



THE NATIONALIST

Issue:13, August, 2015



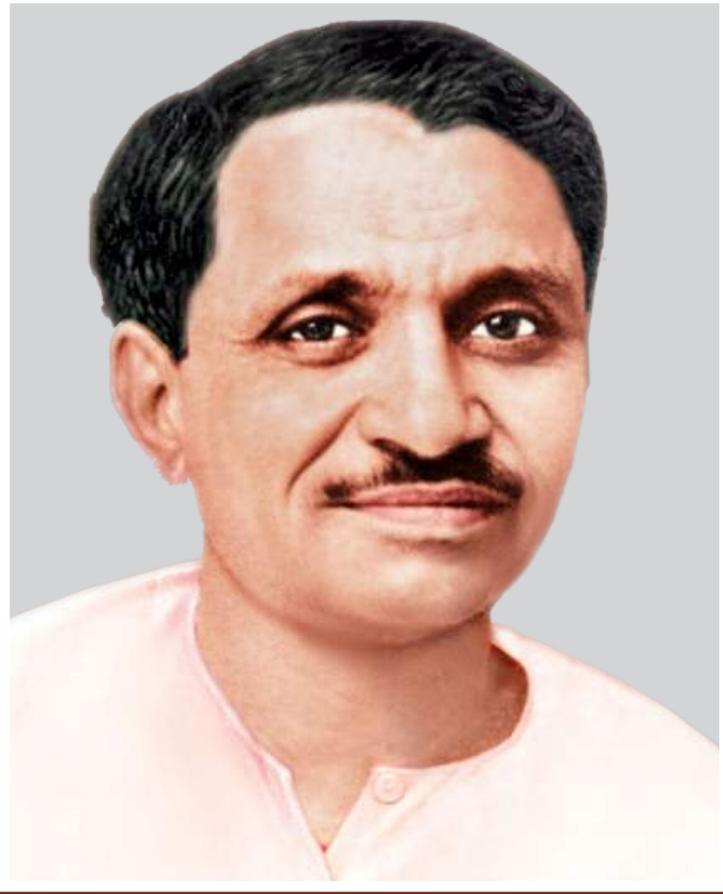
Digital India
Power To Empower

**Challenges of
Digital
India**

**Politics Over
Farmer
Distress**

**How the Writing of Indian
History was Selective & Why it
Needs to Re-Written?**

राजनीति दलों के लिए एक दर्शन की आवश्यकता



“भिन्न-भिन्न राजनीतिक दलों को अपने लिए एक दर्शन (सिद्धांत या आदर्श) का क्रमिक विकास करने का प्रयत्न करना चाहिए। उन्हें कुछ स्वार्थों की पूर्ति के लिए एकत्र होने वाले लोगों का समुच्चय मात्र नहीं बनना चाहिए। उनका रूप किसी व्यापारिक प्रतिष्ठान या ज्वाइंट स्टॉक कंपनी (Joint Stock Company) से अलग होना चाहिए। यह भी आवश्यकता है कि पार्टी का दर्शन केवल पार्टी घोषणा-पत्र के पृष्ठों तक ही सीमित न रह जाए।

सदस्यों को उन्हें समझना चाहिए और उन्हें कार्यरूप में परिणत करने के लिए निष्ठापूर्वक जुट जाना चाहिए।”

– पं. दीनदयाल उपाध्याय

–पोलिटिकल डायरी, पं. दीनदयाल उपाध्याय; सुरुचि प्रकाशन, नई दिल्ली; 2012; पृष्ठ -188

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भारतीय जनता पार्टी के राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष श्री अमित शाह जी द्वारा पटना के ऐतिहासिक गांधी मैदान में दिए गए उद्बोधन का मुख्य अंश

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“Family's Identification with Nation”

The hijacking of the monsoon session of Parliament by the Congress Party and its theatrical leaders who are adept at dramatizing and falsifying situations is, in effect, the expressions of a disdain for the mandate of the people and for the essential democratic ethos of India. But then the Congress party and its top leaders, the “High Command” – a term that was a common in the Nazi lexicon – have always displayed a disdain for the peoples' verdict, especially if that verdict has gone against them and have reduced their powers of doling out patronage.

In fact, the Congress party and its faithful political trumpeter the Communist parties led by the CPIM have, in the last one and a half year, opposed every attempt made to pull the country out of the morass that she was pushed into in the last decade. Ironically, those who have created a mess of our national affairs in the last six decades are now asking the Modi Government to fix everything in a year and are everyday indulging in theatrics which is not in sync with the democratic spirit of the country and the people.

The height of such mindless obstructionism and petty politicking was when the leading lights of the Congress party openly opposed the

historic effort of bringing about a Naga Peace Accord. So minimal is their concern for the well-being of India's northeast and in fact for the whole of India, that the Congress leaders, especially its President, displaying an absolute disregard for India's national security concerns condemned the effort. Such a mindless and desperate effort to gain some byte-space exposes the Congress's actual mindset which is to prevent India's progress, development and well-being.

The Northeast of India is a region that has seen successive Congress governments in power and has yet remained neglected, under-developed and marginalized with its full potential yet to be developed. The question as to why such long festering conflicts could not be solved by the Congress and were, in fact, allowed to perpetuate and burn, the question as why the region remained marginalized for so many years, the question as to why the youth of northeast have left the region in large numbers to find opportunities in other parts of India, need to be answered by the Congress. Yet it is a debate that it is avoiding and obfuscating.

In near six decades of rule, the Congress with the help of the Communist parties, have tinkered with and debased democratic, constitutional and academic institutions. Interestingly

after it had institutionalised corruption in the country, the Congress, had, since the mid-1950s, developed a habit of constituting enquiry commissions whose recommendations it never followed. The finding of these commissions were debilitating and revealed how the Congress created a wide nexus network of corruption, abetted, aided and nurtured it with impunity. On various Congress ministers and leaders the commissions observed, that they: “abused their influence and power for enriching themselves directly or indirectly, their position and power were exploited by their kith and kin for securing undue favours or advantages from government officials in their business dealings, that they accepted illegal gratification for granting licenses, renewing of agreements, giving rebates, concessions and /or exemptions, including giving undue pecuniary benefits to private firms, affecting adversely the interests of the common people and the revenue of the State, that they accepted huge sums of money as compensation in awarding contracts and placing orders to national and international firms.” It is thus deeply ironical to say the least, to see and hear the Congress party and its leaders talk of propriety in public life!

Dr. Rammanohar Lohia, “believed that the Nehru family's identification with the nation was not only undemocratic but harmful and that

Nehru's acceptance” of Western values led to his “opposing anything that would give the nation a sense of Indianness”, unfortunately, fifty years after Nehru's passing, that family's identification with the nation is still proving to be detrimental for our national progress.

