Trajectory of Aam Aadmi Party of India: An overview

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ABSTRACT

Aam Aadmi Party, an Indian political party was formally launched on 26 November 2012, following the difference between the activists Anna Hazare and Arvind Kejriwal over the issue whether to politicize 'India Against Corruption' (IAC) movement or not. In India, the political corruption and instability could be observed in the whole government system. Kejriwal made a controversial decision to fight the corrupt government system by direct involvement in politics. Demonstrating a bold and democratic attitude, Aam Aadmi Party demanded that India, as a democratic country needs transparency, accountability, fair legislative system and common involvement in governmental affairs. In 2013, Aam Aadmi Party became the second largest vote-getter party in Delhi Legislative Assembly by grabbing 28 out of 70 seats. The significant part of its agendas was the introduction and legislation of Jan Lokpal bill in India. Due to unsupportive attitude of other major political parties in India, Aam Aadmi Party stepped down merely after 49 days in government. In 2015, Aam Aami Party again accomplished a historic win by securing 67 out of 70 seats in Lok Sabha with a pledge to clean up politics.

Key words: Aam Aadmi Party, Arvind Kejriwal, Swaraj, Jan Lokpal bill, India against Corruption.

Introduction

Gandhiji in India gave the message of truthfulness and non-violence which are the fundamental principles of existence. He once said, "Corruption and hypocrisy ought not to be inevitable products of democracy, as they undoubtedly are today." Corruption in governance system of India is all pervasive. Nobody really knows the exact extent of corruption in India. Even 2000 years ago, the Vedic dictum, 'Satyam vadhadharmam charah' (Speak the Truth, Lead Righteous Life) was found. There is Sanskit motto 'Satyameva Jayate' (Truth alone triumphs) adopted as the national motto of India, it is also inscribed on one side of all Indian currency. But the government system of India is one of the most corrupt systems

of the world. If corruption and nepotism are not regulated with passing time, the democratic system will be at risk in future.

Arun (2007) notes that there are five major actors on the scenario of corruption in India, that is inter-reliant, spiraling and supportive of the vicious cycle. "They are the neta, the corrupt politician; the babu, the corrupt bureaucrat; the lala, the corrupting businessman; the jhola, the corrupt NGO; and the dada the criminal of the underworld."

The World Bank defined corruption as the 'use of public office for private profit'. The Section 161 of Indian Penal Code describes corruption as, "Whoever, being or expecting to be a public servant, accepts or obtains, or agrees to accepts, or attempts to obtain gratification whatever, other than legal remuneration as a motive or a reward for doing or forbearing to do any official act or for showing or forbearing to show, in the exercise of his official functions, favour or disfavour to any person, with the Central or State Government or Parliament or Legislature of any State or with any public servants as such…" (Arun, 2007)

Corruption in India's governance system has now become monstrous. The long history of India's corruption started shortly after the country gained freedom from Britishers. The first scandal broke in 1948. She is now rated 76 out of 168 countries in her latest Corruption Perception Index in 2015. The score remains the same as last year's – 38/100 – showing lack of improvement (CORRUPTION PERCEPTIONS INDEX, 2015). India is the most populous democracy and tenth-largest economy in the world, the scale and scope of graft can feel both mundane and extraordinary. But neither of this can be confronted without enlightened and determined political leadership, without high levels of public awareness and support, and without a motivated and well-led private sector.

