

ENLIGHTENED DEMOCRACY MANIFESTO

2014

History, background, deficiencies of present day democracy and ideas of enlightened democracy

1) Noting the needs of rule of law functioning under a social-political-cultural order which may

- Bring security for survival by winning over the needs for food and shelter for oneself and the family;
- Provide knowledge about the world and the surrounding environment which may make life less harsh and easier to live;
- Create possibilities for the citizens to explore the greater world and experience freedom to seek development of the mental and physical abilities they may possess;
- Guarantee rights over the resources of mother nature equitably with others and the generate the feelings that earth is a free playground for all;
- Build cultural arenas where people may share feelings and emotions with other fellow human beings, in order to find expressions of their spiritual life and artistic abilities;
- Fulfill the desire to be loved, and to love and feel comforts and joys in the company of others;
- Secure trust of others and psychological security in relationships;
- Make one feel harmonious and peaceful with oneself and the world around;
- Safeguard freedom of speech, belief and faith, rights of association with others and opportunities to participate in collaborative activities of the community.

ii) Studying the history of the past and the recent time and understanding that the social-political-cultural development of the world has proceeded as follows:

- After the demise of the emperors and monarchs the ideas of democracy rose with the demand of the rising class - mainly consisting of traders, bankers and industrialists, who wished to break the monopoly of power of the feudal lords- to participate in the decision making process of the society;
- Then an educated elite rose to thwart the ambitions of the above capitalist class and wished to install socialism and communism as the ruling form instead;
- With the defeat of the leftist ideology world became an arena of free market capitalism;
- And poor and illiterates got empowered by voting rights;

- Democracy became the driving force behind the growth the global consumer economy which strengthened monopoly-capitalism where capital got concentrated in a few hands;
- The cultural values now replaced by the globalized values based on consumer happiness and money created moral disruption of the society;
- Tensions rose between the fundamentalists holding on to the traditional values and the consumerists
- Technology reigned supreme to control and manipulate the mass.

iii) Realizing that the rules and laws do not descend from Heaven but are products of the human minds who possess vested interests in the way the society should be ruled, and noting the following points in this regard:

- The bankers and the industrial entrepreneurs, who came to power with the rise of the colonial trading and in the wake of the industrial civilization, are still the major actors in deciding the world-order today;
- The owners of the industry involving television and video , which brought forth a new era of consumer electronic goods, have flooded the globe with western culture and values;
- During the last decade the mobile digital communication and social networking through internet have turned pervasive increasing the power of the consumer industry to manipulate and steer the development of social and cultural values;
- More people consume more the established world-order can boast of growth of freedom of the individuals whose free-will are synonymous with the growth of the free market system;
- Apart from the consumer based industries , supplying electronic goods to the mass and providing communication facilities through cybernet, the industrial giants also invest in the military sector and in the production of oil, gas and mineral resources;
- Military buildup and technological innovations, which can give edge in high-tech war fares necessary to maintain the present world-order, is an essential element in industrial activities of powerful nations.

iv) Being cognizant of the following facts

- In the present economic-political order the idea of democracy has got preponderance. Demand for democracy and rights of participation of a larger number of the citizens became more vocal with the rising needs to dethrone feudalism from power and instead institute the grip of the industrial class in shaping the society.
- An educated elite took the opportunities of political openness to rise to counteract the ambitions of these capitalists in turn and challenged capitalism with the socialist ideas, where workers were seen as the backbones of social development.
- The battle between the socialist and the capitalist has seen its end with the demise of the Soviet Union and adoption of capitalistic economic path by the Peoples Republic of China and India which has emerged as the biggest democracy in the world, where hundreds of millions of illiterates got their rights to vote and choose the party which may govern the society.

- After the failure of socialism, the democracy in a country like India has taken the form of appeasing the mass by various means: From ideas related to religious dogmatism, caste and creed kinship to choosing favorite movie stars and sportsmen as political leaders have created the foundation of democratic choice aided by the power of money and the seduction by the entertainment industry.
- The democracy is fuelling growth of the consumer industry. More consumerism is leading to higher concentration of the wealth and monopoly of the capitalists. More the capitalism is demanding more individual freedom more easy it is becoming for the market to invade culture, values and private space of the consumers. Thus freedom to consume and rise of democracy are going hands in hands.
- The democracy is becoming the flag bearer of economic globalization. The illiterates, who have no understanding of what is going on outside their poverty stricken neighborhood, and the temptation of consumer happiness seen on the TV screens, are being used as rubber stamps to legalize the process of governance and the development steered by interests of the monopoly capitalists.
- The new major beneficiaries of the present order are the technocrats and the people controlling and affecting the evolution of the technology. The digital network services and technologies, which bring people across the globe together in order to exchange ideologies, values and visions of building a new world-order, are becoming the new arbitrators for social-political development for the future.
- The politics of democracy and the politicians in democratic nations are more and more becoming pawns in the hands of the technocrats and monopoly capitals.

v) *And being observant of the conflicts existing in the world as listed below:*

- The world is seeing the development of a polarized world: On one side lies the old colonial powers allied with the US, and on the other side are the former colonies like India and China allied with Russia. The western powers are joined together in a military alliance of NATO, who maintains a military superiority over all others. The rising Asian economies are striving to build an economic and a political front against the western hegemony by forming a bloc with Russia, Brazil and South Africa which is known as BRICS.
- The two sides, apprehensive of each others' motives of world domination, are shaping democracy the way it may suit their geo-political power game: The western powers use human rights of the individuals as their instruments to penetrate and weaken the power of these rising BRICS nations. By offering more consumer culture, and opening up entertainment industry, and inspiring freedom to disavow traditions and cultures, the western democracies, based on human rights, are swinging the voters on their side of the ideology. The ideas of the rights of the individuals to exercise one's freedom to act and impart will to protect one's likings and interests are being used as effective means to counteract the sympathy for the opponents, who often need to use authoritarian means to bring free will of the individuals to submission in order to achieve the common good of the people.

