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# 'Judicial degeneration must be checked'



■ Justice D.V. Shylendra Kumar

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**NEW DELHI:** In his latest attack on corruption in higher judiciary, the outspoken Karnataka High Court judge D.V. Shylendra Kumar warned that in case the "degeneration" is not checked immediately, "the country may be heading towards disaster."

The fresh outburst from Justice Kumar, who earlier questioned the Chief Justice of India's stand on judges assets declaration, and in December termed his moral authority as

"meaningless," is on the continuation of Justice P.D. Dinakaran as his Chief Justice.

"Judiciary is one organ which cannot afford to have even one per cent suspect people, not even a single judge, who decides matters on considerations other than merits of a case, can be part of judiciary," he wrote on his blog, justdvsukumar.

"If members of the judiciary themselves go astray, incompetent people are functioning as judges, if judges themselves are dishonest and become outright corrupt, that not only spel-

ls dooms to the judicial system, but also for the entire country and its governance," he wrote.

Justice Kumar, 59, perceived to have triggered the move that led to all Supreme Court judges declaring their assets, has said that degeneration in judiciary has multiplied manifold.

"The rate of degeneration... not very noticeable immediately after independence, has of late become fast and is currently speeding so fast it can only result in a ghastly accident..."

The only active blogger judge now, after his Punjab and Hary-

ana High Court colleague, Justice K. Kannan gave up the habit in October, Justice Kumar warned that "it is high time that we become aware... that we are heading towards a disaster, to check and reverse it."

Attacking Justice Dinakaran, against whom impeachment proceedings have begun, he said "a judge or a chief justice not functioning on the judicial side should also refrain from exercising any administrative power incidental to the post of a judge is an universally accepted basic tenet."

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