

**ANNA HAS SHOWN THE WAY -
“STRONG CONVICTION & CONTINUOUS STRUGGLE -FOR JUSTICE AT ANY COST”**

By Harchandan Singh, General Secretary, IRTSA

Anna Hazare has created history in the independent India – not merely by fasting for twelve days for an effective Lokpal Bill against corruption but more importantly by moving the spirit of the Nation over this vital issue. It is good that the matter has been resolved through a unanimous Resolution passed by both the houses of Parliament to the satisfaction of all concerned. Hopefully the country will soon have an effective “Lokpal” Bill.

Incidentally the people in general and especially the younger generation had become greatly disillusioned on account of the prevailing all round corruption – both at the higher echelons as well as at grassroots levels - adversely affecting the day-to-day life of the common man.

Issues of big scams and black money stashed in foreign Banks - have all been widely condemned and will hopefully be suitably handled in the foreseeable future - under the existing and the proposed law(s).

Various provisions proposed to be added in the “Lokpal Bill” by the Civil Society and others were vital and have far reaching implications. It is good that the supremacy of Parliament has finally been accepted by all to frame the laws – even though the opinions on issues can always differ.

We all do want the corruption to end at all levels, but placing the subordinate staff and the lower level officers under the Lokpal will not only add to the burden and efficacy of the Institution of Lokpal, it may also be an impediment in the day-to-day handling of matters by the concerned staff to keep the wheels of the nation running due an uncalled of fear psychosis – as pointed out by the Railway Accident Inquiry Committee (1969) – headed by justice Wanchoo – in respect of the unbridled powers of the Vigilance Department. Hope all concerned will consider these constraints as well.

Will the corruption end at all levels after this law is made – is anybody’s guess. Will the businessmen start paying their taxes honestly? Will the customers (and that includes all of us too) start taking the Bills / Cash Memos for every thing which is bought; and pay the taxes or the VAT on it willingly? It all matters – if the corruption has to be uprooted altogether.

It is just not enough to have the laws but also necessary to ensure effective implementation thereof at all levels. But we can now hope for the possibility of reducing the corruption – if not eliminating it all together – as ending corruption will require something more than just having an “an effective Lokpal” or a couple of other laws or reforms. It will require the rousing of the consciousness of the nation to bring it to the right track.

Anna has shown to the world once again after a long time - the strength of conviction and effectiveness of non-violence. People had either forgotten the value of these virtues or had become disillusioned – for one or the other reason. Anna has shown the way and raised the hopes once again.

Conviction is the motivating force behind any struggle, any effort a change. Bigger the goal – stronger has to be the conviction.

Nothing can be left half the way. The effort has to be continuous to achieve anything worthwhile. If that was not so Anna’s fast would not have lasted that long – and the results would have been much diluted. Borders would not be safe without a constant vigil – day and night.

Continuous struggle – with conviction - is the only way to fight injustice in any form or manner. It is always important to fight for the justice and equally important to continue the struggle - till the rightful objectives are achieved.

However, we just cannot leave things for others to fight our battles. That is why thousands sat for so many days in the sun and rain - with Anna - all over the country. We all have to involve ourselves fully and completely into any cause for which we are convinced that something needs to be done.

No battle was ever won by the Generals alone or just by the soldiers. Every one has to be fully involved and play his role effectively and continuously with all the strength and resources at his command.

The most vital thing for any struggle to succeed is the spirit of sacrifice & selflessness besides of course the dedication and commitment to the cause. It is high time that we all learn all this from the core of our heart and re-dedicate ourselves to our objectives.