

**B S Yeddyurappa**

Former Chief Minister of Karnataka  
MLA - Shikaripura



Date : .....

**Date:24<sup>th</sup> Mar 2014**

**Respected Shri Prannoy Roy**

Namaskar,

Before I get into the core purpose of my appeal, let me reiterate my unstinted solidarity with the media and its freedom. It is an article of faith with me that the country cannot progress without media being free to think, write, discuss and debate.

Having said that let me make this small submission. It is an open secret that political opponents indulge in smear campaign against each other. It is also a reality that political opponents hatch a deep-rooted plot and subject an individual to malicious campaign by politically-motivated, baseless and scandalous allegations of corruption and malpractice.

I would like to humbly state with all the documents at my command that I was one such an individual who was subjected to a vicious campaign by vested interest who adopted all foul means and politically-motivated, baseless and scandalous charges, during my tenure as chief minister of Karnataka and even after resigning to the chair of the C M.

It would not be an exaggeration that if I mention that I am undergoing mental torture, pain and agony on account such malicious campaign against me almost on daily basis. The amazing speed with which cases were filed one after another in different foray is a proof of a meticulously planned, deep-rooted conspiracy. It is not without reason that this conspiracy was hatched to defame me and my government.

There were many attempts by my political opponents to engineer the collapse of my government and oust me from the chief minister's post. I could successfully foil all the attempts of my opponents and ensure the survival of the first-ever BJP government in the South of Vindhyas. This success in safeguarding the government was the beginning of a conspiracy to unseat me and ensure the exit of my government eventually.

By sheer perseverance, genuine concern for the people's welfare and sincere commitment to the cause of the common man and by innovative schemes, I had brought Karnataka state to number 2 position in terms of development in most of the parameters.

It would not have registered in you or you may have overlooked - due to high voltage campaign of calumny, disinformation and Goebbles Theory - that I was the only former chief minister in entire India to undergo judicial imprisonment even without a summary and initial trial based on a private complaint filed by a person who had no locus standi in the case.

I need not be explicit on this specific and precise issue as you are intelligent enough to understand the depth and dimension of the conspiracy. The image, credibility and reputation that I had gained due to the dint of hard work, service and sacrifice for the last four decades were on the verge of damage by vested interests in one stroke. Though I was pained by the turn of events, I, however, took it in my stride because I went by the principle "God knows the Truth but Waits."

I could have given a befitting reply to all the allegations and charges but I chose to remain silent as the issues were in the court.

Now please permit me come to the core purpose of this appeal of mine.

Whenever charges were leveled against me by my political opponents, the media had carried it in a very big way, almost as banner headlines. However, whenever I got justice from the court, the same has been buried deeply, as if it of no consequence at all. It is disproportionate, to the hilt and hence it is patently unfair.

I have been going through the media coverage of the elections. I am pained to say that every time during the discussions, debate & articles, I am being called as "corrupt" which is unfair, to put it in mild terms. I have got judicial relief in many cases and remaining are in various stages.

According to my limited knowledge of law, a person is innocent is until he is proved guilty.

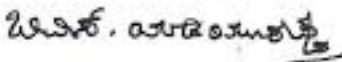
I can understand if the political opponents, who sit in the panel discussion, call me corrupt, but my humble submission to inform media-anchors or editors not to indulge in this patently unfair exercise by calling me "corrupt" when I am still fighting the cases in various courts. At best or worst, I can be called "the accused" and definitely not "guilty."

It is very pertinent to bring it to your kind notice the essential part of the observation made by the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka in one of its orders dismissing the petition and giving relief to me. Please permit me to quote;

".....Reputation of the man is a very precious thing; the man cherishes most in his life. It is natural or absolute right of a man. In fact, the whole exercise which a man undertakes in life is to acquire fame, name and reputation. No office which a man occupies in life is permanent. Therefore, between the removal of the man from that office and damage to his reputation, what he is afraid of is his damage to his reputation. Office does not last but reputation is permanent. In fact, the reputation outlives the man....."

By God's grace, I have enough strength and vigor to fight my cases. But your support in the form of being fair at this critical juncture is very crucial. I can understand and realize that you cannot exercise control on what the panelists in the discussion express or say about me. But, at least you can prevail upon the anchors / editors to stay away from calling me corrupt which will go a long way in enabling the courts to carry on unprejudiced investigation.

**Sathyameva Jayate – Truth Alone Triumphs.**

  
(B.S.YEDDYURAPPÄ)