- The economic competitions between the two blocks are critically dependent on the access to energy. The west has maintained its hegemony over the energy flow by controlling the supply of oil from the Middle East and North Africa since the colonial time. The energy issue has also newly brought Russia against the West. While the West charges Russia and China for human rights violations and lack of democracy, the BRICS nations try to create a parallel banking system and financial exchange which will be less dependent on the western monopoly and reprisal.
- Human rights and democracy are applied and rejected in ways befitting the needs of the situation that may bring forth the desired power change, which may facilitate energy supply. Military means have been used by the West to bring such changes in recent time. In a reciprocal manner Russia has also used its military muscles to secure its geo-political interests in Ukraine, through which the Russian gas pipelines pass to the European market.
- The digital communication revolution is also being utilized in trying to bring desired political footholds. Recently the political upheaval across the Middle East was orchestrated by making use of social networking, like Facebook and Twitter. So, propaganda and counter propaganda in the name of democracy, human rights and freedom have become a normal mode of operations in order to bring the political tides on one`s favor. The journalism and truthfulness of information through news media have also become questionable due to the partition views split between the East and the West.
- The geo-political tug-of-war to achieve more economic growth rate over the other, in turn, boils down to more oil and gas consumption by nations. More fuel burning cause more carbon di oxide pollution of the globe, which is believed to be creating impacts on altering the climate of Earth. The extreme weathers, observed in recent years, have been attributed to such environmental pollution caused by the increased consumer culture spreading across the world.
- The military and the financial might of the West is still much superior than the rising Asian powers and it is difficult at the moment to stand against the hegemony of the West, who can easily gather support around its cause among nations of the world who are still dependent on the Western assistances for their development and progress. Terrorism has become the only means to harass the West. Many of these terrorists, in turn, are fostered by intelligence agencies. They are abused in political struggle against the governments who one may wish to replace.
- To counteract terrorist threats extensive spying and surveillance network are in place. This surveillance has become all embracing including tapping of telephones, internet browsing and the activities in the social media network. Freedom of conversation and information exchange has thus become victim of the invisible net of the cyber spying. Freedom is thus turning into an illusory concept, mostly confined to the right to consume as economic creatures roaming in the global market.

Vision

i) We envisage the necessity

- To reject the understanding of civilization which accepts circumstances destined by the economic forces which have controlled history so far: One needs to understand that the history is a product of the human will and conflicts of interests among groups possessing different states of evolutions of the mind. So far, the lower nature of man has come out as triumphant in history by accumulating power and wealth in a few hands. The innovations and creativity have been directed towards dominance of one over the other, and abused in the form of inventing military technology in support of the instincts of preying on others and securing one's dominance.
- To understand history as a ground that takes shape according to the will and actions of human beings: It reflects no other laws of nature (or mind) beyond what evolution of human consciousness may reflect. The consciousness has many levels - from the lowest level, inspiring animal instincts of the predator and prey, to the highest form where man may identify oneself as a part of the cosmic mind, who is one with all. In this higher level love, compassion and the unity of all existence become the bearer of the forces which can provide initiatives for taking actions which may shape a new social-political order.
- To realize that by leaving man to his/her lower instinct-bound nature will create a civilization which we have witnessed in the past and witnessing now. We need to dismantle the structures which we have built on such primitive ground, and usher in a history of the "higher-man", instead. It will need a total transformation of awareness and knowledge of man of himself or herself, and the vision of the possibilities of human kind to ascend to a higher-stage. With this knowledge, vision and awareness one may build a new framework of history. This implies a vision of "revolution" and the beginning of a new civilization.
- To replace the elements of history, which have kept human kind a prisoner of the animal instincts, by higher-values and awareness of the possibilities of our life as bearers of a great mind animating the universe. No fictitious force other than the power of the enlightened mind is the foundation of path of evolution and growth towards a world which may guarantee true freedom, peace and justice for all.

ii) Recognize the following needs to be satisfied in order to change the present form of injustice, inequality and lack of freedom for many being practiced in the world in the name of democracy:

- First we need to have clear concepts about the nature of an enlightened system and how it may differ from the economic-political systems which have existed in the past? One should understand how to overcome the obstacles which have hindered human civilization so far in finding ways of happiness and meaning of life beyond personal greed and private interests.

- Then one needs values which may give directions to life: So far, most rules have been created by human beings based on their understanding of the world, history and themselves. In the past the religious teachings and scriptures have been used to find allies of power among the fellow human beings and Heaven has been exploited in order to ascend to power and maintain dominance over the ignorant mass. These days this story has changed from allegiance to Heaven to the Free-Market force. More the knowledge of science and technology has replaced views about cosmos, nature and our own mind more Heaven has fallen. With this development, more and more Free-Market values have determined the premises of happiness and joy of life. As a consequence human being are getting disoriented in the world and loosing direction to live and act in ways which may bring meaning to living. In this circumstance, the laws and regulations of the modern democracies are being written by mortal women and men in defence of ideas which may be appealing to the voters. These democratic social-orders are run by people, who wish to amass political and economic strength by rallying people behind their ideas which are wrapped around some party political ideologies. In this democratic competition voters can be bought with money, or manipulated by offering more purchasing power which brings consumer happiness. However, there exists no direction, goal or vision beyond keeping momentum of economic growth supporting the ever growing consumer-culture and keeping people engaged in the activities related to the Market.
- In order to steer the civilization towards the vision of the “higher-man”, we must know who we are, where we are, and why we are? What roles can we play on this cosmic stage? What should be our destination of life in this amazing universe?
- We need to conceive our position and relations with the rest of the creation. We must have answers to the questions posed above. The way we see ourselves, and understand the meaning of our existence in the cosmos will decide our path.

iii) And propose to replace the present world-order by an enlightened world-order where enlightened world should be understood as described below:

- We are not animals, who live in order to exploit opportunities of competitions and gain supremacy over others in nature. We are much more than what the need for our physical survival and security may dictate. Human beings are bearers of several levels of consciousness, starting from the reptilian and mammalian state of evolution of the human brain to the development of the prefrontal cortex which is the powerhouse of reason, rationality, and the temporal lobe with which spiritual unity of life with the cosmos can be understood, experienced and felt. We are manifestation of a wonder in the cosmos, which holds the enormous complexity of the living and nonliving worlds in a unity, and gives us the opportunity to experience order, perfection and beauty through our own mind. Our life is a fortunate opportunity to experience the highest level of consciousness that can emerge as our greater aspect of mind as a force of love and compassion suffusing all. Behind the physical visions of things, triggered by neurons in the brain, there exist visions in the mind in different “realities”

not ascertainable by using only the animal instincts. Those invisible “realities” bring creative urges in the mind in the form of ideas, thoughts, imaginations of the higher-mind, with which one may reconstruct the sense-bound reality. By this way one may transcend the limitations imposed on us by law-bound nature and recreate a reality of one’s own choice. Thus, mind becomes the foundation of creation of reality in a higher-stage. The purpose of human life is to experience those domains of “realities” which do not become visible through crude manifestations of the senses in the perceptible world. By exploring those domains and elevating the mind to experience the “higher-world”, human beings have the opportunity to enjoy the unfathomable wonder and beauty which hide behind the apparent chaos in nature.

- Vision of an enlightened world is a vision of beauty, love and wonder, which can make life a paradise of happiness and joy. This vision is restive on the state of mind through which one experiences and gazes at the world. The chaos and suffering are not products of any unavoidable nature of the reality which is separate from the mind. It appears as projection of the mind in the sense-bound world. The projections depend on the knowledge of man about one’s own nature, and the nature of the world in which one sees oneself bound. The man, who is bound to his /her animal instincts and has not realized the domains of possibilities that can be explored in the “invisible” realities of the mind, may see a dark and a chaotic world in realms where the higher man sees the lights of the cosmic beauty and order.
- Enlightened world may emerge through knowledge, creativity and understanding of the unity of the living and nonliving world. It unveils when one is able to open the windows of greater “realities” lying deeper in the unfathomable realm of the mind. These windows can be opened by accessing knowledge, and utilizing creative urges that may stir the mind, and detaching oneself from the lower-nature of the instincts. By sinking deeper into the depth of the mind in search of beauty and wonder hidden behind all, and remaining awake about the marvellous nature of the cosmos, one may ascend towards the enlightened path.
- It is an opportunity of a journey of life, where one may put in action the power of the higher-mind in shaping human civilization. Instead of sinking into greed and competitions in order to win dominance over worldly resources, which keep the majority in the world in slavery and chain, and desiring to increase power and wealth only in a few hands, it is a vision of a new age of the higher-man, who will teach human beings the joy of life in love and sacrifice. It is a call for building a society bound by harmony and peace using the power of the higher-mind.
- The envisioned enlightened world is a social-order under enlightened governance, which will promote the best possibilities of development of human beings towards the path of evolution to a “higher-man”, who is equipped with knowledge, power of creativity and rational reflections and connected to inner realms of the mind, which is the source of love and compassion for all. It sets as its goal to inform human beings about their higher potential to evolve beyond the conditions where they may remain imprisoned, and equip them with necessary knowledge and opportunities of expressing creativity with which they may reshape their conditions beneficial to evolving towards the higher stage. The enlightened world is built on the power of the mind with which one may transcend towards higher level of consciousness, which can reveal the unity of

life with the micro and macro-cosmos, and chart the meaningful roles which human beings may play in creating peace, harmony and beauty in the society.

iv) Such an enlightened system may be realized by replacing the present form of democracy by an enlightened democracy as conceived below:

- Enlightened democracy is a vision based on the view that mankind needs guidance and direction to move in order to achieve social and political order which can be the foundation of peace. It sees the necessity of the world to move forward to higher and higher stages of evolution, where every human being has the responsibility to participate. It views situation of the world existing at this moment of history, where diverse stages of social evolution live together (some societies are still in a primitive stage bound to hunger and basic needs, while a few has progressed), as an unsuitable arena for growth of greater aspirations of man as creative beings, searching meaning and greater possibilities of self-realization. These aspirations can be realized only by building a foundation of enlightened democracy.
- Enlightened democracy professes the view that human beings are endowed with the power to realize themselves in ways that may fulfil the meaning and purpose of human existence. Once they are equipped with knowledge of nature, better understanding of the dynamics of history, and become aware of the power of the higher consciousness, human beings have the possibility to evolve in the direction of the “higher-man”. This aspiration to evolve towards the “higher-man” will be able to steer human civilization towards harmony, beauty and peace. Instead of ushering in chaos, which may arise when one tries to understand the evolution of history as a process emerging in a random way resulting from of interactions of diverse interests, enlightened democracy will fulfil the meaning of life as bearer of cosmic mind.
- It should be viewed as a progressive path: First, one should free man from hunger and needs, and then from ignorance, prejudices and superstitions derived from tradition and belief which may bind man to a particular culture. Then one should seek to empower human beings with understanding and vision, with which they may be able to appreciate the values and ideas of the enlightened-order accepted by all people and cultures of the world. In this process they should be guided in freeing themselves from the narrow views inherited from the culture where one may have been born and brought up. It is a way to march forward by breaking away from views and practices of an ignorant world, and instead make a journey as a part of the whole of humanity moving towards a common goal by sharing same values and visions.
- Enlightened democracy prescribes the values and visions that can be accepted by human beings of all nations, cultures and races once they are equipped with knowledge and information about the nature of the world, the dynamics of the social and political cultures and the inner nature of themselves as creatures possessing higher power of consciousness. It can pave meaningful paths of freedom leading to higher and higher ways. It is a path which needs to be trodden by using the power of knowledge and visions of the unity of all living beings with the cosmos, permeated by a meaning that one needs to explore. It is an exploration and journey towards higher heights

of the mind towards freedom that may liberate us from bondages that the mechanical world imposes on our existence.