*-Dr. Anirban Ganguly,
Director, SPMRF*

पटना में दीनदयाल उपाध्याय ग्राम ज्योति योजना तथा विभिन्न विकास परियोजनाओं के शुभारम्भ पर प्रधानमंत्री के भाषण के मुख्य बिंदु



हम सब इस बात को अब भली भांति समझने लगे हैं कि विकास का कोई पर्याय नहीं है। अगर हमें गरीबी से लड़ना है तो विकास करना होगा, हमें बेरोजगारी से लड़ना है, तो विकास करना होगा, हमें अशिक्षा से लड़ना है तो विकास करना होगा, यदि हमें आरोग्य की सुविधाएं मुहैया करानी होंगी तो विकास करना होगा। सब दुखों की अगर कोई एक दवाई है तो वो दवाई है विकास। यह अच्छी बात है कि इन दिनों राज्यों के बीच भी विकास को लेकर एक स्पर्धा का माहौल बनता चला जा रहा है। राज्यों को लगने लगा है कि वो राज्य उस बात में मुझसे आगे निकल गया, अब हम कुछ कोशिश करेंगे, हम आगे निकलेंगे। आखिरकार देश को आगे बढ़ाना है तो राज्यों के विकास से ही आगे बढ़ने वाला है। इसलिए देश के विकास के लिए राज्यों का विकास इस मूल मंत्र को लेकर के, केंद्र हो या राज्य हो, सबको मिलकर के काम करना, काम को आगे बढ़ाना, यह आवश्यक

होता है।

आने वाले दिनों में जिस प्रकार से रोड का महत्व है, रेल का महत्व है वैसे ही गैस ग्रिड का भी महत्व है। पूरी **Economy** में गैस आधारित **Economy Shape** ले रही है और गैस पहुंचाने के लिए महंगा खर्चीला नेटवर्क खड़ा करना पड़ता है, **Infrastructure** बनाना पड़ता है। मैं देख रहा हूं कि **Economy** के **Sector** में गैस की उपलब्धि उस देश की पूरी **Economy** को बदल देती है। बिहार की **Economy** को बदलने का एक बहुत बड़ा ताकतवर प्रयास गंगा तो हमारे पास है ही है, हम ऊर्जा गंगा को लेकर के आ रहे हैं आपके पास।

आने वाले दिनों में बिहार को 2015 से 2020 के दरमियान **Finance Commission** के द्वारा करीब-करीब पौने चार लाख करोड़ के करीब रुपया मिलने वाले हैं। जो पहले सिर्फ बीते हुए समय में सिर्फ



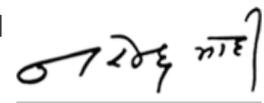
डेढ़ लाख करोड़ रुपया मिला था। डेढ़ लाख का पौने चार लाख करोड़ रुपया आने वाले दिनों में.. क्यों कि हम मानते हैं कि यह प्रदेश आगे बढ़ना चाहिए।

मेरा यह विश्वास है कि पूरब में जबतक प्रगति नहीं होती है, देश कभी आगे नहीं बढ़ सकता। चाहे बिहार हो, चाहे पूर्वी उत्तर प्रदेश हो, चाहे ओड़िशा हो, चाहे पश्चिम बंगाल हो, चाहे झारखंड हो, असम हो, नागालैंड हो, मिजोरम हो, यह सारा हिंदुस्तान का पूर्वी भाग यह जब विकसित नहीं होता है, यह भारत माता हमारी समृद्ध नहीं हो सकती है। इसलिए बिहार का विकास, यह हमारा प्राइम एजेंडा है। पूर्वी भारत का विकास, हमारा मकसद है, हमारा लक्ष्य है। उसको आगे बढ़ाने के लिए अनेक नई योजनाएं लाने वाले हैं, उसको पूरा करेंगे।

आप को याद होगा पिछले लोक सभा के चुनाव में मैं यहां आया था। गांधी मैदान में धमाकों के बीच, मैं भाषण कर रहा था। उस समय मैंने कहा था कि केंद्र में हम सत्ता में आएं तो बिहार को विशेष पैकेज देंगे। उस समय मैंने घोषणा की थी। मैंने कहा था कि 50 हजार करोड़ रुपयों का पैकेज बिहार को दिया जाएगा। भाईयों बहनों मैं जब दिल्ली में बैठा, बारीकी से चीजों को देखा तो मैं इस नतीजे पर पहुंचा कि मेरे दिल दिमाग में बिहार की जो कल्पना है, बिहार को

अगर मुझे उस ऊंचाई पर ले जाने में बिहार को साथ लेकर के चलना है तो 50 हजार करोड़ से बात बनने वाली नहीं है। उसे और अधिक करने की आवश्यकता है। मैं आज उस की घोषणा नहीं करूंगा, मैं सही समय पर आकर के उसकी घोषणा करूंगा, लेकिन मैं इतना कहता हूं कि मैंने जो वादा किया उसको तो निभाऊंगा, उससे भी आगे मामला ले जाऊंगा, यह आपको मैं वादा करने आया हूं। ताकि बिहार को विकास की यात्रा में कोई रुकावट नहीं आनी चाहिए और विकास की यात्रा तेज गति से आगे बढ़नी चाहिए।

मैं मानता हूं कि हिंदुस्तान की **Second Green revolution** की संभावना अगर कहीं है, तो हिंदुस्तान के पूर्वी इलाके में हैं। बिहार में है, बंगाल में है, असम में है, पूर्वी उत्तर प्रदेश में है। **Second Green revolution** की संभावना इस इलाके में है। इसलिए मैंने देश भर के कृषि वैज्ञानिकों को आज पटना की धरती पर बुलाया है। वो यहा बैठकर के विचार-विमर्श करने वाले हैं। आने वाले दिनों में यहां के कृषि क्षेत्र का एक नई ताकत देने की दिशा में प्रयास करने वाले हैं।


NARENDRA MODI

आकाशवाणी पर प्रधानमंत्री के 'मन की बात' का मुख्य अंश



On Agriculture: इस वर्ष बारिश की अच्छी शुरुआत हुई है। हमारे किसान भाईयों, बहनों को खरीफ की बुआई करने में अवश्य मदद मिलेगी। और एक खुशी की बात मेरे ध्यान में आयी है और मुझे बड़ा आनंद हुआ। हमारे देश में दलहन की और तिलहन की – pulses की और oil seed की – बहुत कमी रहती है। गरीब को दलहन चाहिये, खाने के लिये सब्जी वगैरह में थोड़ा तेल भी चाहिये। मेरे लिये खुशी की बात है कि इस बार जो उगाई हुई है, उसमें

दलहन में करीब-करीब 50 प्रतिशत वृद्धि हुई है। और तिलहन में करीब-करीब 33 प्रतिशत वृद्धि हुई है। मेरे किसान भाई-बहनों को इसलिए विशेष बधाई देता हूँ, उनका बहुत अभिनन्दन करता हूँ।

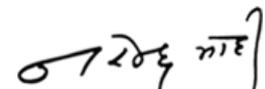
On Kargil Vijay Diwas: 26 जुलाई, हमारे देश के इतिहास में कारगिल विजय दिवस के रूप में अंकित है। देश के किसान का नाता, जमीन से जितना है, उतना ही देश के जवान का भी है। कारगिल युद्ध में, हमारा एक-एक जवान, सौ-सौ दुश्मनों पर भारी

पड़ा। अपने प्राणों की परवाह नकर के, दुश्मनों की कोशिशों को नाकाम करने वाले उन वीर सैनिकों को शत-शत नमन करता हूँ। कारगिल का युद्ध केवल सीमाओं पर नहीं लड़ा गया, भारत के हर शहर, हर गाँव में, इस युद्ध में योगदान था। ये युद्ध, उन माताओं, उन बहनों ने लड़ा, जिनका जवान बेटा या भाई, कारगिल में दुश्मनों से लड़ रहा था। उन बेटियों ने लड़ा, जिनके हाथों से अभी, पीहर की मेहंदी नहीं उतरी थी। पिता ने लड़ा, जो अपने जवान बेटों को देखकर, खुद को जवान महसूस करता था। और उस बेटे ने लड़ा, जिसने अभी अपने पिता की उंगली पकड़ कर चलना भी नहीं सीखा था। इनके बलिदान के कारण ही आज भारत दुनिया में सर उठाकर बात कर पाता है। और इसलिए, आज कारगिल विजय दिवस पर इन सभी हमारे सेनानियों को मेरा शत-शत प्रणाम।