Due to widespread corruption, Indian democracy is struggling with itself and that is a prime pest to the development of country's political system. Thrice in the year 2011, Anna Hazare went on a hunger strike to control this menace. Anna Hazare, a 74-year-old activist, in April 2011 began an indefinite hunger strike at Jantar Mantar, in order to hearten the government to partake in the drafting of Jan Lokpal (Ombudsman) Bill, an anti-corruption legislation that regardless of seven attempts since 1968 had never become a law (Clerck, 2012). Hazare with his squad pressurized the government by attaining public and media support to implement Jan Lokpal. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Indian National Congress (INC) refused to align with the Lokpal Bill. Hazare's 'fast unto death' came following the premier Manmohan Singh's rejection to pass the Lokpal Bill. The movement fascinated thousands of supporters in the length and breadth of entire India. Arvind Kejriwal, an ex-IPS officer, rose rapidly on the back of street-agitation politics mandating the provision of corruption-free administration with people's participation and empowerment. Godhwani (2014) asserted about Kejriwal, "Nobody even knew him till about three years ago until Anna Hazare became the crusader against corruption with Kejriwal as one of his lieutenants." Aiming to fight India's endemic corruption, Kejriwal along with Anna Hazare demanded the Lokpal Bill to be implemented so that the corrupt could be

penalized. Protests erupted to Mumbai, Bangalore, Ahmedabad, Chennai, Shillong, Guwahati, Aizawl and other cities of India. On 8 April 2011, the government agreed to the movement's mandate. On 9 April, the government issued a notification in the Gazette of India on the formation of a joint committee and accepted that it would be co-chaired by a politician and a social activist. On the morning of 9 April 2011, Hazare terminated his 98-hour fast and set a deadline of 15 August 2011 to pass the bill. He also warned that he would summon a mass nation-wide campaigning if the bill wouldn't be passed.

Hazare, on 16 August 2011 announced to initiate a '*dharna*' (agitation) and an indefinite fast that swiftly poured the people in to streets from all over India and magnetized massive media attention. He rejected the government's version of Lokpal Bill by declaring it a 'cruel joke'. Due to mass protests, the political leadership was petrified. Instead of responding to protestors claims, the Congress-led government put Hazare and Kejriwal in arrest along with loads of their supporters. According to media reports about 1,300 of their followers were apprehended too in Delhi, including Kiran Bedi, Manish Sisodia and Shanti Bhushan. A few hours later of detention, Hazare was liberated but he refused to be released after Delhi Police granted him unconditional permission to fast at Ramlila Maidan. Seeing, thousands of protesters had started marching in his support towards Delhi, he continued to fast in the jail. Due to the millions of protesters nationwide, the government allowed him to begin a public hunger strike of fifteen days. On 20 August Hazare left the Tihar Jail for the Ramlila Grounds. On 21 August, thousands of people observed that sitting on an elevated platform, Hazare lost 7.5 kilograms (17 lb) and he was resolute to end his hunger strike after Parliament pass the Jan Lokpal Bill. On August 28, he put an end to his fast after the 288-hour and was admitted to Medanta Medicity for post-fast care following the "Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha unanimously resolved that the Standing Committee would consider Anna's three demands: including the lower bureaucracy in the Lokpal's purview, a central law for creating Lok Ayuktas in states and a citizen's charter for government departments providing public service. This finally paved the way for Anna's 12-day fast to end" (The Times of India, Aug 28, 2011). The year 2011 saw a wave of change marked by anti-corruption movements which demanded to implement Lokpal Bill to fight unbridled corruption in India.

When the agitation route failed, Kejriwal asserted that direct political involvement is necessitated. Street activism gave birth to Aam Aadmi Party that came into existence in 2012. Hazare did not support the idea of forming a new political party and contest elections. He, on 3 August 2012, decided to end their indefinite fast at 5PM, after the team decided to enter politics. The formation of the party on November 26 was coincided with the anniversary of India's adoption of Constitution in 1949. After coming to power AAP formed a minority government in hung Assembly having 28 seats with BJP winning 31 seats in Delhi.

Vision of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)

There are three vital interests of AAP's poll manifestoes:

- Transparency in governance;
- the fight against corruption;
- and, the interests of the common man.

After years of oppression, inequality, injustice and unfulfilled promises; common people of India are tired of corruption within the whole government system. It is this dissatisfaction with the system that gave rise to the vision of AAP.

