**Time for Catharsis**

It is time for a mini-revolution if not a full-fledged one to change the rotten system that has gotten precipitated since independence. It is a gross failure and Anna is heaven sent. Let us drive this second independence movement to release us from the clutches by cleansing system so that an effective Lokpal Bill would be quickly enacted and implemented properly.

Emotional detachment from party politics is called for. For, the system has failed to preserve, sustain, deliver and serve the causes of hopes, aspirations and dreams of the masses. Coalition dharma cannot be an excuse for inaction and letting loot bind the un-bondables. Politics is driven by craving for power through unprincipled compromises, and sadly not for the good of the people.

Ideologically, Philosophically, Politically, Economically et al, one can debate, argue, justify and continue stonewalling the surge of call for immediate change and clean governance. India’s oft-stressed strength of unity in diversity is obvious in its unified sentiments against bribery and corruption cutting across spiritual polarisations and sentiments. Dabawallahs to the fore! Coalition partners and opposition is at loss as to how to take the lead in converting the challenges at hand to opportunities for betterment.

The nexus amongst legislature, executive and judiciary is so strong that people have lost hope and faith, and are ready to resort to non-violent protests (fasting for *satyagraha*: desire for truth) forsaking all that they have. The three have ensconced themselves by usurping power from the ballot box through undemocratic means and are covering each other’s malfeasance. Telecom, Power, Infrastructure, Education, SEZ, Mining, Land acquisition/grabbing, MPLAD etc are classic scams. From cradle to grave we are at their mercy, and beyond too for death and inheritance certificates. Fortunately, media –the fourth pillar has turned out to be the odd one –a good Samaritan- unearthing all mischievous deeds of the rest. A justice pleading his own case accusing his superiors and colleagues illustrated the sorry spectacle of the state we are in, but bipartisan impeachment with huge majority hopefully has restored -albeit much delayed- some confidence and shows that the dishonest at even at high levels will be held accountable and appropriately punished. The loot should be recovered and exemplary punishment meted out to dissuade others. Buildings like Adarsh should be demolished (or nationalised) and the land returned to the rightful owners.

It may be lawful and clever to argue any which way that suits the occasion, but the laws too have failed us all. No doubt parliament is supreme and mobocracy is unacceptable, but when it has abdicated its responsibility to enact laws timely with foresight for implementation with alacrity to avoid avoidable social unrests, it has lost its moral right to claim responsibility belatedly, to impose politically convenient rules by the rulers on the ruled. It is but natural that vested interests in power will provide escape routes for whatever they have done and will not draw up rules that will work against their interests.

Is liberalisation the root cause or moral turpitude? From state controlled economic development and firm foundations of socialism, it was ushered in to accelerate change where government was incapable of executing reforms at the pace required for growing population coming of age. What it has turned out to be is crony capitalism with everything –including the nation’s silvers- on sale to highest politically connected bidders with perpetual shares for the looters and facilitators. Syphoned funds returning from off shore islands through Participatory Note has catalysed the process. And the lack of will to prosecute known offenders for wealth stashed overseas, highlights the shenaniganism. Imagine developmental possibilities with such huge sums repatriated!

Courts, CBI, CAG, CVC, CEC etc finally have found courage to do their bounden duties at the behest of the citizens and not for their corrupt masters. Let us help them pull out skeletons from all cupboards. In India corruption has trickled down from top to bottom and permeated all strata. To correct speedily, those with criminal records should be denied right to contest in elections and the parties who put them up must be barred. Suspect judges must be taken action against without delay. All those who have been cornering benefits from public distribution system, poverty alleviation and employment generation schemes etc should be summarily tried and punished. It is distressing to note that all well-meant safety mechanisms of constitution has been bypassed, misused and are failing. To impart confidence to litigants, all pending cases in courts should be fast-tracked, time-bound.

Our netas have crossed the civil line of cheating all the people some time and some people all the time. The youth cannot be faulted for challenging established norms and taking to the streets. Non-violence, non-co-operation, fasting etc are perhaps the only weapons that we can depend upon. Desperation about despondency is so bad that we should appreciate patience shown so far against inequities of all kinds. Fresh blood from them need be infused into politics. This inflection point should be used to by the right thinking to channel the movement and energies to address and set right all neglected causes. Don’t miss the opportunity!

Workable Lokpal and Lokayukta are our only hopes. Whistle-blower protection under UN Convention Against Corruption and the long reach of UK Bribery Act are the others. It is a paradigm shift of economic order and this anti-corruption crusade has potential to spread like wildfire across the globe. If not corrected soon, we will be colonised again, this time by trans-national firms (that are already larger than economies of many countries) through non-equity mode (NEM) contracting and their surrogates who will govern us as pseudo-politicians. The other alternative is incremental changes that will eventually call for installing guillotines at India Gate and other protest centres.