***CLEANSING POLITICS***

**Decriminalising the urgency**

This is challenge of a life time, but we do owe it to next few generations to start off corrective process here and now. Corruption, malfeasance and mis-governance by few is solely because of the inaction of many. Hadn’t our forefathers strived and sacrificed for a quarter of a millennium to obtain freedom? The current mess is of our own making, though corrupt-criminal nexus has existed from times immemorial and colonisers had imprinted such attitudes on our psyche.

Politics is said to be the art of the impossible and Democracy the best of the least possible; coalition the least desirable. Criminalised democracy cannot be lived with, tolerated for whatever reasons even as a coalition Dharma excuse- and passed on. That we had an economist, ex-Finance minister in Prime Minister’s *kursi with* *kichdi* governance for survival goes to show that we have let it happen. The rot had set in with liberalisation –of necessity, because inefficiency and ineffectiveness of developmental project execution to serve burgeoning, demanding and informed populace. As such, demand for and cost of scarce items –housing, transport, communications: witnessed by 2G- had zoomed, creating opportunities for politicians, their ilk, cronies and businessmen as cohorts to loot in cahoots. Crony capitalism has percolated all activities, black money has become endemic and politics has become the most lucrative enterprise.

Failure and limitations in keeping criminals out of electoral process need be addressed urgently. As with Lok pal Bill, any effort would be stymied by those in power, on the take, vested interests and brokers. Parties and leaders have succumbed to the nexus. The Courts too had let us down. The administrative class also can be faulted; the few daring to stand up are being mowed down. The system is so bad that politicians and their team right down to driver and peon are in collusion.

The right thinking should formulate strategies and measures for a cleaner system by next election. All committed **AGAINST BRIBERY & CORRUPTION** in the wake of Anna Hazare’s efforts need to come together and draw up effective processes, methodologies and steps. It may not be easy, may be risky, but needs to be done with alacrity. If not, we will be at the mercy of criminals *aka goonda raj*.

It is not a question of supremacy of Parliament, Judiciary and Executive –they all seem to be hand in glove- but a clarion call to set things right that has gone wayward is a must. The Press/Media has much stronger and voicy role to play in technology driven news coverage and environment. Let us strengthen their hands using their coverage to reach the masses afar, the idle ones, those who feel that their duty is done by discussions and paying taxes, those who can be motivated, guided and delegated to, too. RTI is a belated blessing, is being successfully used and has immense potential for use. The Courts have been woken up, questioning delays, and have become more active, effective and useful.

We have to get over denial, frustration, anger and acceptance modes to ACTION as to what can be done, needs to be done and MUST be done quickly and effectively. An ACTION PLAN needs to be drawn up by the activists and taken forward country-wide. We do have committed groups from different parts of the country and fields of work coming together.

Proposed course of action:

Awareness campaigns at all levels starting with schools, colleges, groups, institutions, enterprises

Educating the public on misuse of power, enquiring, reporting, follow up and corrective measures

Voluntary standards of compliance to demonstrate willingness and commitment to fight corruption

Core groups of the committed lot in all geographical areas to network and take the mission forward

On the Electoral Front/System: Maximise electoral participation

 Ban Criminals (the most difficult task by definition and process)

 Work to bring in: Reject & Recall

 Increase participation at all levels by women (not as wives, daughters)

 Enable voting by remote means like using mobile, computer etc

 Protect/enable civil servants work diligently free of political influence

Follow up on SCAMS, Enquiry Commissions, CBI,CVC, CEC, CAG initiated cases

Follow up on corruption cases and complaints

Recognise anti corruption success/efforts

Pursue matters for GREATER COMMON GOOD in socio-politico-economic fields promoting sustainable development with minimal environmental degradation

**MORE ????????????**

**Re-LAUNCH on: 01st May at National level**