> "Our party's vision is to realize a dream of Swaraj that Gandhi ji had envisaged for a free India — where the power of governance and rights of democracy will be in the hands of the people of India." (Party Vision, 2013: http://www.aamaadmiparty.org/our-vision).

AAP demanded an equal and just society. Kejriwal said that India before she achieved independence had been slave to foreign colonial powers now she has become slave of political system of the country. The new master in the country in present day is political Neta, who, during elections asks for votes and after that forgets the common people when he succeeds and decides the common man's destiny. The anti-corruption protests have spurred the entire country into one common voice that is demanding a complete change in political system of the country. There is a national support to clean politics from inside (Party Vision, 2013: http://www.aamaadmiparty.org/our-vision).

Bhattacharyya (2015) notes, already having an impact on all political parties in India, AAP has started making noise to disown the tainted politicians. AAP's agenda is to cleanse the terms of politics, to change the rules of game, and not to capture power.

Green (2016) is of the view that political parties often follow a cycle of birth, growth and decay. Kejriwal, a charismatic new leader burst on the scene, or a social movement turns in to a clean, inspiring new party and supporters rally to the flag of a new kind of politics.

AAP and the Political Revolution

Although Hazare, due to his disbelief in party politics, preferred that the movement should remain politically unaligned. Kejriwal (a right hand man of Hazare) viewed that only demonstration could not produce the desired change in the system. The split between Anna Hazare and Arvind Kejriwal gave birth to Aam Aadmi Party (AAP or Common Man's Party). Hazare-led anti-corruption movement had laid a perfect position for Kejriwal to establish a political party. This simmering discontent that later gave rise to a new political party—the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) burst onto the political scene with a pledge to clean up

government. AAP grew out of anti-corruption protests, sparked by 2011 hunger strikes by a veteran Gandhian protester, Anna Hazare. Kejriwal, his lieutenant gathered thousands of people shouting anti-government slogans.

Coming out from the Proletariat-Bourgeois dichotomy, AAP formed from being a forum of social activism. The traditional face of Indian politics has been changed with the emergence of AAP. The Indian middle class articulates the issue of corruption with a great zeal. The electoral symbol of AAP is jhaadu (broom) alike the manifesto of the party is to "clean politics from inside." The AAP activists wore a white Gandhi cap, on which printed in Hindi 'I am common man' with reference to Aam Aadmi Party.

In 2013, Delhi Legislative Assembly election, AAP won 28 out of 70 seats and announced to hold Mohalla Sabhas (Community Assembly) across 27 assembly segments where AAP candidates had won the Assembly polls. Kejriwal, a former Assistant Commissioner in Income Tax and an anti-corruption activist sworn in as a new Chief Minister in Delhi at Ramlila Maidan, where he led colossus anti-corruption demonstrations. Kejriwal, after swearing in immediately tabled a state version of Lokpal bill. Due to the failure of implementation of Lokpal Bill, AAP resigned from the assembly in 2014 and accused other political parties for political paralysis. "As an anti-corruption activist, Kejriwal has been electric and transformative. As a politician, however, he has left something to be desired. His sudden resignation brought into question his ability to operate effectively in government, let alone in India's complex and frustrating bureaucracy." (Forbes Asia, FEB 16, 2015).

After apologizing for quitting the government, AAP launched campaign for India's16[th]general elections in 2014 that had been regarded as the most important elections in Indian history since 1977. President's rule was imposed. However, the Lokpal and Lokayukras Act covering both national and state-level ombudsmen were approved by the Central government in January 2014 after the prolonged series of discussions and alterations. In 2015 Delhi election, Kejriwal adopted the catchphrase for the campaign, "paanch saal Kejriwal", "Five years for Kejriwal" to communicate the electorates that he was committed to work for five years. AAP earned a spectacular victory by securing 67 out of 70 seats in 2015 in the sixth Legislative Assembly of Delhi. Among two national political parties the BJP won only 3 seats, while the Indian National Congress (INC) did not win any seat. AAP was proved to be a real game changer in Indian politics.