- In this journey we may find many of our fellow human beings still struggling to free themselves from the basic needs. Enlightened way is a way to act to bring changes in the world that will create conditions of freedom for them. Beyond pursuing the path of knowledge, the enlightened democracy teaches man to be compassionate about the suffering world. Success of enlightened democracy hinges on the prerogative that societies produce teachers and guides who will transmit knowledge and vision and inform people about the direction and goal one should pursue.

Purpose and goals of enlightened Democracy

Purpose

Purpose of the change is to free mankind from the forces of history which have kept the human civilization a prisoner of power-loving individuals and groups, who have maintained their dominance since the formation of institutions of state and religion. It seeks to change the present order, which has emerged through an alliance of military and religious men with the businessmen and traders, who have risen during the colonial time, and are primarily driven by the interests of profits and individual gains at the expense of the misery of the majority of mankind. Instead of the lower-nature of man, still deciding the fate of humanity, as it has developed in the present consumer-culture of the monopoly-capitalist market-order, the enlightened-world wants to educate, inform and make human beings aware of the potentials of life, which exists beyond the animal instincts. It seeks to elevate human consciousness to a higher stage, and make use of the higher power of the mind in building an enlightened civilization, where man may realize his/her potential as the bearer of a cosmic-mind. It aspires to protect the freedom, liberty and possibility to enjoy the life of a "higher-man" by developing governing structure of the society, which will eliminate the advantages, which the traditional players of history have enjoyed until now. It also sees the necessity to free social-political development from the hands of the technocratic rule, which has developed in the recent time, in order to perpetuate an economic injustice, where the middle class consumers are being used as the means to achieve the goal of the rich and the powerful, while exploiting the poor, who supply labour and toil at the conditions dictated by the investors and their supporters in the power-elite. The purpose of the enlightened-order is to resist the abuse of technological innovation and communication, whose aim is to dehumanize human beings by turning them into economic animals living by consuming products, and creating distorted view of life as a bonanza of "happiness" to be enjoyed in a market place, without any vision, meaning and purpose. It wants to inspire mankind to respond to the call of the "higher-man" to fulfil the journey of life as an enlightened being, who bears the power of the cosmic-mind, and thus create a civilization where human beings may find meaning in life in love, compassion and sacrifice.

Goals

The goal is to build a foundation and structure of governance which will be able to give shape to the vision and realize the purpose under the guidance of the principles enshrined in this “Enlightened Democracy Manifesto”. It will focus on building Civic-organs at all levels of social organization whose mission will be to empower, educate and create awareness about the enlightened society keeping in mind the vision and purposes to be fulfilled. The activities of the people, through the mediation of these organs will bear the spirit of the enlightened society. The government will ensure open and free interactions in the Civil-organs at all levels of the society through discussions, dialogues and debates, and protect organs from abuse of personal interests of any power-loving individual, or group. The main mission of the Civic-organs will be to explain the contents of the Enlightened Democracy Manifesto and generate discussions and debates in the society. By building infrastructures of modern communication, and helping to build networks among the Civil-organs at different levels, and within the same level, the government will commit itself to strengthen the pillars which may bear the structure of the “Enlightened-order”. It will thus ensure the functioning of a law-bound society, which cannot be manipulated and corrupted by the remnants of power which still survives from the old-system as it exists in the present world-order.

List of Major Goals

- *Build Classless Society*

Recognizing the superiority of the values on which the ideas of the enlightened world are based, over the ones which have prompted the development of an unjust world in the past, the new order sets as its goal to build a classless society where every individual may enjoy equal dignity and respect and the possibility to contribute in the progress of the social-political development.

- *Ensure Security of Life*

The enlightened-order gives highest priority to the security of life against hunger and basic needs, and protection of liberty and freedom to develop one’s potential as a human being possessing higher-level of consciousness beyond the needs of physical survival.

- *Bring Enlightened Democracy to Life*

It will pursue the goal of meaningful participation of all without any discrimination of race, culture and gender where everybody is fully aware of the possibilities of development and the rights they are entitled to. In an enlightened democracy, where people are equipped with knowledge and information through the Civic-organs, social and political participations will be meant to secure complete transparencies and eliminate all forms of corruption from all spheres of life.

- *Establish Economic Justice*

Its goal is to dismantle the institutional structure and mechanism which have grown out of the old feudal system and colonial history, and remove the oligarchs, who may aim at gaining control over resources in their hands in order to shape the developments of the economic life of the society to their advantage. The main goal of the economic justice will be to clean the society from the presently functioning “casino-culture” of wild financial speculations in a market driven by values, which intends to create money from “nothing”. It will remove monopoly capitalism, supported by present banking system which dominates the world, and replace it with a just global system where people will possess the power to decide how economic transactions and benefits should be distributed and ensured. People’s representatives will manage the banks, and steer the development of the economic infrastructures, while the Civic-organs and the Government will guide and help them in pursuing the desired path of justice.

- *Foundation of a Universal Culture*

The goal of the universal culture will be remove barriers among human beings due to class, caste and belief and bring an end to all forms of discrimination including race and gender. The new culture will set up support centres under the guidance of the Civic-organs to promote universal culture free from religious dogmatism and traditional practices driven by illiteracy and ignorance. It will seek to keep scientific knowledge at the helm of the new cultural order while creating openness to frontiers of experiences, which may not be understood by using the knowledge of science alone. While recognizing the spiritual nature of man, the enlightened culture will take distance from religious institutions, which may deprive the human beings of the benefits of scientific knowledge, and the freedom to explore the frontiers of life outside ignorance-bound narrow traditions of age-old culture. By recognizing the superiority of the universal culture over all other cultures, which may have hampered the development of the human beings towards a “higher-man”, all institutions of religions, which may have played political roles in exploiting the human beings, should be dismantled, and replaced by cultural institutions promoting universal values. In this new cultural-order the Civic-organs will set the guidelines for public entertainment and culture, which will emphasizes on the nature of man as a creative being, who seeks to experience the greater realms of the mind beyond the instinctual pleasures and squandering of life in meaningless “fun”.

