



“Reducing VIP Culture in India”

Collective inputs from over 200,000 Citizens in circle

“Transform India with Modi”

(Current state, Issues, Root Causes and Proposed Solutions)

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Reducing VIP Culture in India

Executive Summary

Recently, the Supreme Court took up an issue, which has been agitating the public mind for several years. The Court frowned upon the existing VIP culture. There have been many reports about the misuse of the state machinery in blocking roads to give priority passage to VIPs, "flashing red lights" atop their cars and blowing sirens to intimidate the public.

VIP culture is prevalent in most aspects of daily life in India, right from Railway or Airline travel to public/private events. The 200,000+ strong "Transform India with Narendra Modi" online community has come together to collectively identify the key issues, root causes and solutions for reducing VIP Culture in India and the community expects that the Government, Media and other stakeholders will work towards implementing the identified solutions.

Issues Identified:

1. A lot of taxpayers money is spent in taking care of the VIP culture
2. VIPs are given special preference at religious places for darshan
3. A common practice by the elected representatives is that the roads and public parks around their residence becomes their personal properties to the extent that they lock the public park denying access by children to play in them
4. VIPs have separate entrances at events whereas the general public has to wait in long lines
5. VIPs are given access to places which are not open for general public
6. When VIPs travel, the entire road where ever they go is kept free without any signals. This results in traffic jam and common people getting late for their personal work or official work
7. People take advantage of their VIP contacts to get their work done in all fields
8. Even a distant relative of a Panchayat member feels he/she is a VIP
9. VIPs travel and have a good time using taxpayers money
10. The drivers and associates of VIPs misbehave with others and expect favours like they are VIPs too
11. VIPs go for medical treatment abroad when the best hospitals are very much here
12. VIPs and their family members don't pay toll tax
13. Family members accompany them on foreign tours
14. A big security contingent moves around with the VIPs on taxpayer's money
15. Cars with red/blue beacons cause trouble to others
16. VIPs have reserved seats in Railways whereas a common man suffers

17. VIPs don't turn up at the airport on time and force the airlines to delay flights

Root Causes Identified

1. VIP culture is a status symbol for people in India
2. In India, a lot many works can get easier if you are/you know a VIP
3. VIP culture is an age old tradition to separate the rich and the famous from the common public
4. It is believed that the time of the VIPs is more precious than a non-VIP
5. VIP influence can actually make your life in India much easier
6. No government crackdown on illegal red/blue beacons
7. Businesses fear future Governmental hurdles if favours are not passed on to VIPs
8. VIPs misuse the advantages offered to them by the Government
9. A lot of privileges are given to the VIPs by the government just to satisfy their ego and status
10. VIPs don't have anything to fear as police and law both are in their pockets
11. There is a big racket of selling VIP quota tickets running, cuts from which are passed on to the VIPs as well.

Solutions Identified:

1. Except for the President, Prime Minister, Governors and Chief Ministers of states, armed forces service chiefs, no one should be granted VIP status
2. The word VIP should be removed from tens of thousands entrances, doors, lounges and entry gates
3. Use of the red and blue beacons should be restricted
4. Roads should not be closed for more than 10 minutes for a VIP movement
5. The international travel plans of the VIPs should be scrutinized
6. Family members of VIPs should not be allowed on official tours with them
7. The VIP quota in Railways should be trimmed and should be usable only in case of emergency
8. Aircraft and train departures must never be delayed due to VIPs
9. The idolising of bureaucrats and ministers should be stopped
10. Government should not try to satisfy the ego of the VIPs by giving them these privileges; it should be based on needs
11. Some privileges should be withdrawn for the VIP culture to diminish
12. The darshan procedure at religious places should be equal for everyone
13. VIPs should not be considered to be above the law – they should be tried like a common man
14. No free frills for VIP. They should foot the bill and claim from the respective department, which should have the budget
15. The number of people getting Z level security should be reduced.