Background

Arvind Kejriwal, a social activist struggles for transparent and participatory governance system as thousands of people in India lives in poverty due to corruption and poor economic growth. Kejriwal worked in the Indian Revenue Service (IRS) as an Assistant Commissioner in New Delhi. From the very beginning, he often used to discuss the issue of corruption in the political system with his colleagues with a sense of disgruntlement. In his viewpoint, "If you're

corrupt, you're in the mainstream. If you're honest, you're sidelined." (Dwivedi & Roshan, 2014) In 1998, Kejrival registered 'KABIR', a platform to persuade several associations in Delhi to stop people from paying bills to bring attention towards corruption in electricity department. In December 1999, he began a non-governmental organization (NGO) named 'Privartan' or "Change" to raise transparency in governance. In 2001, he lobbied 'Right to Information Act' (RTIA), the Indian equivalent of the United States' Freedom of Information Act. It became law in 2005. In 2006, he was awarded the Ramon Magsaysay Award for Emergent Leadership, acknowledging his participation in grassroots movement Parivartan using right-to-information legislation in a movement against corruption. Later on, the same year, he sacrificed his prestigious job (resigned from IRS) and donated Magsaysay award money of fifty thousand dollars to an N.G.O., Public Cause Research Foundation (P.C.R.F). By 2007, Kejriwal stresses the government to establish a new anti-corruption authority named Lokpal; in Sanskrit, "people's caretaker". Kejriwal, outraged by blatant wickedness of the governance system, tries to convince that the system must change. He says that on daily basis, on the front page of newspapers, there are a lot of evidences of corruption challenging the people that "If you can do something, do it. We will keep on looting the country."(Subramanian, September 2, 2013) For the first time in 2010, Kejriwal organized a public protest that later on grew confrontational. Firstly, Kejriwal was outraged by brazen crookedness of Commonwealth Games and then accused the government for raising natural-gas prices to enrich Chairman of Reliance Industries, Mukesh Ambani. However, Vadra and Ambani refuted the allegation.

Kejriwal is considered as one of the main architects of the Jan Lokpal movement or the Anna movement, which shook the nation in 2011. He defined two types of corruption; "mutual corruption is where the taxpayer and the tax officer get together" and "extortion corruption is where you have to pay bribes to get legitimate work done." (Dwivedi & Roshan, 2014)

In 2011, Kejriwal was being named one of two Indians of the year by New Delhi Television. During the same year, Kejriwal alongwith Anna Hazare arranged first of the series of hunger strikes, enforcing the Parliament to pass anti-corruption bill and mobilizing enormous throngs in Delhi to support Jan Lokpal Bill which sought to commence a citizens' ombudsman. He astutely timed the strike between the end of the Cricket World Cup and the onset of a domestic tournament, the Indian Premier League (IPL). In five-day rally, he shrewdly put Anna Hazare at the center. Thousands of people swarmed at the rally (Subramanian, September 2, 2013).

Swaraj (Self-Rule)

Swaraj means self-rule based on self-restraint and non-violent persuasion of others so that the group-living also becomes self-ruled and self-sufficient. Gandhi, in his book 'Hind Swaraj' (Indian Home Rule) 1909 writes, India is enthusiastic of achieving political independence from the Britons so that native (self) government

could be established to manage India's affairs independently. But it was a mere replacement of imperial power and not the establishment of swaraj. Gandhi commented: "The English have not taken India; we have given it to them. They are not in India because of their strength, but because we keep them."(Anjaneyulu, 2003)Gandhi did not completely rule out the popular meaning of Swaraj, i.e., self-government, but the real meaning of Swaraj, for him, would and should go beyond, and rather become the basis of this popular meaning. In 'Hind Swaraj', Gandhi's meaning of Swaraj is freedom for self-rule at the individual level or freedom for everyone to rule over one-self. But the process of acquiring this ability is a long one. The meaning of Swaraj in Gandhi's own words: ...if we become free, India is free." Swaraj is "when we learn to rule ourselves. It is, therefore, in the palm of our hands…" (Brown, 1984))

Swaraj in the real sense means 'learning to rule over oneself or attaining the ability of self-rule. One who attains such ability is said to be free or to have attained freedom. Thus for Gandhi, freedom and self-rule (Swaraj) are not only consistent with one another but also one and the same.