One year of MyGov online platform: 26 जुलाई, एक और दृष्टि से भी मैं ज़रा महत्वपूर्ण मानता हूँ, क्योंकि, 2014 में हमारी सरकार बनने के बाद, कुछ ही महीनों में 26 जुलाई को हमने My Gov को प्रारंभ किया था। लोकतंत्र में जन-भागीदारी बढ़ाने का हमारा संकल्प, जन-जन को विकास के कार्य में जोड़ना, और मुझे आज एक साल के बाद यह कहते हुए यह खुशी है, करीब दो करोड़ लोगों ने My Gov को देखा। करीब-करीब साढ़े पांच लाख लोगों ने बवउउमदजे किये, और सबसे ज्यादा खुशी की बात तो ये है कि पचास हजार से ज्यादा लोगों ने PMO applications पर सुझाव दिए, उन्होंने समय निकाला, mind apply किया, इस काम को महत्वपूर्ण माना।

On Road safety and project of Cashless treatment: हमारा देश में हर मिनट एक दुर्घटना होती है। दुर्घटना के कारण, road accident के कारण, हर 4 मिनट में एक मृत्यु होती है। और सबसे बड़ी चिंता का विषय ये भी है, करीब-करीब एक तिहाई मरने वालों में 15 से 25 साल की उम्र के नौजवान होते हैं और एक मृत्यु पूरे परिवार को हिला देती है। शासन को तो जो काम करने चाहिये वो करने ही चाहिए, लेकिन मैं माँ-बाप

से गुज़ारिश करता हूँ, अपने बच्चों को – चाहे two-wheeler चलाते हो या four wheeler चलाते हों – safety की जितनी बातें हैं, उसपर जरा सा ध्यान देने का माहौल परिवार में भी बढ़ाना चाहिए। Road Safety के लिए चाहे मकनबंजपवद का मामला हो, रोड की रचना का engineering हो, कानून को enforce करने की बात हो – या accident के बाद घायल लोगों को emergency care की बात हो, इन सारी बातों को ध्यान में रखते हुए Road Transport and Safety Bill हम लाने जा रहे हैं। आने वाले दिनों में National Road Safety Policy और Road Safety Action Plan का implementation करने की दिशा में भी हम कई महत्वपूर्ण कदम उठाने के लिए सोच रहे हैं। एक और project हम लिए है, आगे चलकर इसका विस्तार भी होने वाला है, बैस मे Treatment... गुडगाँव, जयपुर और वड़ोदरा... वहाँ से लेकर के मुंबई, राँची, रणगाँव, मौँडिया राज मार्गों के लिए, हम एक Cashless Treatment... और उसका अर्थ है कि पहले पचास घंटे – पैसे हैं कि नहीं, पैसे कौन देगा, कौन नहीं देगा, इन सारी चिंता छोड़ कर के – एकबार road accident में जो घायल है, उसको उत्तम से उत्तम सेवा कैसे मिले, सारवार कैसे मिले, उसको हम प्राथमिकता दे रहे हैं। देश भर में हादसों के संबंध में जानकारी देने के लिए टोल-फ्री 1033 नंबर, ambulance की व्यवस्था, ये सारी बातें... लेकिन ये सारी चीजें accident के बाद की हैं। Accident न हो इसके लिए तो हम सबने सचमुच में... एक-एक जान बहुत प्यारी होती है, एक-एक जीवन बहुत प्यारा होता है, उस रूप में उसको देखने की आवश्यकता है।


NARENDRA MODI

Bharat Has Lost Its Ratna

• *Narendra Modi*



Bharat has lost a Ratna, but the light from this jewel will guide us towards A P J Abdul Kalam's dream destination: India as a knowledge superpower, in the first rank of nations. Our scientist-President and one who was genuinely loved and admired across the masses never measured success by material possessions.

For him, the counterpoint to poverty was the wealth of knowledge, in both its scientific and spiritual manifestations. As a hero of our defence programme, he shifted horizons; and as a seer of the spirit, he sought to liberate doctrine from the narrow confines of partisan tension to the

transcendental space of harmony.

Every great life is a prism, and we bathe in those rays that find their way to us. His profound idealism was secure because it rested on a foundation of realism.

Every child of deprivation is a realist. Poverty does not encourage illusions. Poverty is a terrible inheritance; a child can be defeated even before he or she has begun to dream.

But Kalamji refused to be defeated by circumstances. As a boy, he had to support his studies by earning money as a newspaper vendor; today, page after page of the same newspapers are filled with his obituary notices.

He said that he would not be presumptuous enough to say that his life could be a role model for anybody; but if some poor child living in an obscure and underprivileged social setting found some solace in the way his destiny had been shaped, it could perhaps help such children liberate themselves from the bondage of illusory backwardness and helplessness.

He is my marg darshak, as well as that of every such child. His character, commitment and inspirational vision shine through his life. He was unencumbered by ego; flattery left him cold.

He was equally at ease before an audience of suave, globe-trotting ministers and a class of young students. The first thing that struck me about him was that, uniquely, he combined the honesty of a child with the energy of a teenager and the maturity of an adult.

He took little from the world, and gave all he could to society. A man of deep faith, he epitomised the three great virtues of our civilisation: *dama*, self-restraint; *dana*, sacrifice; and *daya*, compassion.

But this persona was powered by the fire of endeavour. His vision for the nation was anchored in freedom, development and strength.

Given our history, freedom had a political context of course; but it also included freedom of the mind and expansion of intellectual space. He wanted India to leap out of the underdeveloped trough and eliminate the curse of poverty through inclusive economic growth.

Wisely, he suggested that politicians spend only 30% of their time on politics, and 70% on development; a suggestion which he often followed up by calling in MPs from a state and discussing the socioeconomic issues of their region with them.

The third pillar, strength, was not born of aggression, but of understanding. An insecure nation will rarely discover the route to prosperity. Strength commands respect. His contributions to our nuclear and space achievements have given India the muscle to be confident of her place in the region and the world.

His memory is best honoured by the creation of new institutions that nurture science and technology, and enable us to find a beneficial equation with the awesome power of nature. Too often, greed makes us predators of our environment.

Kalamji saw poetry in a tree, and energy that could be harnessed in water, wind and sun. We should learn to look at our world through



his eyes, and with the same missionary zeal.

Human beings can shape their lives through will, persistence, ability and sheer courage. But we have not been given the right to script where we are born, or how and when we die.

However, if Kalamji had been offered an option, this is how he would perhaps have chosen to say goodbye: on his feet, and in front of a classroom of his beloved students.

As a bachelor, he was childless. But that is wrong. He was a father to every Indian child, teaching, cajoling, urging, exciting, clearing darkness wherever he found it with the radiance of his vision and the passion of his involvement.

He saw the future, and showed the

way. As I entered the room where his body lay in state yesterday, I noticed the painting at the entrance that depicted a few lines from an inspirational book he wrote for children, Ignited Minds.

The good that he did will not be interred with his bones, because his children will preserve his memory through their lives and work, and gift it to their children.

The writer is the Prime Minister of India

Courtesy: Jul 29 2015, The Times of India

Challenges of Digital India

• *Shakti Sinha*



The BJP fought the last national election on the slogan – maximum governance, minimum government. And while faith in the government has gone up, people are entitled to demand that the quality of governance improves. That it makes a difference to their lives. The bad news is that those who created huge expectations of big bang changes and revolutions are disappointed, and make their disappointment known through daily sermons that pass for newspaper columns and TV bytes. The good news is that on many fronts, quiet but substantive changes in processes and access are being introduced that would improve the quality of life of India's citizens through improved, transparent and accountable governance.

