Silence & Smile are two powerful tools. Smile is the way to solve many problems & Silence is the way to avoid many problems.

The HINDU Analysis
3rd March
Stephen K. Bannon - 3 idiots
Be Happy & Help Each Other
Q-Critically comment on issues involved in funding of political parties in India and their implications on governance.
Political funding is the nodal centre of unaccounted and illicit money transfers, and is the primary cause of corruption of the body politic. Party funding is often equated with political funding. But political funding need not be limited to party funding, and may encompass election expenditure of candidates at various tiers, federal, state and local. It is also important to distinguish such funding from political corruption that may involve funding of members of legislative organs of political parties directly, members of the executive branch of the government or even of the judiciary. In India much of the known extent of corruption is strongly associated with the bureaucracy, command organs, public sector, and other constitutional and statutory bodies. All political corruption involves an unfair, and most often unlawful, use of public office to secure a private gain. In the process common good, which a public office is supposed to serve, is appropriated for partisan ends.
In India political parties are expected to file their income tax returns every year although they do not have to pay income tax.

Recent resort to the Right to Information Act, the Association for Democratic Reforms found that the total income of all political parties in India from 2004-05 to 2014-15 was ₹11,367.34 crore, in which the share of the Congress and the BJP was more than half.

Till recently political parties were required to disclose donations only for amounts higher than ₹20,000.

Political parties received ₹1,835.63 crore, i.e. 16%, of their income, and another 15% they raised by way of membership, sale of coupons, interest on deposits, etc.

The rest, i.e. 69%, of the income of political parties came from unknown sources, and this segment has been steadily on the rise during this period.

For some regional parties, more than three-fourths of income came from unknown sources.

While the income of national parties increased by 313% from such sources during this period, that of regional parties increased by 652%

Corporate Sector funding.
The recent demonetisation move has affected the ‘undisclosed’ sources of income of political parties, positioning a ruling party such as the BJP in a much more advantageous position.

The recent Budget announcement of the Finance Minister that every cash donation above ₹2,000 needs to be acknowledged in the IT returns further constrains low of funds to parties other than a ruling party.

Even the income of large parties such as the BJP and the Congress is just about the budget of a modest university in India.

Therefore, while the dossiers of political party funding need to be made transparent.

Funding of elections

The big political funding in India, however, goes into election expenditures.

Party candidates in an election vary from one candidate to another, and there is much variation across political parties in this regard.
We can safely assume that an MLA spends on an average about ₹5 crore to get elected - The legal limit of ₹28 lakh is far of this mark.

Assuming that there are five contending candidates in a constituency, and even if each one of them does not spend as much, but just half of their elected counterpart, an amount of about ₹15 crore will be spent in each constituency, which with about 4,215 MLAs in India works out to an about ₹13,000 crore per annum.

While the legal limit that a Lok Sabha candidate can spend is ₹70 lakh, a victorious candidate on an average does not spend less than ₹10 crore for the purpose.

Suppose we assume again an average of five candidates per constituency, and halving the amount to losers, about ₹30 crore will be spent in each Lok Sabha constituency, and given 543 members of the Lok Sabha, about ₹3,300 crore per annum.

Media Studies, which estimated that an amount of ₹30,000 crore was spent by the government, political parties and candidates in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections.

Then there are elections to the Upper Houses, both at the Centre and in some States, and the local governing bodies.
The way out

- The key to regulate political funding therefore lies in bringing down election expenditure and ensuring that it provides an opportunity to get the best public men and women to participate in the institutional life of Indian democracy.
- One of the ways suggested for the purpose is holding simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha as well as the State Assemblies.
- It may not lead to any significant reduction in the election expenditure as such.
- Better and close monitoring of the election process by the Election Commission has ensured that overt modes of violation at the hustings are checked.
- There are, however, many short term and long-term solutions that are feasible without disparaging competitive electoral democracy, such as citizen activism that keeps a close watch over campaigning.
- But in the longer run, political patronage itself needs to be reined in.
- Also reordering the relation between the legislature and executive.
Donald Trump- Address –Joint session.
Through most of his election campaign, he frequently promised to detain and deport “illegal aliens” and build a wall along the Mexican border to keep “rapists” and drug dealers out-his remarks on immigration.
Mr. Trump on Tuesday expressed his willingness to consider a merit-based system, rather than relying on lower-skilled immigration.
Multiple studies of the demographics of crime suggest that immigrants are less likely to commit crimes than native-born Americans.
Mr. Trump is also likely to have been alluding(call attention) to Indian fiscal policies when he spoke of a country that taxed U.S.-made Harley-Davidson motorcycles at a 100% rate.
Even though subsequent reports pointed out that the sales of the motorcycle company have grown at a brisk pace of 30% over the past two years in India despite such taxation.
Mr. Trump’s speech may be an inflection point in his evolution toward a more conciliatory ethos.
The right to choice

