LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL

The unanimity of resolve to observe distancing, with its little hiccups, has proved that the herculean efforts on all fronts have substantially abated an unexpected disaster. The yeoman service of Doctors, Paramedics and Policeman, responsible bureaucracy, and above all, the level of perfection observed by our citizenry in general, has turned the tides if not to the optimum, at least to a great measure.

Social insecurities and unfoundational fear, or may be rumours, drove a small part of us to migrate to our nests which is not more than a weakness of human nature. Travel North, South, East or West, a man’s own house is still the best. Added to this may be panic, but as Seneca said “Blind panic is incapable of providing even for its own safety, for it does not avoid danger, but runs away. Yet we are more
exposed to danger when we turn our backs." A miniscule have attempted overdoing, the consequences whereof are not far to see, but overall the situation as reported appears to be satisfactory though still tense and grim and not completely overcome. Viewed, telescopically and microscopically, with our limited resources we have shown commendable courage and strength to ward off what was a huge impregnable wall of unreachable heights. While in other parts of the globe, countries which are economic giants equipped with far more energetic and advanced reserves, are fighting to contain the number of fatalities by prioritizing treatment virtually leaving unattended those who cannot be expected to revive from the infection. Our concerns are far more bonded, and protections by the State and by philanthropists with almost everyone being concerned about the impending misery have helped us to wade through to a great extent up until now. The efforts of
converting the ordinary to the extraordinary have gone a long way to translate, in the words of a newspaper columnist “Adversity to Opportunity” into concrete results.

We have achieved substantial success but not without veiled quarantine breaches. Had there been no dark side of Life, the shining stars and planets of hope would have been a mirage, and not a reality. Our experience of the pandemic, which phased us into a darker side of life, has also shown to us a way to fight adversities with hope and courage that has led to success. It is apt to remember Edmund Burke who said “Darkness is more productive of sublime ideas then light.” To kindle hope we have to realize that our life is composed of days and nights, with mornings full of energy and evenings with calm and serenity. To muster courage we have to stand in our own light and fight
our own shadows. Somewhere there is definitely light at the end of the tunnel. Hope is a better companion than fear.

To eradicate any possible recurrence of a new wave, a long term resolve to observe good personal hygiene, reduced gatherings and crowded settings if undertaken would foster confidence in each other and forestall communicative infections. The compulsory use of masks and distancing skills will act like extra brakes to halt the contagious march of Corona Virus. If you really want a thing done, do it yourself. With no vaccine yet discovered, every life saved will be almost a miracle, greater than winning a war that costs life.

The expectations down the road are to prevent any rapid spread of the virus and to bolt the doors of swift and certain death. Simultaneously the stress of keeping afloat a working and productive society by staggering work hours
with full time supporting frontline medicine, health, sanitation, food supply, essential services staff is necessary. We have begun well but it is said that well begun is half done. Nonetheless, at times, the half is more than the whole.

For this a huge thrust to check any further onslaught has to be strategized with all armaments showing no slackness in observing the essential and minimum norms of restraints. A higher zeal with a maximum tempo, may be as a last and final call to resist the omnipresent threat, is the sine qua non the prerequisite whereof is realizing the greater social responsibility of survival of all and not only of the fittest. We have to virtually subject ourselves to the psychology of hard and true penance, like the hard labour of sailors on a storm-stricken ship, paddling together in perfect rhyme and unison to ensure reaching the shore, which in our
case is not far to reach if we genuinely discipline ourselves. As Cox Coleman said “Even the woodpecker owes his success to the fact that he uses his head and keeps pecking away until he finishes the job he starts.” These lessons of perseverance can be learnt from Polar bears in the Antarctic and the ships of the desert of Sahara. We have also to move like a sure traveller cautious of his direction by using the right compass, planning and plotting a safe road map. Levels of inaction have to be introspected to reduce any premium on lapses.

Remember, Disease is the punishment of neglect. It is proverbial that they who shun smoke, often fall into the fire. The last lap in a 400 metres hurdle, tests not only the power of the thighs of an athlete but also the tenacity of all the members of the team who have collectively run the race handing over the baton successfully and successively from
one lap to another. Ours is also a team effort where all of us may turn out to be winners of an unexpected triumph. Our slender means with strong strings of hope and courage strewn with genuine efforts will relieve us of this circus of life to block this wave of misery. Let hope be our handmaid and faith be our staff. Let us once again indulge in repeating Robert Frost ... ... ... and miles to go before we sleep.

Sd/-

(A.P. SAHI)