

CURING THE ILLS OF INDIA

A FAIL-SAFE APPROACH

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FOREWORD

Man's inquisitive nature has always prompted him to look and probe beyond himself. The book entitled *Curing the Ills of India* is an apt testimony of a curious and concerned writer who has very conscientiously and admirably endeavoured to give vent to his surfeiting passions to serve the Motherland. The publication of this book speaks of the tireless efforts of Dr. P.K. Sinha in terms of his extraordinary solicitude for the surroundings, love and care for the country, and consideration for humanity engulfed as a whole in the mire of chaos, confusion and insecurity. The book places on record very meticulously the various ills plaguing India and making the Independence merely a dream to almost all the sections of the society. No civilization can boast of its survival and claim peace and progress in an atmosphere of intrigue, insecurity, illiteracy, inaction, ignorance, illusion and incredibility. In the form of this book, Dr. Sinha has put words to the concern of the millions of Indians desiring their leaders to herald an era of peace, progress and prosperity by honestly addressing the evils and problems eating up the vitals of our democracy. Therefore, the book is a commendable attempt aiming at serving as an eye opener so as to identify the basic issues and problems which are the very roots of the troubles and tribulations of the common Indian. The book suggests a fail-safe, fool-proof and holistic approach meant for eradicating the evils causing a great misery, and affliction to the average Indian. Undoubtedly, no method adopted in tit-bits can solve the problems of this vast nation. The writer has rightly adopted an appreciable method in pinpointing and investigating the

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problems and suggesting the various solutions so as to obliterate them. The deployment of data, facts and figures is praiseworthy; and denotes the scientific aptitude of Dr. Sinha.

If we want to survive peacefully with an instinct to lead a panic free life in India and wish for the *Ram Raj* as envisioned by Mahatma Gandhi, this book may serve as a pathfinder ushering in an era of the revival of the lost glory of this great nation. Hoping that this maiden print of the book will follow many reprints, I wish Good Luck to Dr. P.K. Sinha!

15th April, 2009

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PREFACE

Humbly dedicated to my Master,

Who provided me with inner strength to write this book

Who should read this book?

The title of the book, *Curing the Ills of India*, itself indicates the true essence of the book. The book intends to project a road-map for eradicating the ills plaguing this country and its people for long. This book depicts as to how all the citizens can be put on a viable growth platform, whereby everyone will have reasonable opportunity and will experience environment conducive to lead his life with dignity. As such, this book deals with issues which are relevant to the common man as well as the intelligentsia and policy makers of the country. The common man can visualize from this book as to how simply problems of all the citizens can be solved and people can attain quick empowerment which can save them from the ignominy of abject helplessness to which many are subjected due to poor state of governance in the country.

This book provides simple but fail-safe ideas for intellectuals and thinkers to think upon as to how many complex problems of India can be simplified and solved thereby ushering in an era of transparency and happy governance in the entire country. These intellectuals are the real people who can examine viability of the arguments contained in this book. I look upon these intellectuals to scrutinize the solutions of various issues as proposed in this

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book and thus help in initiating meaningful consideration of the same, because the proposed solutions have immense potential to unleash cherished reforms in the country.

Since the policy makers and the political bosses of the nation are the ultimate people for introducing any change in the governance of the country, I appeal to them to go through this book. The ideas contained in this book are very simple and practicable but still potent enough to ensure durable peace and prosperity for the country. Leaders of the country can easily give life to these ideas and thus mitigate sufferings of millions of people, such contribution of theirs would leave indelible imprints in the annals of history and these leaders will be happily remembered for all times to come.

Background of the book

During my tenure as an educational administrator, I realized virtues of fixing up responsibilities of individuals, I noticed that it minimized disputes as well as extracted optimum performance from all concerned. It was also observed that if the individuals are dissuaded and checked from bringing their whims to the fore, and if they are restricted to work in accordance with set guidelines and procedures, then stress level of all concerned reduces significantly which culminates in increased productivity as well as cordial relations among all.

At the same time, I also found that even shirkers started performing well, when escape routes which could provide shelters under the veil of discretion or secrecy were closed, on the other hand, this advent of productivity in their working kept them satisfied, too. Concurrently, it was also observed that in the absence of clear-cut guidelines or slackness in review of performance of individuals, performance level of

even good workers was affected adversely. Thus, it convinced me that for executing good governance, complex management theories are not required, instead, it requires only simple, straight-forward, and transparent set up, with minimum hassles for all concerned.

Whenever, I analyzed sufferings of the people of the country, it dawned on me that the problems of the people can also be solved in a fairly simple manner by inducing simplicity in governance and dispensing away with hundreds of existing piecemeal welfare schemes which are in vogue but with inherent scope for mismanagement. In this context, I do not share the views of the intellectuals, who term problems of the country to be so diverse and complex that these cannot be solved in the near future. No doubt, India is a big country with many religions, castes, languages, customs, cultures, etc., thus her diversity is in full bloom but still basic needs of all the human beings are exactly the same, because everyone requires food, security, cloth, healthcare, education, housing, and employment opportunities for proper development. Thus, the building blocks of growth of all the human beings are exceedingly simple, irrespective of any other consideration. This prompted me to put forward my ideas so that someone may find something useful in these views.