Digital India represents one such

approach that is both comprehensive and yet will touch the life of all citizens in the remotest village. It is a matter of great surprise, and regret, that despite being known for its computing and problem-solving skills, despite being seen as the back-office of the world, the coverage and effectiveness of our e-Governance initiatives is extremely patchy and disappointing. Countries with lower literacy levels, lower per capita incomes and greater challenges have moved far ahead of us in this field. And it is not because we started late, or did not invest adequate resources. The first desktop graced the tables of senior bureaucrats from 1986 onwards and big computer centres were built that processed data on implementation of public development programmes. Computer education in schools using mini-computers

using BASIC language was also introduced at the same time. Since then many programmes were launched by centre and state governments, but other than laptop computers replacing Remington typewriters, and extensive use of personal email and now social media, the overall impact has been below-par.

Having said that, there have been successes e.g., rail and airlines ticket booking, updation & maintenance of land records in a number of states, tracking PDS foodgrains in a few and so forth. Over the last few years, separate initiatives like the National e-Governance Programme (NeGP), National Knowledge Network (NKN), National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) etc have been launched that sought to place e-Governance within a larger public administrative framework keeping the citizen at the centre. Digital India takes this efforts one notch higher by seeking to build synergies from access to government using online/ mobile platform, extending the range of services and beneficiary oriented development and welfare programmes that would be covered to looking at e-education, e-health, skill upgradation using mass online open courses (MOOCs) and extending backward linkages to encouraging manufacture of e-goods by creating a favourable

climate for investments in this field to take place.

While the vision is comprehensive and extensive, it does not propose to implement it either centrally or using GOI budget sources alone. There are many existing government of India programmes and funding streams that would carry on and be strengthened/revamped. Importantly, it brings together efforts of different ministries and agencies. The state governments and the private sector have to play a key role in making it a success.

The failure of the earlier efforts primarily arose from the singular focus on acquisition of hardware. The placing of the computer on the desk of an officer became a prestige symbol. The allocation of computer was completely devoid of functional requirements. When computers moved in to the room of the personal assistants (PAs), they were at least used, if only as more efficient typewriters, akin to buying a truck to transporting a single book as by then computing powers had exploded. The situation is much better now but still limited – tracking of file movements, routine data uploading and spreadsheet functions, generation of bills by government utility, tracking government expenditures and cash

flow etc.

The singular failure, which Digital India, seeks to address is process re-engineering. Overwhelmingly, even when application for PDS (ration) cards for example can be filed online at Common Service Centres (CSCs) and where after approval, cards can be collected at CSCs, the actual processing of the application is done manually on files. Physical files bound in red-tape and paper memos/ letters remain the primary source of information flow in government offices. This has to go, and in a specified time-bound manner. The transition to e-Governance should be used as an opportunity to relook at government processes, collapsing the examination and approval levels to make it efficient and accountable. Similarly all intra- and inter-government communications should be electronic. This would force senior decision-making levels to be e-friendly and skilled thereby bringing the system under control and focussed. Digital India makes this a priority.

The second key determinant of success of Digital India would be the building of a genuine public-private partnership. CSCs as the visible face of the government and the financial sector at the village level would only work if the privates sector is

incentivised to make sufficient investment in physical facilities and in human resources. CSCs must not be undercut by running parallel government services, not allocating sufficient services or not paying them their fair service charges in time.

Lastly, Digital India should not be seen as belong to the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology within government of India, as being a GOI initiative within States or a government efforts among the public. Stakeholders at different levels have to be energised, empowered and made accountable. It must be a true national effort at implementing a key national vision. PM Modi's vision of digitising the vast field of governance and delivery reflects the aspiration and a mindset that is focused on the future and the progress of the Indian state machinery as a responsible, performing and responsive entity.

(The author is former Power & Energy Secretary Govt of Delhi, Chief Secretary Andaman & Nicobar, former Jt. Secretary PMO and a member of the SPMRF Advisory Board. He writes extensively on security and governance issues.)

Politics Over Farmer Distress

• *Parag Amalnerkar*

Jyotiraditya Scindia accusing the Modi government of being apathetic and adversarial to farmers is an attempt to stitch together a series of hollow arguments to paint Modi and the center as anti-farmer.

This has been in the making for a while now encouraged by the support across all opposition parties on the land acquisition bill and twisting that to link it to the plight of farmers even when the bill has not come into force yet! It is also a function of the much vaunted change of guard within a moribund Congress that people like Scindia have finally found a voice but the deployment of this voice as a sudden champion and messiah of farmers will need lots of answers. Questions carry weight when they are backed by sustained performance and glossing over the fact that Scindia's party was at the helm for 60 years will not help.

Let's deconstruct Scindia's and Congresses Modi as anti – farmer campaign:

- India's agricultural output witnessed negative growth this year, with farm output declining by 1.4% between January and March
- UPA 1 & 2 extended agricultural credit increases benefitted more than 7 crore farmers
- While the center has offered to reimburse state governments for

compensating farmers through the state disaster relief fund it confines the support to the first disaster in a financial year.



- Removal of the social impact assessment clause in the land ordinance.

The above form the crux of labeling Modi anti-farmer and adversarial. One would expect an economics grad from Harvard and an MBA from Stanford to have done some diligence prior to being seen as the face of the campaign to discredit Modi in the context of farmers but it does not seem to be the case.

Which new policy of the Modi Government has led to the decrease (and this is only Jan-March 2015) in farm output? None! On the contrary Modi government's belief in agriculture and its potential is reflected in the Union Budget. Gist of significant initiatives is as construed below:

These steps include enhanced institutional credit to farmers; promotion of scientific warehousing infrastructure including cold storage and cold chains in the country for increasing shelf life of agricultural produce; improved access to irrigation

through Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sichayee Yojana; provision of Price Stabilisation Fund to mitigate price volatility in agricultural produce; Mission mode scheme for Soil Health Card; Setting up of Agri-tech.

Infrastructure fund for making farming competitive and profitable; provide institutional finance to joint farming groups of “Bhoomi Heen Kisan” through NABARD; development of indigenous cattle breeds and promoting inland fisheries and other non-farm activities to supplement the income of farmers.

This Central Government recognises and discharges its responsibility to assist State Governments in overall development of Agriculture sector. Effective policy measures are in position to improve agricultural production and productivity and address problems of farmers. State Governments are also impressed upon to allocate adequate funds for development of agriculture sector in State plan, as well as initiate other measures required for achieving targeted agricultural growth rate and address problem of farmers.

Let's also dispel the propaganda around the removal of the Social Impact assessment clause in the land ordinance while reiterating that this has absolutely no bearing on Farmer woes or suicides. Propaganda suggests that the removal of social impact assessment is a carte blanche but it is not so. According to Arun Jaitley, the

mandatory “consent” clause and Social Impact Assessment (SIA) will not be applicable if the land is acquired for national security, defense, rural infrastructure including electrification, industrial corridors and housing for the poor including PPP where ownership of land continues to be vested with the government. Do note, the five areas that have been excluded, each and every one of them have either National interest or creating alternate revenue streams for farmers who don't make enough from farming alone at heart. In fact Modi government has balanced out the ordinance by including 13 so far excluded Acts under the Land Acquisition Act. It is hailed as a pro-farmer move as with this decision, rehabilitation, resettlement and compensation provisions will be applicable for the 13 existing central pieces of legislation. Till now land could be acquired under these Acts and there was no uniform central policy of rehabilitation and resettlement.

There is also some history of Jyotiraditya Scindia that one should know. In the years that he was the central power minister all four state-run distribution companies (discoms) under Modi's government (when he was CM) emerged as top performers in the appraisal carried out by the power ministry. Power Finance corp had organised an event to release state wise performance of integrated rating of state electricity distribution

utilities. This event was cancelled by the power ministry 48 hours prior without any reason! On another occasion organised by the power ministry, he left the venue abruptly without felicitating Gujarat Discom officials! These instances reveal the pettiness of Scindia; it is hard to digest his new found avatar and self-anointed ownership of farmers given his background.