- *Environmental Protection*

The new order will keep guard against the destruction of nature, which supports human life participating together with millions of other species, in sustaining a fine-tuned ecosystem on Earth. All activities of development which may jeopardize the harmonious existence with nature will be avoided.

- *Build Peace And Contain Conflicts*

Among other goals will be to demilitarize the world and work against the formation of military and economic alliances (reminiscent of the twentieth century) and free the international organizations

from the hegemony of a few powerful nations with colonial history. Any intervention of one group of nation, enjoying military-technological and financial superiority over others and motivated by the desire to maintain hegemony over other nations, must be prohibited. Instead, it should be replaced by principles set by the highest Civic-Organ established in the global level, which may intervene on behalf of mankind, in situation when enlightened-order may face severe threats of its existence. The enlightened-order will also develop mechanisms to handle conflicts, which may arise among nations and religions (existing in the present cultural diversity) before a peaceful world may emerge from the present world-order, which verges on chaos today.

Way to go forward

How to establish such an enlightened economic-political-cultural order, while the political culture throughout history has been a history of oppression and exploitation? Without curbing the greed of the wealthy and the power hungry players, and setting conditions which may empower the poor to challenge injustice and manipulation, the politics of instituting a process where all are entitled to vote, will not bring any meaningful development of freedom. One must ensure methods to empower the disadvantaged with means that can halt the ambitions of greed that has corrupted the development of humanity and hindered mankind to evolve in a higher way. The way the idea of democracy is professed by the capitalist societies, is certainly not conducive to freedom of the poor. For democracy to have any meaning in furthering freedom of all, it has to be given direction and put under control. It will bear a vision that individuals must understand the value of compassion and share the suffering of the others in order to ensure the security and freedom of all. An ideology of a brutal competition must be replaced by the idea of the brotherhood of man.

The way to an enlightened world is a progressive path: One needs to build it step by step. The societies, who have been able to secure all life against basic needs, and created conditions where creativity can flourish, the individuals should be stimulated to seek freedom of individual self-realization. In this level of progress of freedom, knowledge, information and openness to the outside world are great assets. In societies where individuals enjoy similar economic strengths and opportunities to access knowledge and get stimulation to realize their higher potentials, the ideas of human rights take altogether a different dimension. All ideas, which project to bring advancement and evolution of humanity, must remain open to discussion and scrutiny in a progressive society. Where this process is mired by the imposition of particular view, and sanctity of traditions bearing a particular culture, the possibility of human freedom becomes stagnant. Without creating an openness and respect for freedom to challenge ideas of human progress, the path of democracy will fail. When democracy can be manipulated by a dominating culture and belief, while seeking its superiority over other cultures and ideas, it will lose its meaning. In a true democracy that seeks to create freedom of man where individuals may contribute to the advancement of humanity, one must take distance from any fundamentalist view whether of religious or philosophical nature. Here all dialogues and discussion must pivot around the question of building an enlightened world.

Democracy should not be dragged into the quagmire where all views, ideas and cultural prejudices and superstitions may claim equal rights and clog the advancement of the society. Although one may identify oneself with a particular culture and belief, where one feels comfortable and happy because one is brought up in this environment, everybody should be taught to seek a greater perspective beyond one's own narrow parochial world. Dialogue should not mean the path of regressing back in the dark ages of history by accepting the developments which has led us to wars and conflicts in the past. The developments based on religions, and extreme views, which may threaten the security of others, should be discarded if humanity must progress and be free. Instead of letting all cultural practices and prejudices occupy the cultural stage of the world with equal status, one should generate a process of dialogue among all cultures to set up guiding rules that will help mankind to seek a path of evolutionary progress. In the name of democracy when ideas, bearing superstitions and prejudices against other culture and people, may aspire to rise to take hold of power in the society, one must win over them and strike hard to foil such evil aspirations. Instead, they should be confronted with the views and aspiration of the universal man seeking the enlightened path. However, one should not be naïve about this superior form of democracy: To institute its reign one will need courage to challenge the powers of the diverse power-hungry groups, who have dominated the history in the past.

To realize such a process one will need to promote the growth of an enlightened Civil Society i.e. the community of teachers, trainers and guides, who will form the backbone of security and peace in the world.

The main idea behind the enlightened-order is the idea of no class, no nation, and no group. Its leaders will be the enlightened human beings, who may belong to different classes, caste or creed. However, they all can be identified by the way they bear the higher nature of the human mind through acts and deeds. They will remain at the apex of the new social order.

These enlightened human beings, who are driven by the desire to serve greater interests of mankind, beyond the narrow interests arising from the lower-nature of man, exist in all societies at all time. Though, it is clear that in modern time their role in history has diminished, and got drowned under the chaos of the market culture. The positions of these human beings, who act out of idealism and vision, and believe in the power of a society based on love and compassion, must be reinvigorated in the society so that they may help to carry forward human evolution to the next stage.

The new order will be a social-system guided by these selfless human beings, who are willing to sacrifice their life to bring progress and evolution of the human species. Where to find them? How to structure the society where they may act as guides, and give shape to a new order? What will be the nature of the political organ in which they may function, and which they may shape? How will they interact with people, and represent the will of the people to achieve liberty and freedom of more meaningful kind, than what the market culture offers today? How will they be able to counteract the tendencies of

human nature, which have coloured the history of the human race so far? Will it be anything similar to what we know from history, or will it be a totally different world?