Purpose of the book

This book has been written with a view to provide clear-cut ideas which can be used by the policy makers to improve governance of the country, as this alone can bring quick empowerment in the lives of the people and ensure lasting peace and prosperity for the nation. Here, I have attempted to project the main problems which are confounding the countrymen and then have also suggested clear-cut strategies

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as to how these problems can be solved. For the sake of completeness, I have also mentioned the expected bottlenecks which might be encountered while pursuing suggested strategies, and, thereafter, I have discussed as to how these bottlenecks can also be removed.

However, I have tried to avoid raking up debatable minor issues as they distract attention from the main problem and defer meaningful action against the existing problem. For example, I have suggested a strategy to tackle reservation related problems of the country without commenting either on the merits/demerits of reservation policy or the question of inclusion/exclusion of creamy layer from the ambit of reservation benefits. Because talking about such issues, only invites endless debate, instead I have talked about the strategy as to how people of the reserved categories can be quickly empowered so much that the need of reservation benefits for them itself becomes redundant.

It is true that there might be many other problems bothering this country which I could not address in this small book, since here my focus was to address the most basic problems of the country in a straight forward manner. I feel if these basic problems are solved, their ripple effect will solve a host of other smaller issues, also. May be these are bold statements on my part but I have a firm belief that the solutions proposed in the book are almost fail-safe and hence have the potential to solve most of the problems of this country.

Relevance of the book

The approach taken in this book mainly revolves round good governance. In fact, the virtues of good governance always remain relevant. For example, historians stress that

Moghul Empire was firmly established in India, as a result of pragmatic policies adopted by Emperor Akbar but the same empire later crumbled down due to flawed policies of his successors. I take another example of the People's Republic of China, whose march towards prosperity gathered momentum only after the pragmatic policies of its venerated leader Deng Xiaoping were implemented in 1978. Therefore, it can be concluded that the peace and prosperity of people have direct correlation with the mode of governance, they are subjected to.

The main purpose of the data used in this book is to drive home a point to explain the various approaches discussed in this book. This data may get outdated after a period of time; nevertheless, the underlying ideas will never cease to hold their relevance. Similarly, even if, there is any omission in mentioning exact data, chances of which are minimal, it will not affect the veracity of the arguments developed in the book as the same arguments can continue with revised data after due extrapolation. Thus, the ideas discussed in the book will always remain relevant because the basic needs of the human beings will never change.

Further, at many places in this book, I have used masculine gender, only, for ease of presentation; however, my presentation is equally applicable to both the genders, if not specified otherwise.

In the end, I also appeal to the esteemed readers of this book that if there are any comments on this book, these may kindly be forwarded to the author or sent by the e-mail at the address: curing.india@gmail.com.

Prem Kumar Sinha

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As now my dream of compiling my cherished ideas in a book form has been realized, it is time for me to formally acknowledge the help, cooperation, and encouragement, I received from various quarters. First of all, I owe my indebtedness to *Dayalbagh*, which has made me what I am today. I take pride in my upbringing at such a pious place. Next, I sincerely acknowledge encouragement and support I received from my colleagues and other well-wishers, who helped me to nurture my ideas which have now manifested in the form of this book. By naming a few will mean injustice to others, thus I thank all my colleagues and other well-wishers from the core of my heart for all the things they have done for me. I also gratefully acknowledge the contribution of those intellectuals whose writings in various newspapers and magazines prodded my inner-self and provided seeds for germination of my ideas.

My thanks are also due to Major (Retd.) R.L. Khosla and Mr. Arun Kumar, who devoted a lot of time and painstakingly went through the manuscript of the book. I, also, appreciatively acknowledge the assistance of Prof. S.K. Chauhan and Prof. J.K. Verma, who were particularly very kind to go through the manuscript of the book and helped me a lot in refining my presentation. However, my acknowledgements would be incomplete if I do not express my gratitude towards my mother, wife (Rama), daughter (Shruti), son (Agam), brother (Raju), and brother-in-law (Sanjiv), who always stood with me while many others did not like my straight-forward life-style.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

APL	Above Poverty Line
BPL	Below Poverty Line
CSS	Comprehensive Social Security
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GOI	Government of India
LPG	Liquefied Petroleum Gas
NAAC	National Assessment and Accreditation Council
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
NID	National Identity
NREGS	National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme
NSS	National Sample Survey
OBC	Other Backward Castes
RSBY	Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (National Health Insurance Scheme)
SC	Scheduled Castes
ST	Scheduled Tribes
TPDS	Targeted Public Distribution System
UGC	University Grants Commission
UPDS	Universal Public Distribution System