Data is always the best antidote to people unleashing propaganda to resurrect their careers and not so much out of concern for farmers:

Ashok Gulati, Tushaar Shah and Ganga Sreedhar have written an IFPRI paper, 'Agricultural Performance in Gujarat Since 2000', which highlights something few people know – that Gujarat's agricultural performance is by far the best in India.

- Between 2000-01 and 2007-08 agricultural value added grew at a phenomenal 9.6% per year (despite a major drought in 2002). This is more than double India's agricultural growth rate, and much faster than Punjab's farm growth in the green revolution heyday. Indeed, 9.6% agricultural growth is among the fastest rates recorded anywhere in the world. That drives home the magnitude of Gujarat's performance. This was lauded by Swaminathan Aiyar as well, whom Jyotiraditya quotes! Now why would the same Modi who with his vision and hard work in a drought prone and arid state

like Gujarat made it the best performing agricultural state suddenly turn anti –farmer? Laughable to say the least!

- New data released by the NCRB on July 17th 2015 shows that Maharashtra continues to be the leader in farmer suicides by accounting for 45.5% of the total suicides in the country. Even with the earlier methodology, Maharashtra always topped the hall of shame in the context of farmer suicides. Now if the UPA policies and compensation were so effective, why does this state top all suicide charts when it was the congress ruling it for 15 years? States like Bihar, West Bengal, and Uttarakhand recorded zero farmer suicides and none of these are congress ruled states!

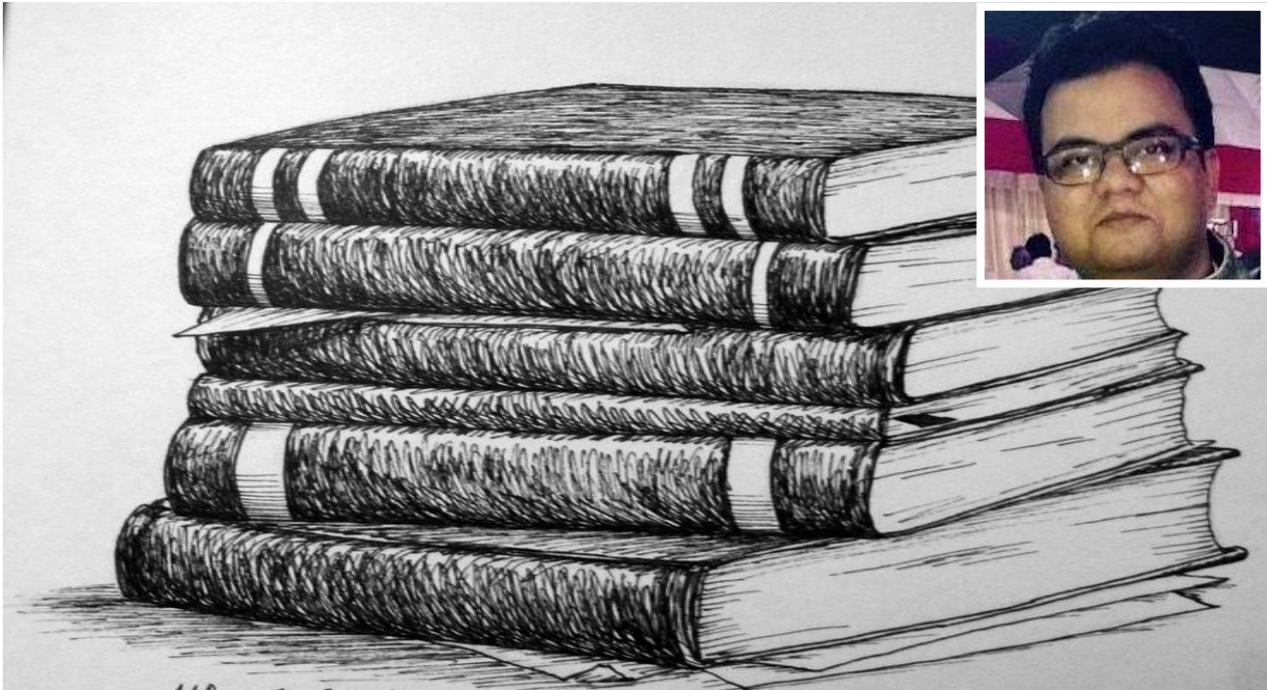
Like oft proven education does not necessarily guarantee learning, Jyotiraditya Scindia in his quest to appease Rahul Gandhi and join hands to resurrect their near extinct careers is punching way above his weight. Shorn of substance and again reflective of the petty trait to undermine India's welfare at the cost of personal posturing, getting the anti –farmer tag to stick to Modi will fail miserably.

Parag Amalnerkar is a strategy and marketing professional, passionate about nation building, he focuses on incisive analyses on geopolitics, foreign affairs, defence and also political satire.

Courtesy: <http://www.niticentral.com>, Date-21 July, 2015

How the Writing of Indian History was Selective & Why it Needs to Re-Written?

• *Abhinav Prakash*



The debate over re-writing the history textbooks of India has been re-ignited and as usual emotions are running high where most of the people are not even aware about the issues at hand. But this has not prevented them from taking partisan stance and firing the usual clichés, without ever properly examining the flaws in the history textbooks. Of course, in the present textbooks there are several factual errors or the deliberate attempts at whitewashing or obscuring the uncomfortable facts but we should be able to see the problem in its totality. The trouble with the history textbooks can be seen under six important categories:

The first trouble with the history writing is that of the perspective. It is true that history is multi-faceted and it is not possible to include all the angles in school textbooks. But history must be written from the perspective of the masses and not the rulers alone. It is a tragedy that history of India is largely written as the history of foreign dynasties entrenched in & around Delhi and the people of India have been reduced to footnotes. Especially in the medieval era, it is about imperial campaigns of the Turks, Afghans, Mughals etc. rather than the resistance movements by the people. In fact, it is difficult to find even the reference of local dynasties and kings and all we have is the

sequence of fratricidal wars or the wars between different foreign tribes and dynasties who invaded India at different points of time. The example of Queen Tarabai (B 1675) is illustrative. Our youth would be hard pressed to recall this great Queen who took the command of the Maratha revolution after the death of Shivaji Maharaj and the execution of his successor Sambhaji by Aurengzeb. Khafi Khan (d.c.1731) writes that Mughals were certain that a helpless woman with two young children could do nothing. But under the indomitable command of Tarabai, the war spread inside Mughal territory and Maratha power was on ascendance. In battles, she led from the front, mobilized resources and motivated soldiers drawn mostly from the peasantry. Deccan became the graveyard of the Mughals with some 1 lakhs Mughal soldiers dying every year in the epic 27 years Mughal-Maratha war. But the narrative of the Mughal-Maratha war is skewed towards the Imperial Mughals who get a sympathetic treatment as against the Maratha 'rebels'. Same is the case with the Indian interaction with the Western imperialism. The central actors in our books are the British and not the Indian princes and people. It would not be an exaggeration to say that people of India are absent from the

history textbooks of India!