Foundation and Structure

The basic starting point of building this system will be the existence of a few enlightened human beings living in a community. These human beings will form a civic-committee, which will spear head the development and success of the system in a structure consisting of a small cluster of population- like, for example, a village. They will be the “enlightened” men/women of the village. These “enlightened” persons may come from any class, creed, gender and profession. They will be identified by their words and deeds, and their engagement in promoting the rights declared in the “Enlightened Democracy Manifesto”. The main agenda of the civic-committee will be to teach, guide, explain and inform people in their community about the new order, so that people may participate in a meaningful way in constructing their own future, while they choose the governing organs through election. Instead of promoting party agendas, as is done in modern democracy today, they will promote the Universal agenda carrying new visions of mankind.

This civic-committee will replace the idea of the presently functioning party system. Their activities will include (beside those mentioned before) the project of engaging the people in the community in issues of common concern, keep vigilance over the violations which may occur, report violations to the governing organ accredited with the authority to project the population and form a network through which people as a whole may easily react and ask for remedy. Their task will be also to involve people in the social networking, which may generate cohesion, understanding and solidarity and create a climate of meaningful debate.

The head of the community will choose the members of the civic-committee, and be its head. Among others his/her task will be to see to the successful functionary of the organ in fulfilling the aimed objectives . After the establishment of the Civil-organ, election to different committee taking care of the social-political, economic and cultural developments of the society will be held under the supervision of an election committee. Anyone in the civil committee may suggest any candidate: To qualify, the candidate must have served in the governance of the society or been a member of similar civil-organ. It may resemble Chinese direct election in the village level. However, it is very different from it: There is no party, who can dictate. Instead of party members, the civil committee, on whom people have trust and faith, will suggest candidates, who will abide by the “Enlightened Democracy Manifesto”, which protect freedom and rights of all in a meaningful way.

Structure

The people will directly choose members of the law-giving committee who will decide the principles and rules in building the social-order. These law-giving organs will chart out the goals of development, and

the nature of freedom and liberty which the society should promote and advocate. They will become the guiding force of the society aspiring to establish the reign of the “higher-man”. The law-giving committee, in turn, will appoint the members of the executive-committee, who will be entitled to implement the ideas and realize the goal of the enlightened society. The law-giving committee will also appoint the election committee, who will accept the qualification of the candidates, and arrange and supervise the election, and authorize the legality of the election result. Similarly, the law-giving organ will choose the members of the judicial organ, who will bear the responsibility of enforcing law equally to all, and protecting every individual citizen in enjoying security of a just society, which cannot be violated by any form of corruption.

The members of the Executive-committee and Judicial-committee will choose the head of the society, who will lead the Civic-committee and carry the authority to guide the media-culture, including the way people may be informed about the developments in the society. Under the advice of the Election committee, the law-giving body may remove the head and ask the Executive-committee and Judicial-committee to appoint a new person.

Among other functions of the head: He/she will be responsible in reporting the achievements of the Executive-committee and Judicial-committee and suggest new ideas and point out flaws. He/she will also choose representative to the structure which exists above the village level.

Thus the social-order will form an entangled network, where individual human activities and actions will be answerable to others, and guided by a common vision and goal which will serve all with equal effect.

Another new idea of this enlightened-order will be the presence of similar structures at different levels of population clustering. In the next-upper level, above the village, will lie the sub-district level (or a township). The governing structure will be very similar in this level to what may exist in the village level. The main difference will be that while in the village level, the election will be direct, in the higher-level it will be indirect election where the representatives from the village level will elect the members of the law-giving council, who in turn will choose the Executive-council, Judicial-council and the Election-council (committees in village level are called councils in the higher level).

The head in the higher-level will be responsible for networking among the civil-committees in the village level and ensuring free and trustworthy information flow across the villages. He/she will become responsible for the establishment of civic-council in the sub-district level. The civil-council in this level will consist of members represented by the Civil-Committees in the Village-level. The representation to the Civil-Council will be made by the individual Civil-Committees. The main activities of the Civil-council will be to give feedbacks to the village level and help them strengthen and consolidate their power in guiding the population. In the next level, i.e. the district level, the hierarchical repetition of similar order will continue. It will proceed to the level of provinces and state. May be, it can even embrace the entire World as an organization.

The existence of this order can be harmonious, only if the smaller units embedded in larger units get enough help and support from the larger structures, and at the same time, the smaller units provide outputs which the larger units need for its survival. I shall come back to these local and global relations later. At this moment I shall expand on the system operating at the village level.

Primary conditions, tasks and challenges of an enlightened democracy

The most primary condition of an enlightened world is the existence of an enlightened governance, which bears the visions of the higher-man, and the goal of establishing peace and security for all. The basic securities people need are the securities of life against hunger, shelter, indignity and threats to life due to disease and natural calamities. The next level of securities involve freedom to access knowledge, information and know-how with which one may improve one`s conditions of development, choose and protect one`s conviction and belief, and secure one`s aspirations to improve the present condition of living. After these fundamental securities are guaranteed, one requires support to see things in life from greater perspectives beyond one`s individual framework of life and need, and open oneself outside one`s belief, prejudices and ignorance which create hindrances to the evolution of society.

The enlightened social order hinges on the ideas which have universal acceptance by all as the most logical and reasonable platform of values, without being clamoured and compromised by the narrow interests of some people or groups. The enlightened governance makes the universal values, which may contradict and oppose the cultural beliefs and superstitions of some people, as the foundation of its policy of enforcing justice and rights. The universal values should not be derived from the culture of the dominating nations and people who may try to impose their culture on the rest. These values should be built around the views about universe, nature and life, which form the foundation of the ideas behind the enlightened world, through participation, dialogues and discussions among people of different nations and cultures. The atmosphere of war and conflict must cease before instituting the ideas of an enlightened society.

