduced in the parliament during the winter session.

In this direction, the government has already passed the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) Bill in both the houses of the Parliament. The bill scraps the collegiums system of appointment of judges of the Supreme Court and the High Court. A six member body has been established for the appointment of the judges. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court will head the NJAC.

Similarly, the maxim of 'minimum government and maximum governance' along with the performance appraisal of the ministers is being pushed as far as possible. Prime Minister Narendra Modi abolished all the 'Group of Ministers' (GOM) and has replaced it with 'Empowered Group of Ministers' (EGOM). The empowerment has definitely given a boost to the administrative and legal reforms and is an effort to bring the ministers closer to the people. The amended mandate that the bureaucrats should strive to maintain political neutrality, take decisions and make recommendations on merits is likely to bring about positive changes in the public interest. Besides this, keeping in mind the needs of the country, the government has disbanded the 64 year old Planning Commission and is in the process of reconstituting it amid the constantly changing global economic scenarios.

I believe that the weeding out of the dysfunctional laws from the statute books gives the nation a better scope.

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

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