***Mea Culpa, Nostra Culpa***

*A*ll are at fault under the dictum guilty unless proven innocent. For, we are negligent of basic duties and responsibilities as citizens in democracy. How then can we expect freedom and fundamental rights? Those are subverted by politicians in cahoots with bureaucracy and *chamchas*. How can we try to regain and preserve? Wanna drive change? Wake up, others too; all for that matter; for, we stand imperiled.

Is it that we have lost love, hope, respect, faith and trust for the republic? Like profligate, we have squandered fruits of independence earned by generations over two centuries. Founding fathers must be praying for resurrection to revisit and set matters right. Belated it is, but we can try overhaul the system for liberty, fraternity and equality, with integrity and secularity. Yes, we can. Lead, follow or move. Instead of talking, writing, analyzing, discussing, suggesting, advising et al, let us take to the booms.

Start with the Judiciary. It has failed to deliver; professing courts are about law and not justice! But when it suits them, to demonstrate sympathy, once a while they do do justice. Symptomatically, it is subservient to the system that it is to keep a vigil on, but at mercy of its masters. How can legaldom and jurists invoking temporal powers, and bound by oaths taken on scriptures avoid delivering justice? Where is judicial activism? When it is crystal clear that the society can’t tolerate anymore, isn’t it time that they espouse causes and not be ensconced? How can PM weed out the corrupt, when he is at their mercy? Gross injustice must be undone; individual liberty must be subservient to people’s rights like micro in macro.

Can’t argumentative lawyers turn justice oriented? The rampant systemic failure –seen at traffic lights- is result of bad examples of disobedience and above law attitude shown by politicians. They should be treated as ordinary mortals and shunned for their nefarious activities; part of us though! The challenge is to evict criminals from politics and legislatures; on war footing, from the reach of market thugs to corporate chieftains canvassing for their favourites. . Can’t jurists advocate banning of known criminals instead of arguing on technicalities for their –lawyers and politicians- survival?

Isn’t it time, we the educated and better informed take to the streets, even at the risk of sedition, to change the system for the better sooner than later? Incremental changes won’t suffice; drastic changes through paradigm shifts are caused through chaos. Time for tumults and revolts, peacefully but. Post war baby boomers –the beneficiaries of developments so far have failed; only the youth can save us.

Next the Executive. Public servants they are, should perform so and be gauged on performance. No lifetime employment and pensions. As the administrators cannot serve all aspects of governance increasingly driven by knowledge and technology, induction of professionals is called for.

Then the legislatures. Amend and rewrite the constitution through electoral process, because the elected will not change it against their own interests. This brings Election commission to the fore and agencies like CVC, CBI, CAG, PAC etc too. Let the caged parrots be released. They must synchronise and synthesise efforts such that nailing culprits –amongst them too- becomes natural easy fast process without delaying tactics, escapism and avoidance. Institutional decay needs to be countered.

The switch from socialism to capitalism for the sake of job creation and economic development –in the wake of governance failure- has been lopsided. Slogans like Make in India, *Swatch* *bharat* etc would serve the purpose and deliver only if trickle down is ensured. Crony capitalism need be checked and transparency in discretion is called for. The opportunity to leapfrog with modernism and IT, like we moved up in agriculture and cellular communications, should not be lost or delayed. It must be well spread out and not allowed to be cornered by cronies and shenanigans through malfeasance that dynastisis has entrenched in politics.

Society and realities are a reflection of ourselves. RTI & RTS should be well utilized. Make everything time-bound. Let nothing be stuck/slowed/sabotaged with myriad procedures. Lawyers and advocates should help in fast tracking the system. Let the courts clear backlogs and usher in changes to deliver justice with speed and fairness.

NOTA should be given due weightage. When NOTA gets majority, all candidates must be disqualified; it is simple arithmetic and justice. Clarity on it is lacking. Thus once `Reject’ is in place, `Recall’ for violations and non-performance must become norm. Impact of improper actions taken in the interim when in power before recall, must be negated and set right; then only justice will be seen to be done. Referendum as a leap forward need be brought in expeditiously for crucial decisions affecting the polity.

As a pillar of democracy, the media seems to be at it, even though it could be for their own ratings. Finally, citizens themselves from bottom up. Citizens must keep a vigil through a Shadow Cabinet and Civil Society Action Groups at every level. Since opposition cannot be expected to play the role of constructive criticism –being involved in derogatory acts most of the time- prominent citizens/think-tanks must constitute the shadow cabinet.

While the political parties are at each other -finding faults, discrediting and campaigning against one another with nothing refreshing to offer in governance and development- people at lower rungs are revolting and taking to violence and terrorism. Are these signs of a developed democracy?

Should religion be on political agenda at all? Going back to the 30 year war (1618-48) in Europe after which countries there had taken shape on slaughtering in the name of god, and current violence enshrouding Islam, it is sensible that Hindustan –having learned from pains of partitions- isolate spirituality and politics. Religions and laws are about morals, and so there is no scope to sleep with immoral politics.

Technocrats and scientists must come forward and take the mantle of responsibility. The millennium of darkness between 5th and 15th century, when science was pushed to the background after burning of the Alexandrian library, is a crude reminder. It was marine adventures since Columbus and the like that eventually brought the world closer and instilled some sense in us earthlings.

The right thinking and committed free of political bias must come under one umbrella to save the nation and citizens from their plight. It is a bounden duty and call of the times. We cannot let ourselves down or the country; for, future generations will not forgive us for the mess of poor legacy being left behind.

PS: If one is inclined/committed to motivate/guide and capable of organizing a revolution across broad social spectrum, please read Destined Encounters @ [www.surypullat.com](http://www.surypullat.com), last chapter at least.