Tasks of the enlightened governance

The enlightened society should take guard against the abuses of power by people enjoying economic and military advantages, who may try to dislodge the world from fulfilling the vision of an equitable society. The enlightened governance should emphasize on the necessity to guide and inform people, who are less educated and informed about the potential of human life. By inspiring the more educated and informed population (who are also the bearer of the universal values), to participate in the activities of guiding and teaching the uninformed, the enlightened world should build the basis of a more and more enlightened society. In order to succeed, one needs to secure the atmosphere which may create openness to universal values and respect for opinions and ideas which may contribute in building a

stronger platform of cooperation among different ideas. With it, one needs to take distance from any dogmatism which may contradict and oppose the universal aspiration of mankind. All religious teachings not in conformity with the universal values and aspiration of freedom and evolution of human race towards a “higher-man”, must be abandoned. At the same time ideologies, which may tend to spread chaos and break social cohesions built on the values of love and compassion for all, must be checked.

Accepting the reality that most societies in the world are mixtures of heterogeneous population as regards the level of education, security and opportunities, enlightened world needs to remove disparities which cause inequalities among human beings, and strive to provide everybody with equal opportunities of development as a free human being. Any distinction made on the basis of race, gender, wealth and power must be eradicated, and all forms of manipulation exploiting the physical, mental, or economic weakness of others must be strictly prohibited. The freedom of a few dominating and controlling the others by abusing higher technological means, not available to the majority, must be brought under rule and restricted in order to guarantee freedom for all. Free competitions must be checked in a society where a few may possess every advantage of exploiting the financial, technological and material resources and others have nothing but their labour and life to sell. Society must remove all categories of differences which may resemble as class, and build a classless society pivoted on universal values of love and compassion for all.

Competitions may generate innovations and creative solution to win over the competitors. However, it becomes brutal and inhuman when innovations and creativity are used to amass fortune at the cost of misery of the less fortunate ones. The economic playground of the human should not be similar to the animals of lesser intelligence. The competitions in order to survive, as in the animal world, can be a necessity in a world suffering from scarcity of resources. In the human sphere innovations and creativity should be stimulated in order to provide means of survival of all and not as ways to possess maximum wealth and power with which one may control, manipulate and exploit the rest.

Societies should build cells of well informed and educated human beings, whose tasks would be to bring information and knowledge to the less fortunate ones and empower them with technological and other means to resolve the disparities in the society and thus establish the ground for building an enlightened generation. The cells should take guard against the failure of instituting the enlightened social order at different levels in the society, and ensure availability of justice to all.

Challenges of an Enlightened World

To many the ideas of the enlightened world may appear out of tune with the reality of the world and what history may tell us. They will argue that the dynamics shaping the world appear very different from what the enlightened world envisages.

The way human history has developed during the modern time, speaks of this unethical and immoral nature of man, which is characteristic of human beings who have not discovered higher human possibilities through modes of co-operation and exchange, which may secure life of all. Life of the higher-man adopts a new mode, which teaches man to share, help and empower others in order to help them find ways to secure livelihood. It requires from man the ability to see life as an arena of love, brotherhood and compassion for all.

The challenges of the enlightened world, among others, are to understand the mechanisms by which human history and civilization have become prey to the lower-nature of man. By recognizing the necessity of evolution of man towards a higher-path, one needs to prescribe ways and means to free the higher nature of man from the captivity of the profit-loving human beings. In this regard one must be guided by a vision and a view of the unity of living world and the harmony and the order which may bring freedom of the higher-man. One needs to understand the links that exist among institutions which perpetuate the dominance and hegemony of the financial class and their collaborators coming from other cultural areas. The understanding of their relations to the military-industrial complex is most essential to find ways to free humanity from the evil forces of our time.

Main point is: One must not accept the reality of history, as it is today, as the foundation of building the future of mankind. It should be considered as erroneous and fallen path where humanity has been led by traders and bankers of the 18th and 19th century Europe. Recognizing it as a path of the lower-man, human beings should throw away the existing system and replace it with an ethical and moral system that may bring human evolution to a higher-path. We need a system change - a radical overthrow of the monopoly-capitalism in the first place (instead of making economic theories by keeping capitalism as something sacrosanct).

One argues that only profits and personal freedom to make gains and accumulate power motivate most human being to be innovative, creative and keep themselves engaged in economic activities that can bring new innovations and rapid development.

This is the position of those, who believe that there is no gain in making sacrifices for others, and working for the cause of mankind at the expense of one's own personal interests. It is the belief of those, who do not see the way everything are dependent and entangled with each other, and do not know that the source of one's own happiness and peace is the happy and peaceful life of the other's. They do not understand that the true source of lasting freedom for oneself is the freedom of the fellow human beings, which can only be created with the power of love and being compassionate to the sufferings of others.

Those, who reject compassion and love as a sentimental religious attitude, in order to hold on to their animal behaviour, seem to be dominating the cultural premise of the technological age today. The

progress and success of this lower nature of the mind must be challenged by the enlightened women and men who are willing to build the new premise for a higher civilization.

As long as the elements, which threaten the realization of an enlightened democracy all over the world, are not brought under the control of a universal body, which will have the authority to deal justice in furthering premises of freedom for mankind, the idea of peace will remain elusive. In a world, where different nations conceive democracy and freedom in different ways, and practice and implement them in the context of their individual culture following narrow political interest, leaving the issue of human progress to an organization like the UN, as it is now, where every nation is trying to find opportunities for their interests, will not help to create any enlightened world.

Where, when and how enlightened democracy may work?