Reducing VIP Culture in India – a few citizen posts and comments:

1. There should be only these dignitaries treated as VIP. PRESIDENT, PM, CHIEF JUSTICE. All others as common people. All MPs & other elected reps should be asked to spend full time in their constituencies when house is not in session. They should sit in their offices and mix with people and listen n solve their problems – **Shambhu Sharma**
2. The root cause of all problems is lot of VVIP's and the treasury is burdened with their entertainment n priority expenses. If VVIP culture is cut, we must ensure that these smart brains which are helpful in running the democracy must be paid enough to deal with their non-Government counterparts. Take away their VVIP status but increase their financial viability. Even the rest of Government officials including police, railways, bankers, teachers, sweepers, fire fighters be paid on higher scale that working with Government becomes fashionable n their high income attracts smart and fresh youngsters from society and avoids corruption. Simple concept is to take away VVIP culture treat every Government official at par and see the difference in the society. Their face value will increase and they will perform better – **Yogini Mehta**
3. So if we define and clarify the term 'VIP' in this context, identify privileges, and limit the number of VIP's to the very few, 90% of the problems will dissipate in itself. When every 'afsar' becomes a VIP, the problem is magnified many folds and the root cause is muddled to the point of unidentifiable – **Kam Gupta**
4. Great articulation of issues and suggestions. I would like to add one more point i.e. security checking in all sensitive areas like airport etc. Why do we have few people barring them from frisking/checking. Another important point is related to Tolls. We have seen on most of the tolls, we have list of the people/ designations who are allowed to cross without paying the toll. Sometime it gets into argument and stopping others in queue. Why can't we move fast to RFID enablement so no one needs to stop on any toll for any payment? It should be pre-paid or post-paid whatever is manageable – **Pankaj Kumar Gupta**
5. VIP have access to public monuments, like when common folks go to places like Qutub Minar or Taj Mahal or to similar places, they are not allowed any access, but when VIP or their relatives (son in law or sons or daughters friends) go to these monuments, they are allowed privileged access which is barred for common folks. I have witnessed the same with my eyes, so unfortunate – **Amit Saxena**
6. Start charging for VIP facilities at market rate. Expenditure incurred for providing such facilities to an employee should be added to her income and taxed. Actual cost to exchequer in office and other perks to every employee should be calculated and displayed in the website – **Rajendra Bajpai**
7. VIP culture should be minimised in all field otherwise opponent party of Delhi will take benefit in this field also and attract public in their favour so that be causes on

this issue and all other issue for attracting to general public which is far behind in Delhi so that BJP has defeated in Delhi election. Our request to PM to focus on general public issues fast and get their attention in favour of BJP – **Subodha Nand Jha**

8. You cant have everything in life-on one side the Government is lavish in giving privileges-take the airport privileges for instance and then wanting to reduce the VIP culture-both cannot go hand in hand – **PP Rajagopal**
9. I believe what we need to realise is that there is a VIP culture ingrained in all of us. So unless we as a society change, our politicians, police, and bureaucrats will be loathe changing. Most of us if given a chance like to jump queues get preferential treatment in offices, etc. So there is always some amount VIP culture ingrained in all of us. That is why precisely we can manage most things with "jugaad". Unless we introspect and change & start following rules to the T, it will be very difficult to expect those in the establishment to change – **Rajarshi Bannerjee**
10. I think VIP culture is a continuation of colonial thinking. We need to think in terms of this is us all of us are Indians and higher ranks should not behave like colonial masters. Also we need to take away a lot of the Government perks that go with this mentality. Why should we spend public money on families of elected or high Government officials? – **Rohini Bhatt**
11. VIP culture came into being in India, for the important Government officials and ministers to move faster to do service to the people, but now a days it has become their birth right and they demand such from the places manned by poor people who do not know what to do to such people and allow them. But it should come from within from the elected people and Government officials – **Saileswaran N**