

## **SC upholds power of people & PIL**

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NEW DELHI: For the two protagonists - legal eagle-turned-activist Prashant Bhushan and academic-turned-politician Dr **Subramanian Swamy** - Thursday's landmark Supreme Court judgment signify two very different things. For Bhushan, it shows the power of well researched Public Interest Litigation (PIL). For Dr Swamy, the judgement showed that a private citizen has a multi-dimensional role in a thriving democracy, which includes the possibility of challenging the government if necessary.

The importance of Bhushan, and those who supported him, and Dr Swamy was not lost on the Supreme Court as it delivered the historic order. "But for the vigilance of some enlightened citizens who held important constitutional and other positions and discharge their duties in larger public interest and Non Governmental Organizations who have been constantly fighting for clean governance and accountability of the constitutional institutions, unsuspecting citizens and the Nation would never have known how scarce natural resource spared by the Army has been grabbed by those who enjoy money power and who have been able to manipulate the system," the judgment said.