Like Gandhi, Kejriwal writes a book 'Swaraj', in which he points out that "the basic problem in our country is that there is no democracy. We want democracy." Kejriwal does not believe in representative democracy because the elected representatives are corrupt. Kejriwal viewed that democracy means that the government functions according to the wishes of the people and the views of the people are taken into account before making decisions for the five years after the vote is cast (Jaffrelot, 2014)

According to Kejriwal, in India, due to the excessive regulations, complicated taxes and licensing system, almost all government sectors function without transparency and common involvement that breeds corruption. This has made life difficult for common people. By empowering the common people in governance system, there will be a tremendous development. Power centres should be moved from Delhi to other capitals and villages.

According to Kejriwal, although in 1947 the British left after formal signing and the natives took control of the power. In post 1947, India is being ruled from Delhi and other state capitals. The freedom struggle was not merely from independence from British but people of India want swaraj (self-rule); the free India that people will rule. So that, there will be justice. The British left the country but the system continued to be there. Corruption and injustice have prevailed with the time elapsed. "The money reaches the pockets of corrupt instead of the common man." (Kejriwal, 2012) If there will be swaraj, "We will be able to take decisions concerning our villages, our town and our community. The laws made in the Parliament and the legislative assemblies will also be made with our consent and participation." (Kejriwal, 2012) It endorses the decentralization of power, where the power of governance and rights of democracy will be in the hands of the local people or community.

Jan Lokpal Legislation

The term "Lokpal" (meaning: caretaker of people) had been coined in 1963 and first introduced by Adv. Shanti Bhushan, a member of Indian Parliament. In1969, it was passed by Lok Sabha (the Lower House) but failed in Rajya Sabha (the upper house) and consequently dropped. Afterwards, all the efforts to turn it in to law had been failed. As the members of India Against Corruption (IAC) Anna Hazare, a Gandhian reformist and Kejriwal, an activist's repeated fasts and sit-ins magnetized the attention of thousands of people for the enactment of Jan Lokpal Bill. According to Sen "India Against Corruption movement is an expression of collective anger of people of India against corruption." And the organization had the specific agenda: "We have all come together to force/request/persuade/pressure the Government to enact the Jan Lokpal Bill. We feel that if this Bill were enacted it would create an effective deterrence against corruption." (Sen, 2016) The Lokpal demanded an impartial ombudsman who would entertain and scrutinize the accusations of corruption produced against apex-level government officials and would retain prosecutorial right too. A draw up of Lokpal Bill was sent to the then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. In spite of extensive public support, the government and the Parliament refused to pass it. The Bill was eventually passed and came into force on January 16, 2014.

Right to Information Act (RTIA)

