**ELECTIONOMICS- A modern Scripture on Elections**

Title - ELECTIONOMICS

Author - Vivek Narayan Sharma

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There is no doubt, the Indian Judiciary works tirelessly. No one can deny the direction provided by the courts, the influence of the learned and senior counsels, the solace brought by judgments on high profile crimes, yet, the hovering clouds of the delays, pending cases and rumours of corruption.

At this point, if someone has an eye to capture the penetration and flounder of judicial machinery and its impact on shaping the structure of a certain aspect of society, that account would be of phenomenal historical, cultural and analytical value. Electionomics, is a beautiful craft that captures the inkling of a common man and assembles all the meat and potato of the Indian Elections in one basket. One may start reading Electionomics as somebody who questions the surroundings, who feels helpless about Governance or even as someone who fancies cracking the riddle of Indian Politics. The Book serves all purposes.

The Advocate and Joint Secretary of Supreme Court AOR Association Mr. Vivek Narayan Sharma has done a commendable job in blending the Court Judgments, Law from the books, actions and inactions of Election Commission, Statistics and events in the conversation between the Mythological Characters, the blind king of Hastinapur, Maharaja Dhritrashtra and his charioteer Sanjay. The King speaks and demonstrates the ancient thought process whereas his charioteer Sanjay who has the boon of divine eyesight, understands and expresses in the contemporary language. This conversation induces satirical tickling to the readers and brings out many revelations of the democratic system.

The Author Mr. Vivek Narayan Sharma has penned down the evaluation of current circumstances through his absorbed wisdom of Bhagwad Geeta Shlokas which is enlightening and generates enormous hope amid is reading of crises and chaos of Indian Democracy. Hence, the book is a special treat for someone inspired by Mythological Scriptures.

The book leaves one spellbound with its simplicity, completeness, structure, divine knowledge, legal nitty-gritties, statistics, tussle of election commission, chicanery of politicians and dilemma of voters.

The book was recently launched and the legal fraternity and other dignitaries were all praises for its content. Here is what the notable luminaries had to say about the book.

Review of Electionomics by

**Dr. Justice D.Y. Chandrachud**

Hon’ble Judge, Supreme Court of India

Electionomics by Vivek Narayan Sharma is a recent edition to the literature on the law relating to elections. In eighteen chapters, the text explores the intricacies of the law on the subject. The author has utilized the allegory of mythology in describing events associated with the history of elections. Interestingly, the author has attempted to relate events of the past with the structure of electoral jurisprudence, as he attempts to weave a pattern. The book summarizes leading judgments on election law.

**Vivek Narayan Sharma has written on diverse aspects of law and society. His latest venture should *rekindle the debate on electoral reform*. The efforts of the author in researching for this work *deserves to be complimented*. The book (Electionomics) should be *an* *interesting read* for those who seek an understanding of the role of elections in the democratic fabric of the nation.**

Review of Electionomics by

**Mr. Justice Dipak Misra**

Former Chief Justice of India

**Chanakya advices, “*Ati”* i.e. Extremes are not acceptable in a civilized society, that’s the mantra, I would say Mr. Vivek Narayan Sharma tries to preach.**

What he’s trying to say and communicate to the people is, in a Democracy the citizens are the pyramidion of the pyramid. It was a structure, the citizens at the prime. Citizens collectively sustain a democracy which has its sacrosanctity. Election in a democracy has to have sacrosanctity and sacredness because election is something equivalent to accumulation of power.

In Mahabharata, it’s a war of power, that’s why he tries to correspond to Mahabharata, war of territorial power between the two clans Kauravas and Pandavas. Now that is a power fought through physical world. Here it is a different kind of fight to come to power. Both are collectively power games.

King and his commanders. Its supporters, Its supporting kings. And here the citizens, the voters and the representatives. In this present scenario, the propriety of elections has been suggested. The propriety of conducting election has been very subtlety suggested and sometimes directly.

**He (Vivek Narayan Sharma) has way of saying, sometimes he quote Supreme Court judgment, sometimes he comes to the Election Commission, sometimes he comes to citizens and he refers to George Bernard Shaw and other authors. *It’s a Beautiful Crafting*.** He, who writes a book, knows how difficult it is.

If you read the Book, he is saying a very big thing, I don’t know whether Vivek Narayan Sharma imagined that I would be saying that, but I am conveying to the readers or would be readers, he has converted Dhritrashthra, it’s very interesting, who speaks like a great Democrat. He is wonderful man in this book. He says, ‘Sanjay all these are happening’. Sanjay says – Yes! He says, ‘Did we fight the war of Mahabharata for this?’

This is a poignant question. That means the entire Mahabharata, *Dharam-jeet* was not really thought by Lord Krishna alone. *Dhritrashthra* was a tacit participant knowing very well that his sons’ were anti-citizens, anti-dharma and therefore there should be war and time should come, people would live a life of Dharma.

That’s what it *(Electionomics)* try to convey in different way. That was a war so that people would live in peace. That was a war that people will live in Dharma and there was a great war that people will be more civilized believing in Dharma.

