

*Justice A. P. Sahi*



26<sup>th</sup> March, 2020

### **A BATTLE AHEAD**

The trumpets have sounded and we have to march ahead. A march of solidarity and resolve to overcome an impending threat. I beseech you in the Dunkirk spirit, and share with you once again a call to duty as that given by Late Netaji Subash Chandra Bose to fight back for our peaceful and healthy lives, to remember in these trying times late President John Fitzgerald Kennedy, "Ask not what your country can give to you, Ask what you can give to your country" and to responsibly understand that crisis is an opportunity for you to assess the unforeseen and perform – to understand the unknown – and encourage people to live by living with them actively and not abandoning your duty – like Florence Nightingale. This undreamed moment poses a challenge that gives you an enchanting opportunity to face it

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with courage, determination and enthusiasm to cross an unavoidable part of life forced upon by nature.

The situation today even though threatening may, God forbid, turn out to be dreadful tomorrow, but for now it is not one like catching the wolf by the ears. None the less the wall next door has caught fire. Do not loose time and help in generating a preserving and conserving atmosphere, both for yourself and your near and dear ones and also for your surroundings. Now is the time to prove that you really practice what you preach, namely social distancing. This is the only curve you need to flatten. You can convert this gloomy air of anxiety into a feeling of expectancy with your small efforts reflecting change in daily habits. It may look a little awkward to maintain a distance beneath your own roof but that is sufficient to keep you together. This is a time to take care of yourself and shower affection on others to

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reform and reassure the entire society. In short this is a moment where you can serve your interests and help preserve that of others.

The nation has given a call of medical emergency, almost unprecedented in modern times as the impact of Corona Virus is global. A rigorous self-denial in an environment of a total arrest of civil functions is our duty. Many of us in various professions or callings have to ethically and civilly perform some duties. They are to be respected and applauded as they are those who have risked their lives to ensure that we live.

Endurance will help us in surmounting this storm. Even the greatest of misfortunes have been overcome by the strength of character and courage. A sense of glory kindles in us an inner strength that often increases in proportion to the obstacles imposed on us. Remember Persius "He

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conquers who endures". One who bravely endures can even overcome that which cannot be avoided. Lawyers in particular are trained to sustain a struggle in the profession that gives them a platform to develop sustained arguments. They employ logic and rationality to calibrate the strength of a cause and steer themselves, and when in doubt choose a safer heaven for their clients.

Today all of us have to exercise this choice of safety, not to escape, but to discharge a greater duty by distancing from congregations and thereby helping in maintaining a benchmark that can break the ruthless spread of the disease. Staying and praying with your families in the times to come will breathe a fresh life and will foster real hope in the lives of others. A self-imposed quarantine is neither a cage nor a jail, it is freedom from Corona Virus and a real

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proof of one's capacity to endure calamities. Let us rise to the occasion and genuinely answer the call of the nation.

I have a steadfast faith in your capacities and abilities to perform without any doubt. Hold on and we will win. The next morning sun will be like a sign of triumph for you.

*Sd/-*

**(A.P. SAHI)**