The ideas of the enlightened democracy cannot be implemented in a society unless the citizens are free from hunger and basic needs and are exposed to knowledge and information with which they may explore the conditions of freedom available in life. It requires a society that may provide access to high level of education and awareness of the possibilities that may lie outside the beliefs and ideologies which form the backbones of the existing social structures. Only in a society where human beings feel secure in exploring the possibilities of one`s development without being threatened by authorities jeopardizing the search of freedom and meaning of life, the enlightened democracy can take roots. It is a society of enlightened human beings, who understand the possibilities of life as an evolving being and willing to explore into higher and higher realms of consciousness, which can only be achieved through joint efforts. In such a society, people are stimulated to analyse conditions of life with reason without bearing prejudices, and encouraged to make independent judgment about the developments of the society with the aim of correcting its course. People are given opportunities so that all may contribute with ideas and actions in shaping the evolution. Using knowledge as the foundation of an enlightened life, when people are inspired to engage in creative activities with the aim of changing the social reality, which may open greater dimensions of freedom, the spirit of the enlightened society may come forth. By creating conditions of free choice and thus building a foundation of a new reality, not dictated mechanically by the forces of nature, or coerced by existing structures of power governing the social and political dynamics, the enlightened society offers ways to recreate the world according to higher needs of the mind.

However, it does not profess a random development in different directions following different ideas. It adheres to the vision of development which may unite all to build a social environment of harmony where all may live in peace. It connects man to its cosmic nature, where all are entangled in a whole fulfilling the meaning of a purposeful design (cosmos is not an accidental random manifestation of laws as big-bang theory teaches, but a purposeful creation arising from a cosmic mind where existence of the tiniest micro bodies to the largest cosmic structures are all manifestations of a cosmic consciousness). To create such a world one would need an education system and an enlightened civil society that will

provide guidance to people. Knowledge and power of creativity alone are not sufficient to attain the awareness and goal directed towards the higher evolution of man. People will need guides in exploring the possibilities of freedom and understanding how to work in fulfilling the vision of an enlightened world. Thus the enlightened world envisions the rise of the enlightened teachers and guides. It will be a society free of fundamentalism of religion, belief or ideology and open to all ideas which may bring progress with universal appeal to all, who seek a common frontier of development for mankind without consideration of race, culture or nation.

Civic-Organ

The existence of the Civic-Organ is the most central element in the Enlightened World-order. It will be the basic foundations of all societies at all levels guiding people to find meaningful ways of choosing their own development. It will replace the religious societies who may operate in the public sphere, and be the act as the meeting place for ideological differences among contending views about economic, political and cultural matters. It will be the voice of the universal man, seeking an enlightened path of human evolution. It will inspire every human being to learn the universal language of freedom, liberty and justice, and help them to know how to avoid the drag towards the lower nature bound to instincts similar to what exists in the animal kingdom. It will be the voice of love and compassion for all, and a way forward to know one's own higher nature.

Civic-organs will act as the centres for raising public awareness about one's greater possibilities, and transmit knowledge and information which may strengthen brotherhood of man of all races, cultures and help to open doors to explore new frontiers of creativity through co-operation, discussion and debate.

Tasks of Civic-Organs

Promote the knowledge of the cosmos and the nature of human life and its interdependence with the living and nonliving world which forms the surrounding environment (this will act as the foundation of the ideas of an Enlightened World).

Teach human beings about the relationship that exist between the micro and macro-cosmos, and help them to see themselves as the bearer of a "cosmic mind".

Teach about what is moral and ethical in the perspective of what exists in nature, and how the things in the cosmos are ordered and organized.

Teach about what is the higher-nature of man, and who is an enlightened person and how to attain that enlightened stage?

Inspire human beings to seek the power lying within himself/herself to bring changes in history.

Explain the way the social and political evolution has occurred in history and how different forces have shaped the social-order we see today.

Teach that human security does not lie in competition and winning over others, but in co-operation, understanding of other's needs, and sharing with others, one's own point of advantage. The security for all is the best security for any individual, which can only be gained through collaboration. By defeating others one may win wealth and properties, but at the same time may lose the security which one may enjoy in the spirit of sharing with others and showing respect for others' life.

Teach that the human beings are not animals of consumption: Consumption culture gives man only the freedom to live a meaningless life driven by primitive instincts.

Explain the way the ideas of religion have evolved and the religious institutions have taken shapes, supported by political powers, seeking dominance and wealth.

Explain the true essence of a "Spiritual" man.

Open the doors to understand the relations between "religion" and science.

Make aware of our intimate relations with the environment and help us to be responsible actors in relations to nature so that our own existence, and the existence of other species on Earth may not be jeopardized.

Inform all citizens about the manifestos of the enlightened society, which will guide the law-giving organs of the society in formulating rules and policies which govern the society (the manifestos will include the Civil and Political Rights, as well as the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights).

Create openness to the universal values and ideas and the necessity to make further progress in comprehending the fuller possibilities of human life, which may not yet be enshrined in the manifestos.

Teach and debate about what is economic justice, and make assessment of the rules and principles which may create the foundation of justice in the society.

Teach the value of sharing one's ingenuity and innovation with others in order to improve the quality of life of the community as a whole (instead of using the innovations in the pursuit of exploiting the others).

Provide the people with the knowledge of modern communication which may make the society more cohesive and strong, and inspire people in building social networking, which may make human beings

more responsive to the desire for meaning of life only attainable by sharing ideas and thoughts helpful to other human beings.

Create forums, involving audio-visual interactions across geographical and cultural barriers, where anyone in the community may freely join discussion and debate.

Steps to build enlightened democracy

Beside the Civic-Organ, which lies at the apex of the enlightened-order led by people, who would teach and inform the population about the ideas of the new-system, another central pillar of such a society will be the educational system which should inject necessary knowledge and awareness in order to help younger generation to create the enlightened-order. By creating, already at an early stage of education and social upbringing, an openness and respect for all life, and informing about the higher nature of human freedom and richer possibilities of life as a human being aware of their greater capacity of the mind, one may build the steps to create the envisioned world.

The enlightened education should stimulate different aspects of human mind by inspiring man to pursue Path of Knowledge, Path of Creativity, Path of Contemplation and Path of Compassion and Love. The main doctrine will be to build a foundation of values based on knowledge and awareness of the unity and wholeness that exists in a purposeful existence of the nature. These values will help mankind to bring peace, harmony and justice in the world.

.... To be expanded: Different steps needed for different countries