

Democratic Revival – an Agenda for Action

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by

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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 :

- 73rd, 74th 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

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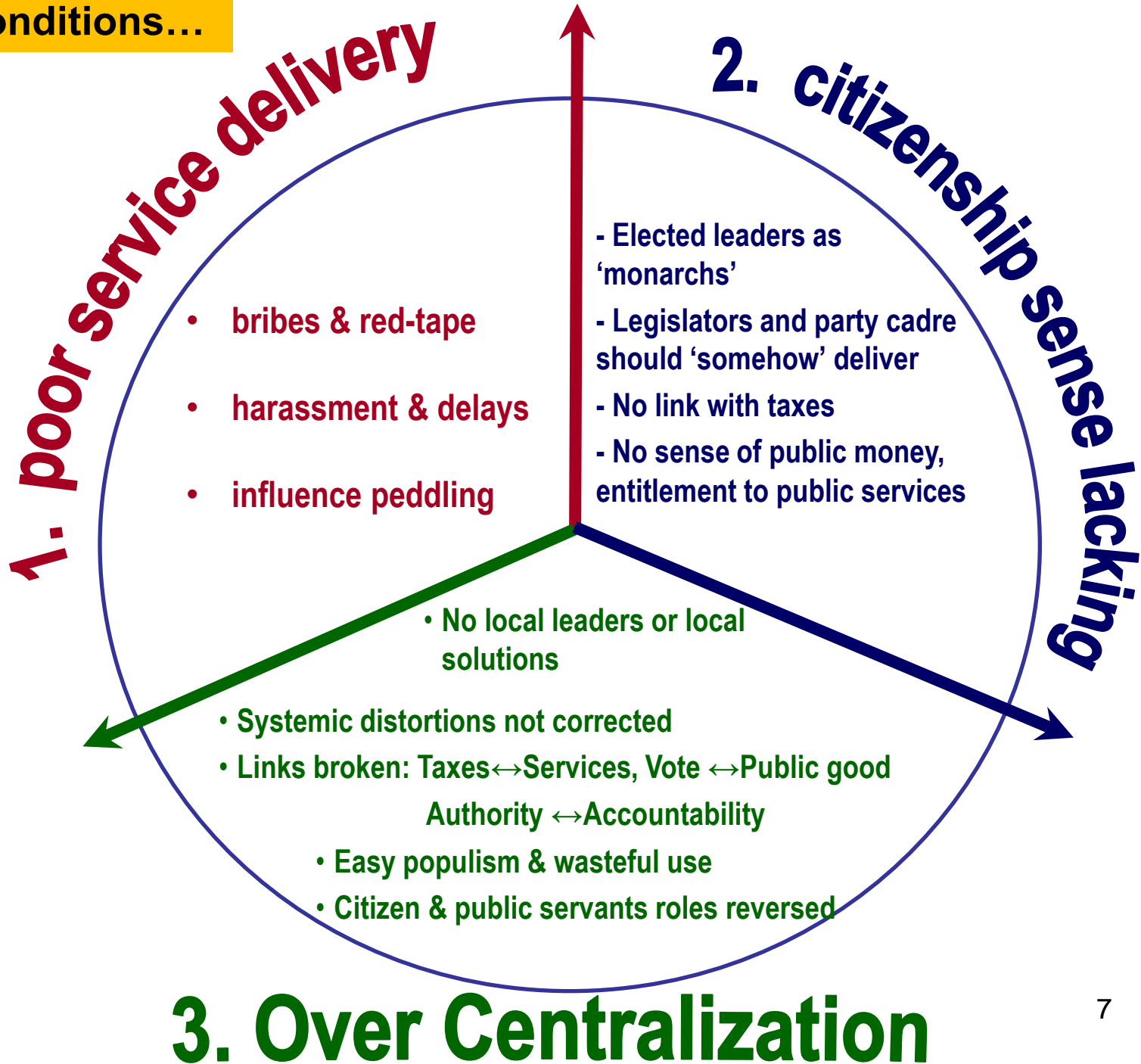
- Right to Information (2005)
- Gram Nyayalayas Act (2009)
- 97th Amendment – Right to form Cooperatives (2012)