The RTIA argue that the law can help purge inefficiency and fight corruption from and improve government, control bureaucratic power, and increase the political influence of marginalized citizens. Kejriwal with his team campaigned for the Right to Information Act (RTIA) across India which soon became a silent social movement. Delhi Right to Information Act was passed in 2001 that was later passed by Indian parliament in 2005 at national level. Kejriwal capitalized RTI in issues of corruption in many government sectors; the Public Distribution System (PDS), the Delhi Electricity Board, the Income Tax department and the Municipal Corporation of Delhi etc.
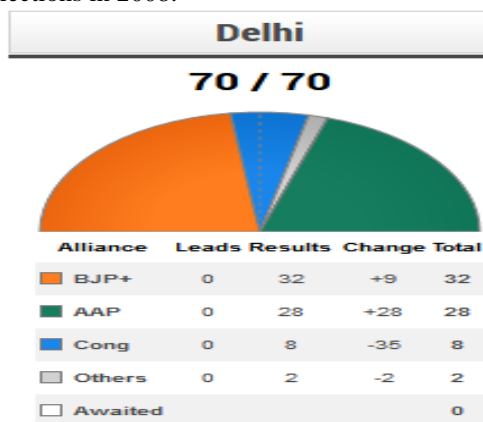
The Right to Information Act (RTIA) has been culminated and passed by the Parliament of India that gives Indian citizens a right to obtain information held by public authorities in order to promote transparency and accountability. It applies to all state and local public authorities (except Jammu and Kashmir). The RTI Act helps citizens to work effectively to halt corruption by allowing them to request information, for a fixed fee of ₹10 (US$0.22), from a "public authority" (a body of Government or "instrumentality of State"). Sequentially, this public authority is needed to respond to the request in 30 days. Shekhar Singh observes: "It is not just the receiving of information that is main attraction of RTI Act. For a vast majority of Indians, it is a new sense of empowerment that, for the very first time, allows them to '*demand*' information and explanation of the high and mighty, the senior government officials, whom they could till now at best observe from afar."

(Sen, 2016)The people of India have the legal right to demand. AAP's move to be transparent about their donations comes at a point when the established parties ganged up to legislate against a ruling by the Central Information Commission that parties and their matters have to be dealt as public information, thanks to the RTIA.

Delhi Assembly elections, 2013

Naming itself Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), Kejriwal and his party contested its first state elections in 2013 and won 28 seats. In 2013 state assembly electoral contest in Delhi, BJP emerged as the largest party with 31 seats and vote share was 33.07% with 26,04100 votes. AAP made a spectacular debut by winning 28 seats. The Congress was decimated and could only secure 8 seats as compared with 43 seats in previous elections in 2008.
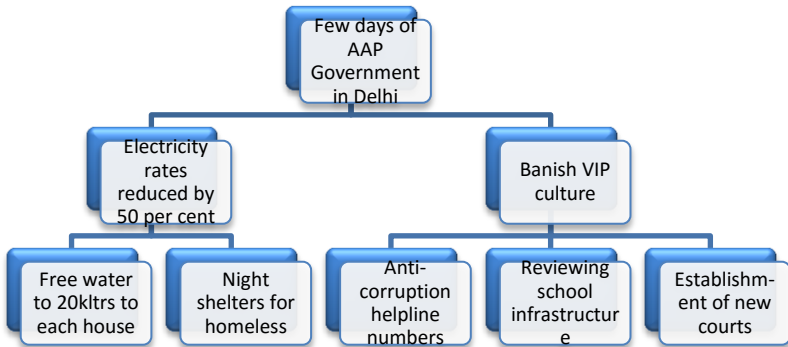

Delhi
70 / 70

Alliance	Leads	Results	Change	Total
BJP+	0	32	+9	32
AAP	0	28	+28	28
Cong	0	8	-35	8
Others	0	2	-2	2
Awaited				0

Source: http://www.tellmeabout.in/2013/12/will-bjp-come-to-power-in-2014.html
All this resulted in the hung assembly. Kejriwal defeated Sheila Dikshit, who had been the Congress Chief Minister for 15 years and himself became the Chief Minister of Delhi. AAP introduced a new sort of politics with zero tolerance to corruption. After storming to power, Kejriwal asked the people for stop paying electricity bill until the government slashed power-tariffs.
Followings are the significant tenets of Kejriwal's campaign:

➢ decreasing the electricity bills for up to 400 units, driven by subsidy;

➢ the home with metered connections would receive 20 kiloliters of free water per month, but will have to pay 10 percent more if they exceed the limit;

➢ establishment of an anti-graft helpline for the people to report and conduct sting operations against corrupt officials;