The second trouble is the monolithic narrative of history which progresses from Harrapan era to the Vedic age then to the Mahajanpadas and the rise of the first empire under Mauryans. It then shifts to the Guptas and then after Harsha, simply jumps on to the Delhi Sultanate followed by Mughals and the British. What makes it even more troublesome is the dominance of north India especially the Gangetic plains in the textbooks which fails to reflect the diversity and plurality of the Indian history. The south finds a flimsy mention with Cholas and Satvahans etc. Vijyanagar Empire is largely ignored, despite it lasting almost as long as the Mughal Empire and its historical importance in shaping the social-political and economic milieu of the large parts of India. And there is hardly a mention of the Pratiharas, Kashmiri dynasties, Kakatiyas, Rastrakutas, Ahoms. Or do we read about the Eastern Gangas and Palas of Bengal who ruled for four centuries each? Or the Western Ganga dynasty, which ruled from 350 C.E to 1000 C.E? Many a times these dynasties and empires ruled areas larger than the largest European countries for centuries! And then we have the bewildering absence of any history

of Northeast in textbooks.

Then there is the third issue of exclusion of the Dalits and Tribals from the history. Instead their role and agency in the history is simply denied by presenting their culture and religion as the imposition of the 'Aryan Invaders', which needs to be abandoned. In a single stroke, the whole Dalit-Bahujan Samaj is robbed of its culture, ingenuity, history and spirituality, and de-humanised as people lacking agency, reduced to the footnotes of history. The rich line of Shudra and even Dalit kings is also conspicuous by its absence in the textbooks. Even Kings like Raja Suheldev have no place in the mainstream history. In the Battle of Bahraich, Raja Suheldev defeated the 100,000 strong Ghaznavid army and halted the Islamic invasions of India for more than a century after the depredation of Mahmud of Ghazni. The immense role played by Dalits in the first war of Independence is also ignored with freedom fighters like Uda Devi, Matadin Bhangi, Vira Pasi, Chetram Jatav etc finding no mention at all. The various agrarian movements led by Dalit leaders like Ekka movement of Madari Pasi are reduced to obscure events despite their massive scale and appeal during the British Raj.

Tribal history too is ignored.

Students passing out of the schools and colleges are ignorant about the rich tribal communities of India apart from the stereotypical image of 'backward tribals' who need to be 'rescued'. They gain little, if any, knowledge about the tribal society, polity, spiritual systems and the vibrant tribal kingdoms and culture. Also, tribals were the ones who continuously resisted the western imperialism in every part of the country and paid heavily for the same. This fierce and continuous resistance to the western imperialism is one of the most intense and glorious in the annals of the world but which finds only passing mention in the textbooks in the half-hearted information on Santhal uprising etc. Schedule castes and Scheduled tribes constitutes nearly 25% of the Indian population and it raises serious question mark on the veracity of history writing which treats them as mere appendages of the historical flow in India and only to be discussed when caste oppression is to be discussed. It is ironical that the predominant Marxist and Communist scholars who wrote history actually suppressed the sagas of the sagas and contributions of these sections of society to the making of the Indian civilization.

The fourth problem is that the

history of India is not only written from the flawed paradigm but is also hopelessly outdated. One can say that there is too much of ideological debates and too little of archaeology and data. History writing is based on the narrow spectrum of sources of history where a large number of the archaeological and literally discoveries in past few decades have not been incorporated into the textbooks. We have even failed to produce an authoritative translation of the numerous classical texts not only of Sanskrit but also of Tamil, Kannada, Pali and various other regional languages and dialects. The state of history writing in India can be gauged from the fact that thousands of documents, letters, secret communications, and contemporary reports in and around the third battle of Panipat are gathering dust in libraries and private collections and have never been studied! If this is the case with an event as important and as close in time as the third battle of Panipat in 1761, we can imagine the state of history writing in India.

Also, India has always been a civilization with strong oral traditions. In fact, much of the local histories and histories of the castes and communities have only been preserved in the oral traditions. But

there has never been any systematic attempt to record and analysis these narratives. Instead, most of the history writing consists of reference and cross-references within a small group of English language historians with the premium being placed on references to western historians. The oral traditions are either simply ignored or just randomly picked up to embellish the narrative. And with respect to the subaltern groups like Dalits, Tribals etc. we see the wholesale dismissal of their oral traditions as 'invention of history' either in the Ambedkarite mould or as attempts in Sanskritisation. It is a matter of concern that even the sources of the history are seen with the present day ideological blinkers rather than as an honest objective enquiry.

The fifth issue is that history is much more than the political history. History writing needs to give greater weightage to various themes like environmental history, social history, economic history, history of technology and knowledge production, arts and literature, production processes, Indian industry etc. For example, we know that the Pratiharas built a strong and prosperous polity with a powerful military and defended India's borders for about three hundred years. But what is not

elaborated upon is the ingenious water management and irrigation system, which enabled them to produce the surplus to sustain such a polity in an otherwise arid region of the western and north-western sub-continent. There is no reason why history should be a bland political narrative especially of foreign overlords and their shenanigans. History has to be an organic and a vibrant entity, which relates to the everyday life and India as a living civilization.

The sixth aspect lacking in history writing is the India's interaction with the world down the ages. The strong maritime traditions of India, the spread of its ideas and philosophies across the world and the various influences imported by India are lacking in emphasis. Human civilizations do not develop in isolation, in fact, interactions with the world is an important part of the history of any country and civilization. It is more so with the India, which has exerted tremendous influence on the socio-political and economic development in the Indian Ocean Region and the Central Asia. India has always been a strong maritime tradition, the world's first international trading port is Lothal in Gujarat from where Indian ships sailed to Arabia, Iran, Africa and

Babylonia, carrying with them not just goods but people and ideas. Harappans maintained trading posts as far as the northern reaches of Afghanistan and as early as 3 B.C.E, Odia sailors were navigating the waters of South-East Asia. These trade relations led to the flowering of the rich tradition of cultural exchange and spread of knowledge systems across Asia. And in turn, India itself was shaped by such interactions on many occasions. The study of such events cannot be reduced to wars or the accounts of foreign travellers. But it has to be a dynamic study involving multiple points of interaction.

The textbooks of history, as it stands today, are not only distorted both in contents and perspective but also do not present the complete picture of the Indian history. Therefore, re-writing the history textbooks is a crucial and urgent task if India is to develop a proper historical narrative worthy of its antiquity and to inform its present and guide its future.

(The author is a Research-Scholar at Jawaharlal Nehru University and writes extensively on various socio-political and civilisational issues)

स्किल इंडिया : रोजगारपरक कौशल विकास का महाअभियान

• ज्ञानेंद्र नाथ बरतरिया

केंद्र सरकार का एक बड़ा मिशन है— स्किल इंडिया। रोजगारपरक कौशल विकास का यह महा अभियान—प्रधानमंत्री कौशल विकास योजना— एक साथ 101 शहरों में शुरू होने जा रही है। क्या यह क्षण भारत के भविष्य की एक नई तस्वीर रचने में सफल हो सकेगा?