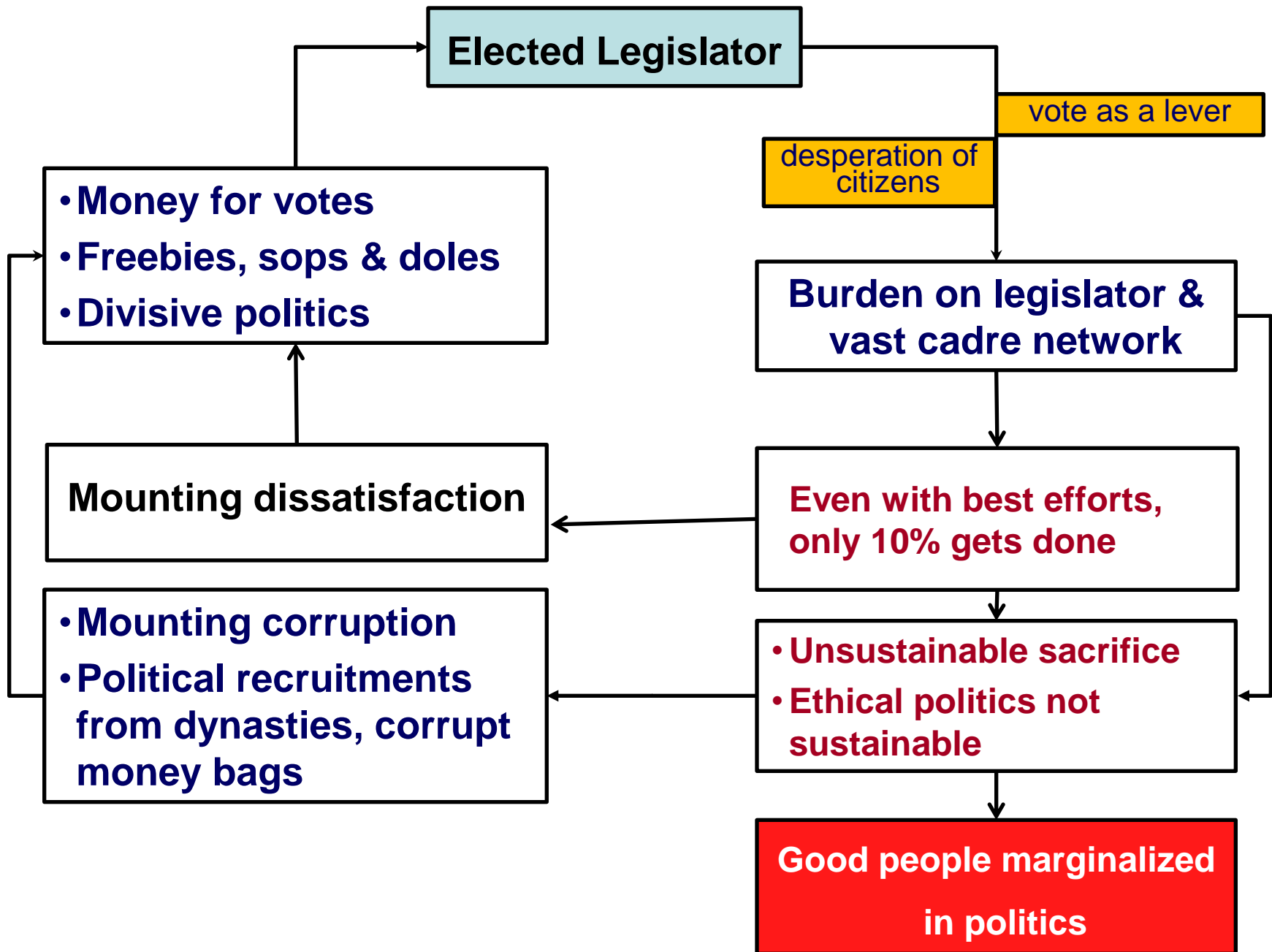
In the pipeline

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

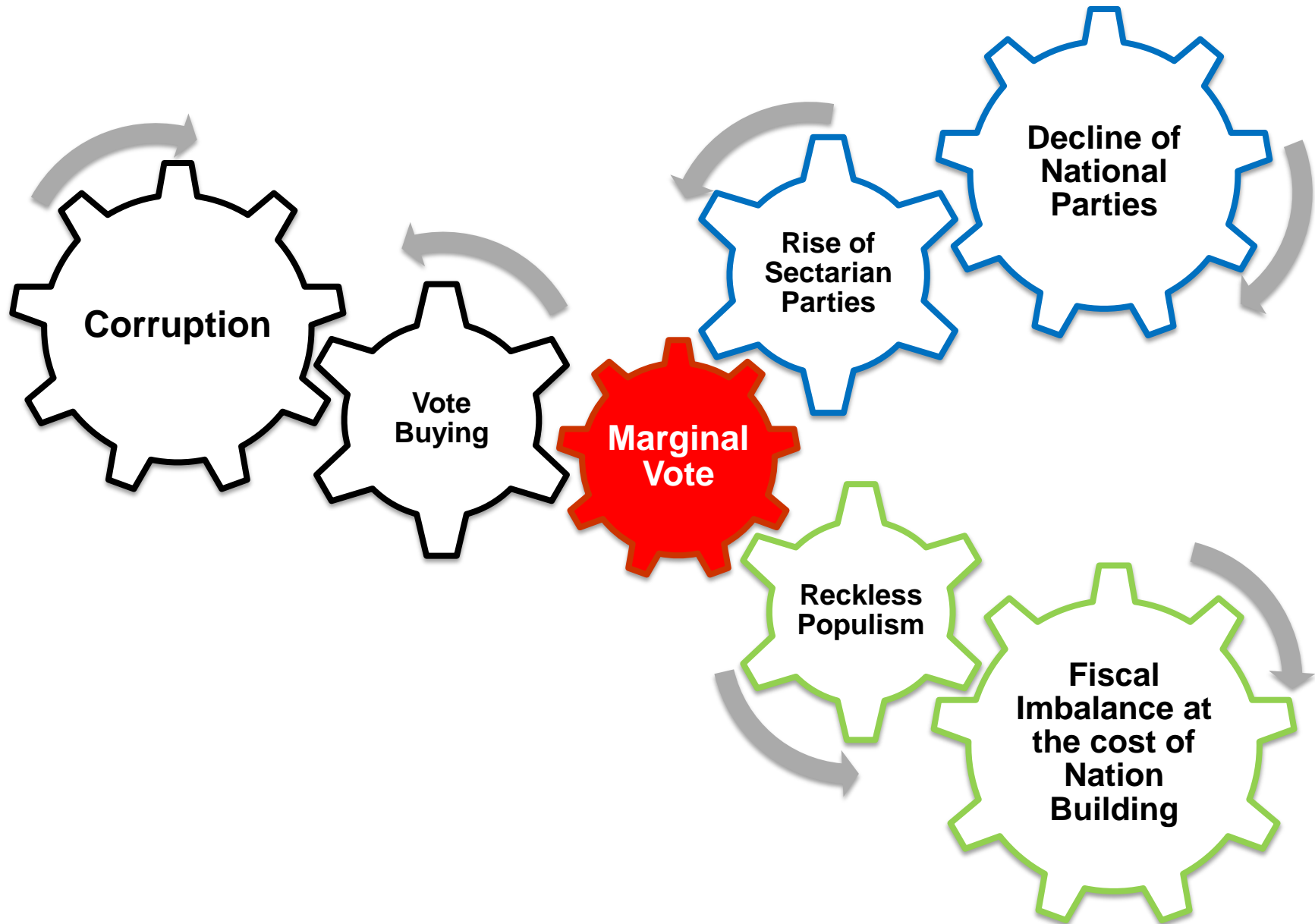
Under consideration

- National Judicial Commission
- Indian Judicial Service





Consequences of Marginal Vote





SUNNYVALE

This is an aerial photograph of a suburban area. The top half of the image is labeled 'SUNNYVALE' in large white letters. The bottom half is labeled 'CUPERTINO' in large white letters. A horizontal road, 'Homestead Rd', runs across the middle. Above it, 'Lachine Dr' and 'Lowell Ct' are visible. Below it, 'W Homestead Rd' and 'Noranda Dr' are visible. On the right side, 'Dr. Tang Acupuncture Clinic' is marked with a small square icon. The area is filled with houses, trees, and some commercial buildings.

CUPERTINO