And he wants and it does not happen. And if it does not happen, he goes to Krishna. He has no other way. Lord Krishna says -“कर्मण्येवाधिकारस्ते मा फलेषु कदाचन।

## He says what Krishna told Arjuna. We don’t have the Krishna, so what should we do? Arjuna is still suffering from *Vishadyoga* (despair). He is a perpetual, curious, questioning and doubting personality. Mr. Sharma (Vivek Narayan Sharma) does not like doubting personalities. But ultimately he says, ‘No, a doubting person is a good person. A curious person is a good person’, because he wants to improve and that is why he uses the symbol of Arjuna for today’s citizens. *Now in this kind of metaphorical pilgrimage mythological combination, the readers will find tremendous interest.*

## Arjuna was fortunate that he had the guide but here as the author (Vivek Narayan Sharma), the author would suggest, present generation does not have a guide. What was the guidance Lord Krishna gave Arjuna? So many questions have been put at one stage. *Lord Krishna says, when Arjuna asked, ‘How can I gain knowledge? How can I gain the wisdom? How can I learn the Chunav-Shastra? How can I learn Electionomics? How can I learn the voting pattern? How can I learn the power game?’*

## Lord Krishna says, ‘Hey Arjuna, you must be in a position to question, you must be curious, and you must do service (here service has to be understood service to the nation). Curious means do not be gullible. And questioning means you must have protagonism after doing lot of investigation. He *(Vivek Narayan Sharma)* does not say directly. *There is no theorization in the Book. That’s the best part and I must congratulate him for it, Principles you have to think as citizens.*

## The book (Electionomics) request you to understand the Philosophy behind the book and the content. It’s a rising pattern. First he (Vivek Narayan Sharma) gives his extract of affairs which possibly and conceivably is not a good state but he is optimistic through sometimes Sanjay, sometimes Dhritrashthra. It’s because there has been progressive Judgments by the Apex Court with regard to election reforms and sometimes steps have been taken by Election Commission. I congratulate Mr. Sharma for penning such a Book.

**Gulliver’s Travel is a glorious satire on war. Similarly, there is a film “Goopy Gyne Bagha Byne” by Satyajit Ray, it’s a great satire on war. Electionomics is a great Satire on election. Congratulations to Mr. Vivek Narayan Sharma for his 'innovative thinking' and I am saying as a student of Literature & Law and Law & Literature.**

Review of Electionomics by

**Mr. Justice Siddharth Mridul**

Hon’ble Judge, Delhi High Court

**I must congratulate Vivek on a Book *(Electionomics)* *well written*, *well researched* and *well presented*. And I am sure that this will become a *go-to Book* for those who would like to acquaint themselves with the process and the law on elections in India. It’s a *wonderful book* written by Vivek. Thank you Vivek for lighting the way, it’s a path all of us can walk down.**

Review of Electionomics by

**Mr. TUSHAR MEHTA**

Solicitor General of India

I had the privilege of reading the Book *(Electionomics)* prior to its official or formal launch and therefore I had gone through the Book. **There are several books on Election law giving judgments, statutory provisions, constitutional provisions but *this is the first book of its kind which has a fusion of mythology and core Election law. This is the first book of its kind.***

When Vivek ***(Vivek Narayan Sharma)*** has already shown his aptitude of research both in law, in history and in scriptures, it would be really interesting to await a book by him that India was perhaps the first Democracy in the world. For Journalists, for Hon’ble Judges, it is of course difficult to write anything creative and ***this is a book of creative value.. so interesting that the reader is induced to read it***.

***This is possibly the only book which combines Election law including Constitutional provisions, Statutory provisions, mythology and statistics.***

Whenever you find a book containing statistics, you will inevitably find that the author has used statistics the way a drunken man uses the light pole for support; not for illumination, Vivek has not fallen into that trap, he has ***used statistics for illumination***for illuminating the reader of the book, not for supporting the theory which he is seeking to propound. After having gone through the book, it is my personal opinion and my **very strong recommendation that it is worth reading..**

Review of Electionomics by

**Mr. RAKESH KUMAR KHANNA**

President, Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA)

***I must commend Vivek (Vivek Narayan Sharma) for making this effort to edify his readers not only about the position of law on matters related to election but also about the ground realities surrounding this incredible exercise of the world’s largest democracy. His novel approach to blend mythological fiction, Mahabharata, with normally vivid discourse on the contemporary affairs of our democracy is very refreshing. His book “Electionomics” opens with the event of Mahabharata drawing to a close and invites us to explore the Indian Democracy as we know it today from the ears of Dhritrashthra and eyes of Sanjay. It empathizes with the Arjunas within us and disseminates the knowledge and hope through the voice of Lord Krishna.***

Review of Electionomics by

**Mr. JAGDEEP CHHOKAR**

Social Scientist & Co-founder, Association of Democratic Reforms (ADR)

***There is a lot to be said for this book* (*Electionomics*). *The* *great thing about this book* that I found is that we have struggled for 20 years to bring electoral reforms as an issue with which people can relate easily & directly, we have found in our lack of imagination & capacity that it is very difficult to explain the details and nuts & bolts of the process to people, but *Mr. Vivek Narayan Sharma has done a wonderful job*.**

***He has also put in 18 chapters like the Bhagavad Gita is. And given that there’s a resurgence of interest in religions across the world, so if this book is seen as an accompaniment to Gita, so be it. God be with you, my friend.***