➢ planned to organize *'Janata Darbars'* (public hearings with ministers) but discarded on account of mismanagement;

➢ pledged to end VIP culture; vehicles with beacons or lal battis, heavy security and big bungalows;

➢ A school helpline for parents was announced;

➢ Night shelters for homeless had been ordered;

➢ Riding on massive popular support in Delhi for national elections claiming that it had gained one crore members in a nationwide drive "Main Bhi Aam Aadmi" urging the people to register online, through phones, messages or emails (NDTV, January 28, 2014);
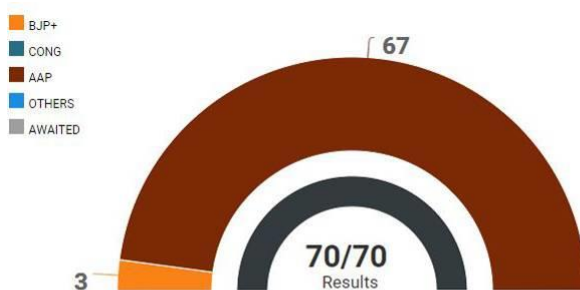
➢ Establishment of new courts had been announced.

➢ Achievements of Aam Aadmi Party are as followed: a) it has elimination the red beacons and ended the VIP culture; b) it has reduced the electricity rates by 50% for up to 400 units of consumption; c) it has provided 20,000 litres of free water per month for metered connection; d) it has established 300+ night shelters for the homeless; f) Due to corruption, 800 employees have been transferred and 3 have been suspended; g) AAP has initiated an Anti-corruption helpline 1031; h) it has commenced the Nursery admission helpline; j) It has completed the inspection of 500+ govt. schools; k) About 36000 contract jobs have been made permanent which have benefited around 1,80,000 people. (http://aamaadmiparty.org/AAPGovt/achievements-aap-govt)

➢ The 2013 Delhi state election transformed the politics of India that demanded a participatory and transparent government and the provision of clean water, quality education, health facilities and cheap electricity rates under the leadership of candid and honest Chief Minister, Arvind Kejriwal. However, AAP lost its radical edge when it became a party of governance. Kejriwal resigned as a Chief Minister and his government tumbled after 49 days in office following the failure of the introduction of Delhi's Jan Lokpal Bill in the assembly. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Indian National Congress (INC) joined the forces against AAP and did not pass the bill which is revealed in Arvind Kejriwal's oft-repeated cliché, "sab mile huey hain". When Kejriwal resigned from the office with his party, the opposite parties put the charge that it is a party of

protests and not government. The party declared that it would seek re-elections. In 2014 general elections, AAP fielded 434 candidates across the country but could succeed only four seats. All of them were from Punjab.

➢ **AAP manifesto: Delhi Assembly Election 2015**

➢ The 7 February 2015 fundamentally altered the politics of India which witnessed AAP's landslide victory in the much-hyped Delhi Assembly election. AAP got a phenomenal victory by capturing 67 out of 70 seats. But according to Election Commission statistics, the vote share of BJP was almost the same. BJP won only three seats with vote share 32.1% (2779810 votes) that had been reduced by about just one per cent as per previous elections. Congress did not secure any seat and received a vote share of only 9.8% (with over 8.4 lakh votes) as compared to 2013 Delhi election in which it won 28 out of 70 seats and received a vote share of 24.55% (1932933 votes) with loss of almost 15 per cent vote share (The Times of India, February 10, 2015).

