**Benchmark Turning Point**

A great sigh of relief! Rule of law at last. True, belatedly though. Law had taken its own course and time. Not that all the wrongdoers –including those who delay and cause delays, professing that law must follow procedures to avoid jumping into conclusions and resultant hasty judgments - in the chain, can be forgiven. Appeals and overturning is another matter. For, no law is certain. Certainty is an illusion of theory, of theatrical and philosophical kind.

That the law fails itself, its system and its users –consumers in modern parlance- if unduly delayed, is well-accepted in the chambers of laws themselves. For, if not disposed with expediency, delay itself takes the sting out of the case, its prosecution and punishment, and such tolerance is what is on offer and is being meted out, are what the populace are forced to live with, losing confidence in legaldom.

That criminality in politics and politicians can be exposed and judged upon is a great moral victory; for, laws are about morality. That the politicians have to be punished –with exemplary sentences as need be- is a victory of the individuals and groups that make up part of the system. For, it is not a legal system victory in the sense that the judiciary has been kowtowing to the politicians for quite a long while.

That the law must be seen to be fair and deliver justice too, is the underlying principle of jurisprudence; but its failing in such dual role fails to impart confidence to the citizens. For, if only one facilitator is incarcerated and fined for favouritism and nexus, its fails in its duty in not punishing the beneficiaries.

That it takes two to tango –the giver and taker- is a simple equation, not well grasped by the legal system, law drafters, makers and the courts –the judicial system. For, it is grossly unfair, when one gets punished and the other goes scot free with all the benefits of looting the nation and its citizens.

That the damage done by nexus, resources looted, wealth amassed and stashed in safe havens, must be traced, chased and gotten back upon conviction, seems to be lost in the necessary follow up, remains a fact and black marks on courts and the powers in charge of such responsibilities. For, if it fails to be done, they are beyond the reach of long arm of the law is the feeling and impression that we live with.

That coalition *adharma* has to tolerate anything that dharma wouldn’t otherwise –for political survival and expediency- is a misconception that has been thrust on the citizenry, remains to be erased. For, if joint, several and collective failings are not proportionately punished, it would be many that get away at the cost of the lone leader willing to take the blame, but doing nothing as a hapless spectator.

That there are many such cases to be dug up and settled, sending many a leaders and scores of politicians to penitentiary, is a well-known fact being watched with bated breath. For, if they are not taken to task, gross will be the injustice -in punishing just one to send a message setting an example -hammering and disqualifying a popular leader with the gavel.

That as a first, a CM has been convicted, barred and gaoled without private medical facility –apart from four parliamentarians in last two years- is small number considering that many elected leaders have criminal convictions against them. For, unless each and every one of them is prevented from re-entering the legislatures, the system will remain stinking, corrupt and partisan, serving only the well-connected.

That the SC has left it to the Prime and Chief Ministers to exclude the elected with criminal convictions from cabinet -vox populi having send them to legislatures through ballot boxes, makes mockery of the whole system. For, when the electorate have no choice to Reject or Recall, and their NOTA vote against undesirables is not considered as objection, the people are left at the mercy of the system run by criminals, in cahoots with those in power including courts holding judicial responsibility.

That the Indian voters have expressed their WILL very well through the elections, time and again, astounding pundits and forecasters, bodes well for maturing democracy; but its precipitating dynastic politics and criminalization, do not bode well for the future. For, those left behind are taking to arms and violence in increasing numbers, ending up as revolutionaries and terrorists.

That it is the collective failure of the people to safe guard their freedom and rights through time-tested democracy shows the failings of the people themselves, especially those educated and in the know. For, it is in their hands to fight corruption and malfeasance, expose criminalization, pursue and bring changes rapidly if worse scenarios are to be avoided.

That it is the responsibility of the willing few, is beyond doubt and question. For, if they don’t, they will not be able to usher in changes for the better in their lifespans or sooner than later.

That it behoves on us the committed is beyond doubt, as few start-ups and pretenders seem to have lost their drive and way. For, after couple of years of call to action, it all appears to have fizzled out.

Let us lead, follow or move, lest the next generations blame us for inaction and their plight.