भारत में एक करोड़ 25 लाख नए युवा हर साल रोजगार की तलाश में घर से निकलते हैं। यह संख्या हर साल बढ़ रही है। भारत युवा देश है, और युवा देश होने का एक पहलू यह भी है कि यहां युवाओं को रोजगार के अवसर उपलब्ध कराना एक चिंता का विषय है। एक पहलू और भी है। मान लीजिए किसी किसान के या कारीगर के चार बेटे हैं और कोई दूसरा रोजगार न मिल पाने पर वे भी अपने पिता के ही काम में शामिल हो जाते हैं। जो काम एक व्यक्ति करता था, वही काम पांच करने लगते हैं। यानी उनमें से कम से कम चार के पास वास्तव में कोई काम नहीं होता है, वे बेरोजगार होते हैं, लेकिन रोजगारशुदा नजर आते हैं। सिर्फ मजदूरों के बच्चे नहीं, दुकानों पर, कंपनियों में और अन्य जगहों पर भी, ऐसे लोग रोजगार में लगे नजर आते हैं, जिनके काम से उत्पादकता पर कोई खास असर नहीं पड़ता। यह प्रछन्न बेरोजगारी की समस्या है, जो 1 करोड़ 25 लाख के आंकड़े को और गंभीर बना देती है। कैसे मिलेगा इन्हें रोजगार? जवाब सिर्फ रोजगार के नए और उत्पादक अवसरों में है। और रोजगार अवसर मुहैया कराने की हमारी क्षमता कैसी है? (तत्कालीन) योजना आयोग के आंकड़ों के अनुसार, 2004-05 से 2009-10 तक, पांच वर्षों में भारत में रोजगार के मात्र 27 लाख नए अवसर पैदा हुए हैं, जबकि आवश्यकता लगभग 6 करोड़ अवसरों की थी। इतना ही नहीं, 2009-10 में 1 करोड़ 57 लाख लोग कृषि क्षेत्र से बेरोजगार हुए, और लगभग 72 लाख लोग विनिर्माण क्षेत्र से। इसका सीधा सा अर्थ यह है कि हमें रोजगार के नए अवसरों का सृजन कर सकने की अपनी क्षमता तेजी से बढ़ानी होगी।

कई युवा शिक्षित भी हैं लेकिन उन्होंने जो कुछ

पढ़ा-लिखा-सीखा है, उसमें से रोजगार दिलाने लायक कम ही है। और जो रोजगार में हैं, उन्हें अपनी औपचारिक शिक्षा से कोई लाभ बहुत कम ही होता है। वास्तव में रोजगारशुदा लोगों में से सिर्फ 2.3 प्रतिशत ऐसे हैं, जिन्हें अपने काम की दक्षता किसी शैक्षणिक कार्यक्रम से औपचारिक तौर पर मिली हो। बाकी सब चलते काम में हाथ बंटाने की स्थिति में हैं। इसके विपरीत, दुनिया के विकसित देशों में 75 प्रतिशत से लेकर 96 प्रतिशत तक लोग अपने कार्य के बारे में औपचारिक तौर पर दक्ष हैं।

फिर हम दुनिया के सबसे युवा देश भी हैं। आज की स्थिति में भारत की जनसंख्या में पाया जाने वाला सबसे बड़ा आयु वर्ग 27 वर्ष की औसत उम्र के लोगों का है, जो चीनियों से औसत उम्र में 10 साल कम है। संयुक्त राष्ट्र जनसंख्या कोष के अनुसार भारत में लगभग 36 करोड़ लोग 10 से 24 वर्ष की बीच की आयु के हैं, जो अमेरिका की कुल जनसंख्या से भी ज्यादा है। 2020 तक भारत की जनसंख्या की औसत आयु 29 वर्ष होगी, जबकि औद्योगिक देशों में यही आयु 40 से 50 वर्ष के बीच होगी।

ऐसा नहीं है कि बाजार में नौकरियां नहीं हैं। लेकिन आवश्यकता से कम हैं, प्रायः असंगठित क्षेत्र में हैं, उनमें आमदनी भी मामूली है और उत्पादकता भी मामूली है। कोई होनी-अनहोनी हो जाए, तो वह नौकरी कोई दिलासा देने की स्थिति में भी नहीं होती।

प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी ने युवा देश के इस पक्ष का कई बार जिक्र किया है। यहां प्रश्न सिर्फ युवाओं को किसी कार्य की दक्षता देने का नहीं है, बल्कि उन्हें ऐसा रोजगार दिलाने का है, जो वास्तव में आय का सृजन करता हो। रोजगार के अवसर सृजित करने के लिए एक ओर तो नए-नए उद्योग-धंधे चाहिए, और दूसरी ओर उनमें काम करने के इच्छुक युवाओं में काम कर सकने की दक्षता चाहिए। तीसरे और थोड़े बारीक स्तर पर, ऐसे लोग भी चाहिए, जो उद्योग शुरू करने में उत्सुक हों, उसकी क्षमता रखते हों। फिर रोजगार को कम से कम इस लायक तो होना ही चाहिए कि वह

किसी अनपेक्षित स्थिति में अपने श्रमिकों की, उनके परिवार की कुछ चिंता कर सकता हो।

लिहाजा, इस समस्या से एक साथ कई स्तरों पर निपटा जा रहा है। आशा है कि मेक इन इंडिया का विश्व व्यापी अभियान भारत में नए उद्योग-धंधों की आवश्यकता को एक हद तक पूरा करने में सफल रहेगा। दूसरे स्किल इंडिया अभियान भारत के युवाओं को या इनकी मदद से शुरू होने वाले अन्य उद्योगों में रोजगार दिलाने में सफल रहेगा। स्मार्ट सिटीज का अभियान विशेषकर इन नए उद्योगों और उनमें काम करने वालों की रिहाइश और उनके शहरीकरण की आवश्यकताएं पूरी करेगा। किसी होनी-अनहोनी की स्थिति से निपटने में प्रधानमंत्री की विविध बीमा योजनाएं मददगार रहेंगी। जैसेदृजेसे मेक इन इंडिया, स्किल इंडिया, डिजिटल इंडिया और स्मार्ट सिटी के अभियान गति पकड़ते जाएंगे, प्रधानमंत्री की बीमा और सामाजिक सुरक्षा की अन्य योजनाओं में कुछ ऐसे नए पहलू जुड़ते जाएंगे, जो कई उद्देश्यों को एक साथ पूरा कर रहे होंगे। इस तरह की कई परियोजनाएं एक साथ काम करेंगी, तब युवाओं के रोजगार और उनकी खुशहाली का लक्ष्य प्राप्त हो सकेगा। प्रधानमंत्री ने इससे भी बड़ा लक्ष्य देश के सामने रखा है। उन्होंने देश का आह्वान किया है कि वह भारत को कौशल का वैश्विक केन्द्र बनाने का संकल्प ले। वह भारत को मैनुफैक्चरिंग यानी विनिर्माण का वैश्विक केन्द्र बनाने का इरादा पहले ही जता चुके हैं। जाहिर है, एक के बिना दूसरे की गति नहीं है। सरकार का लक्ष्य 2022 तक 15 करोड़ भारतीय युवाओं को काम का हुनर, कुशलता, दक्षता या स्किल सिखाना है।

लेकिन अगर सभी नौकरी मांगेंगे, तो नौकरी देगा कौन? आप सिर्फ विदेशी नियोक्ताओं पर निर्भर नहीं रह सकते। निश्चित रूप से कुछ लोगों को तो आगे आना ही होगा कि हम बायो-डाटा देंगे नहीं, बल्कि लेंगे यानी उनको उद्यमी बनना पड़ेगा। यहां उद्यमिता के विकास का पक्ष सामने आता है। सरकार ने इन दोनों प्रश्नों का उत्तर एक साथ देने के लिए कौशल विकास एवं उद्यमशीलता मंत्रालय स्थापित किया है। इस स्किल इंडिया अभियान में 20 से अधिक केन्द्रीय मंत्रालय, 70 से अधिक योजनाएं बनाकर काम कर रहे हैं।

गौर करें तो सारी गतिविधियां एकदूसरे से जुड़ी हुई हैं और एक दूसरे की पूरक हैं। गंगा की सफाई और राष्ट्रीय स्वच्छता मिशन, और यहां तक कि कृषि संबंधी योजनाएं भी अंततः इसी बेहतर और संपन्न-समर्थ भारत के निर्माण की दिशा में जाती हैं। ऐसे में यह कोई आश्चर्य की बात नहीं है कि प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी स्किल इंडिया अभियान की शुरुआत वाले दिन ही, नीति आयोग की संचालन परिषद की बैठक बुलाई जिसमें मुख्यमंत्रियों के साथ भूमि अधिग्रहण विधेयक पर भी चर्चा की गई।