PARTY	WON	CHANGE	VOTESHARE	
🏵 BJP+	3	-29		32.7%
✋ Cong	0	-8		9.7%
〜 AAP	67	39		54.3%
🏛 Others	0	-2		3.3%

Source: The Times of India, Feb 11, 2015

Arvind Kejriwal won from New Delhi constituency and became its Chief Minister. The Economist points out that "the post will give Kejriwal a powerful pulpit from which to act as a national opposition figure to the current Prime Minister, the BJP's Narendra Modi." (Forbes Asia, FEB 16, 2015)

Shortly after the Vidhan Sabha was ended, AAP initiated Delhi Dialogue in order to get himself connected with the voters and to draft party manifesto by involving the common citizens of Delhi

An action plan was created according to the aspirations of people. A few of these policy guidelines are as followed:

- o "A Delhi that provides employment to all
- o A Delhi that provides high quality education to all
- o A Delhi that ensures excellent healthcare to all
- o A Delhi that is safe for women
- o A Delhi that keeps pace with an ever increasing population's demands for more roads, transport and traffic systems
- o A Delhi that provides affordable electricity and clean drinking water to all
- o A Delhi that provides essential services to all its citizens
- o A Delhi that takes pride in the river Yamuna brought alive by clean water and beautiful riverbanks
- o A Delhi where all communities live together, secure in a social fabric that is inclusive and peaceful
- o A Delhi that is pollution free; and
- o A Delhi where the citizens made an equal stakeholder and voice in the city's progress."(https://www.scribd.com/document/254260347/AAP-Manifesto-2015#fullscreen&from_embed)

Achievements of AAP Government, 2015

As AAP has been in power from more than one year, its achievements are following:

i. Electricity is provided at half price;
ii. 20,000 liters of free water is delivered every month to each household;
iii. Anti-corruption helpline is already started with helpline number 1031;
iv. Steps to regularize unauthorized colonies and resettlement of colonies have already initiated;
v. Work has been started to make Delhi a Wi-Fi city
vi. No donations and capitation fees are allowed in Delhi schools now;

i. Notices are issued to 200 private schools for charging exorbitant fees;
ii. The government has started to issue E-ration cards online;
iii. Red beacon culture is stopped. The CM, Ministers and MLAs are also not using lal battis on cars;

i. Quarterly reports of RTI are to be made by all government officials;
ii. New Thermal power plants are to be constructed in Delhi;
iii. Corruption in RTO offices has reduced substantially.
iv. Regular Janta-durbars are being held by various AAP leaders, including CM Arvind Kejriwal.
v. and, laying of pipe lines to areas without water connection has already been started

All private hospitals are ordered to ensure that beds are available for the poor. Frequent checks are made in hospitals, transport buses, and bus stations. The government has banned demolitions in residential premises and slums. http://indiaopines.com/achievements-aap-government-delhi/

The Aam Aadmi Party of yore seemed like an ideologically diverse set of people who in turn attracted different kinds of people. This raised hopes of a new umbrella party, the only other example of which is the original idea of the Indian National Congress.

Meanwhile, the AAP government had constantly received criticism for its publicity. It is said that far from the heady idealism, of three years ago, today's AAP is authoritarian and undemocratic like any other Indian political party. In a hottest mess for ruling AAP in Delhi, the Election Commission issued show cause notice to its 27 MLAs on a petition seeking their disqualification for purportedly occupying office of profit. Critics of Delhi Chief Minister say that Kejriwal's measures to tackle Delhi pollution are too little and too late and The AAP must seek to form a government, not out of any attraction towards power, but to preserve the mandate that the multi-class support base offered it. However, it is considered by the opposite political parties that it is a party of agitation and mobilization.

Conclusion

Three years ago, Kejriwal and his AAP have been in the news before their stint with Delhi government due to its perpetual attack on government and politicians. The party made its debut in 2013 Delhi Assembly elections and the party didn't miss even a single day after establishing the Delhi government but it had to resign after a few days in government due to non-implement of Jan Lokpal Bill. The corruption is major stumbling block for the accountability and efficacy of Indian democratic system. Again in 2015, the party obtained 67 out of 70 seats in Delhi Legislative Assembly. After all criticism, AAP is dedicated to ensure political power at the hands of Indian people. The policies ought to be made in consultation with and for the benefit of common man. AAP is committed to implement Jan Lokpal Bill that is efficacious device against corruption.

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