

## **Land Acquisition: Is it anti - farmer?**

Land acquisition has become a contentious issue in light of proposed amendments to ‘The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013’. FDR has been consistently arguing for a win-win solution for both land givers and land takers. FDR is examining the issue and is considering submitting the views/suggestions before the Joint Committee of Parliament on the same.

## **How do we make justice speedy, accessible and affordable?**

If India is aiming at a double-digit growth rate, strengthening the Justice System, both civil and criminal, is essential because the state’s failure to resolve disputes and enforce contracts swiftly and justly, inhibits investments. Moreover, a society where the criminal justice system is dysfunctional might be at the brink of resentment and lose faith in the state as its benefactor.

In continuum with FDR’s past efforts for Judicial appointment and accountability reforms, establishment of local courts, creation of All India Judicial Services (AIJS), we are now going to focus on measures that can address procedural complexities in Indian justice system. It is a common observation that procedural complexities in jurisprudence make judicial processes cumbersome for the common man. For instance, Civil Suits in India suffer from delaying tactics adopted by the party in advantageous position, interim stay applications, reluctance of witnesses to appear and a plethora of such issues. This has led to people finding an incentive in converting their civil cases to criminal cases due to the impression that the latter lead to imminent settlement. Thus, we see an anomaly in India that despite a relatively low crime rate, the pending criminal cases far outnumber those in civil cases. Citizens who have the requisite resources can make their way through the myriad of complexities of the current system but those who don’t, either resort to extra legal means or reluctantly swallow injustice.

We at FDR are brainstorming over solutions that can strengthen justice system aligned with the principles of speedy, affordable and accessible justice.

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