- The Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill of 2014 relaxes the legal limit for abortion.
- On Tuesday, the Supreme Court declined a woman’s plea to abort her 26-weekold foetus detected with Down’s Syndrome.
- Senior advocate argued that it was the woman’s constitutional right to terminate her pregnancy.
- The court refused permission for abortion, calling the foetus “a life”.
- It said the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act of 1971 places a 20-week ceiling on termination of pregnancy.
- This case is different from -January, the same Bench of Justices S.A. Bobde and L. Nageswara Rao had relaxed the 20-week cap to permit another woman to terminate her 24-week pregnancy.
- The foetus in that case was diagnosed with anencephaly — a congenital defect in which the baby is born without parts of the brain and skull.
- The court had said abortion was necessary to preserve the woman’s life- In the case of the foetus with Down’s Syndrome, the court said the foetus posed no danger to the woman’s life.
Had the draft Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill of 2014 been implemented as law, this case would not have come to court at all.

Under the 1971 Act, even pregnant rape victims cannot abort after 20 weeks, compelling them to move court.

Legal experts have argued that medical science and technology have made the 20-week ceiling redundant and that conclusive determination of foetal abnormality is possible in most cases after the 20th week of gestational age.

At least 3% of the 26 million births annually in India involve severe foetal abnormalities.
Down syndrome
Also called: trisomy 21

Wide range of developmental delays and physical disabilities caused by a genetic disorder.

A genetic chromosome 21 disorder causing developmental and intellectual delays.
Are our campuses under siege(घेराबंदी)?

- The Right does not want education to be a catalyst for change.
- That explains the assault(हमला) on public universities
- weakened democratic institutions
- Neo-liberal economic
- Education Minister of Rajasthan Maharana Pratap as The Great, in place of Akbar -Hinduism versus Islam.
- Ruling class, which comprises capitalists and landlords
- Universities are not meant for skill development nurturing a critical understanding of the social world.
- Campuses are under siege from those who cannot appreciate peoples’ connect to the motherland
- leftists - is confined to raising anti-India slogans publicly.
- 1)-Germany where people came together to create the nation first and then a unified state.
- 2)-France where the state is first, then the nation.
- 3)-Constructivist school
- Does not fit into any
- 1947 as a modern, sovereign nation-state entity- emotional connect
- More than Left versus Right, what we are witnessing is an outright attack on the very freedom to think
- Left govt- left power
- Right govt- right power
- Hegemony in the educational sphere between the Left and Right
- Historians R.S. Sharma and Romila Thapar- Left - very different methodologies to understand the past
- Left in power-It destroyed the intellectual life of West Bengal.
- The target is then a mind which thinks freely.
A registered party is recognised as a National Party only if it fulfils any one of the following three conditions:

- The party wins 2% of seats in the Lok Sabha (as of 2014, 11 seats) from at least 3 different States.
- At a General Election to Lok Sabha or Legislative Assembly, the party polls 6% of votes in four States and in addition it wins 4 Lok Sabha seats.
- A party gets recognition as State Party in four or more States.
The Vidhan Parishad (or Legislative Council) is the upper house in those states of India that have a bicameral legislature.

As of 2014, seven (out of twenty-nine) states have a Legislative Council: Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Telengana, and Uttar Pradesh.

Political party funding refers to the set of methods that a political party applies to raise money for campaign and routine activities.

This subject is also called political finance