चुनौती मात्र इतनी नहीं है। कौशल विकास का कार्य बहुआयामी है। इसमें केन्द्र और राज्य- दोनों सरकारों की भूमिका होती है, उनके विभिन्न विभागों की भूमिका होती है। सिर्फ सरकार ही नहीं, कई उभरते क्षेत्र ऐसे हैं, जिनमें कौशल का प्रशिक्षण देने वाले लोग निजी क्षेत्र से बुलाने होते हैं। नियोक्ताओं को भी इस अभियान से जोड़ना होता है। एक स्थिति ऐसी भी आती है, जब नई तकनीक के लिहाज से कर्मियों को प्रशिक्षित करने के साथ ही, नियोक्ताओं को भी प्रशिक्षित करना होता है। सारे कार्यक्रम की प्रभावशीलता को लेकर भी अतिरिक्त सतर्कता बरतनी आवश्यक होती है। रोजगार का बाजार अंततः सेवाओं और वस्तुओं के देसी-विदेशी बाजार पर निर्भर होता है, लिहाजा वित्तीय और अन्य नीतियां भी इससे जुड़ती हैं। शिक्षण संस्थानों से लेकर प्रशिक्षकों तक और नियोक्ताओं से लेकर उद्योगों तक की भागीदारी और सहयोग एक साथ निश्चित किया जाना अनिवार्य होता है। कोई संदेह नहीं कि हम एक अनूठे रास्ते पर बढ़ चले हैं। लेकिन वास्तविक कौशल अडचनों को दूर करके आगे निकलने में ही है। भारत को अपना यह कौशल विकसित करना है, सिद्ध करके दिखाना है।

ज्ञानेंद्र नाथ बरतरिया प्रिंट और इलेक्ट्रॉनिक मीडिया के वरिष्ठ पत्रकार हैं।

Courtesy: PIB Features, 27.07.2015

Unlocking Land and Moving Forward On Land Bill Through Competitive Federalism

The Centre has circumvented a political deadlock over its land acquisition amendment Bill by asking the States to go ahead and enact their own laws along these lines. With no end in sight to the deadlock in the Rajya Sabha, the Bill could once again have become a pretext for holding up other urgent business in the monsoon session, which has begun on July 21. By such an initiative — land acquisition is on the concurrent list — the Centre has ensured that at least the eight BJP-ruled States can enact similar laws to expedite the acquisition process. Any new legislation will require the Centre's consent — a mere formality for these States. For the rest, the UPA law will once again come into force when the ordinance, already re-promulgated thrice, lapses. We, therefore, have a situation of “competitive federalism” unfolding, with two models of land acquisition coming into force across the country. Rather than wince at the outcome, it should be regarded as the best possible way forward in an economically and politically diverse country. A feasible land acquisition process would have to be based on the principle of leaving both industrialists and agriculturists better off. States are likely to arrive at their own versions of this rule in view of their growth compulsions and socio-economic circumstances.

In fact, BJP governments in states

could evolve a ground between the two laws and thus by setting an example, those state laws can gradually emerge as the template for the country irrespective of the parties in power at the Centre and in the States. Therefore, industry stands to benefit from competitive federalism in the medium term. It can lead to a nuanced, enduring resolution of politically fraught issues such as 'consent' and 'social impact assessment'. The Centre's move shall meet a crucial objective: it will further spur industrial development.

While clearing the roadblocks for industry, it should be kept in mind that India's land use by industry is inefficient by world standards till now. An example of this is that Japan uses less than 10 per cent of the 22 million hectares of non-agricultural land available in India to produce more than thrice India's industrial output. The Centre and States should take a serious view of land being held for years without being put to productive use. It would be an interesting study to see how and which government acquired these lands. For manufacturing to take off land markets must become more even-handed and transparent and so the existing roadblocks to land acquisition need to be addressed.

SPMRF Desk

Swachh Bharat Mission: An Analysis of Work Done By Modi Government in Last One Year

• *Rastriya Prahari*

Within a year of his address to the nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort, from where he had last year implored people to dedicate themselves for 'Swachh Bharat' with clean toilets in every school in a year, the task of providing toilets in all schools is nearing completion. PM Modi said the 'Swachh Bharat' mission has been started to see that health and hygiene issues of the poor do not affect their working capacity and output. "We took up the task of providing toilets in all schools. It is going to be completed in next few months. Don't children of the poor study in these public schools?"

The 'Swachh Bharat' campaign ever since it was launched by the Prime Minister on Rajpath on 2nd October 2014 has engineered public response and even at places, where social groups who had nothing to do with city's hygiene got involved and many groups are now frequently seen in public parks clearing the debris. The Mission was launched with the objective of ensuring cleanliness and open defecation free urban areas in all

4,041 statutory cities by 2019. Estimated cost is Rs. 66,009 crore out of which the Centre's share is Rs.14,643 crores.

Official sources said physical targets include 1.04 crore household toilets, 2.52 lakh community toilets seats and 2.54 lakh public toilet seats and assisting 30 crore urban population with solid waste management practices. During 2014-15, about Rs 800 crore has been released to 28 states/ UTs. Over two lakh household toilets have been built besides 12,000 community toilets during the year. Government sources said 390 cities have reported 100 per cent collection and transportation of municipal solid waste. Standard operating procedures (SPO) were also issued by the government to ensure cleanliness during and after public gatherings and meetings.

The Swachh Bharat Mission, in tandem with large number of government agencies, is bracing to ensure toilets in every school in next few months besides gearing up for to ensure cleanliness. PM Modi, in his latest meeting to review the programme, has also directed



authorities that spiritual leaders should be associated with cleanliness efforts during major congregational events like Kumbh Mela and Jagannath Yatra.

Ever since, the mission gained momentum, a number of incidents took place and the Priyanka Bharti case of Maharajganj in Uttar Pradesh hit headlines, triggering debates. The 19-year-old bride had reportedly walked out of her husband's house in protest against lack of toilet facilities. She was inspired by Government of India initiative of "Jaha Sauch Wahi Sauchalaya". She was quoted as saying that "I would not eat or drink water through the day only so that I could avoid having to go out into the fields to relieve myself. At night, the fields can be dangerous. It began to affect my health which is when I

protested." Society exerted pressure on Priyanka to return to the marital house, but she did not give in. Then a social institution involved in the public toilet work chipped in and facilitated to build a toilet in her house. Now, she is travelling extensively to campaign for toilets in houses and increasing sanitation. Priyanka is not alone in the crusade. A 32-year-old man got printed his wedding card last month with a message for the 'Swachh Bharat' mission in Ballaritaluk of Karnataka. The card spread a message encouraging people to construct a toilet compulsorily in their house to lead a healthy life.

PM Modi reviewed the progress of the mission recently with officers of the ministries of the Urban development, drinking water supply and sanitation, NITI Aayog

and PMO. The PM sought latest feedback on toilets construction in all states. After comprehensively reviewing the situation, he directed concerned officers to specially coordinate with States which are lagging in toilet construction. He asked the 'Namami Gange' programme authorities that construction of toilets in habitations on the banks of the River Ganga should receive the highest priority. PM Modi said motivational incentives such as awards should also be instituted through official channels. In rural areas, the Prime Minister suggested quiz competitions among students to promote awareness. The Prime Minister also called for leveraging the huge interest that 'Swachh Bharat' has generated among the Indian Diasporas.

Now, public sector undertakings are participating in a big way to construct and repair toilets. These include Coal India Ltd, NTPC, REC, Power Finance Corporation, Power grid Corporation, NHPC and ONGC. Private Corporates have also chipped in the task. The 'Swachh Bharat Kosh' has been set up under the Finance ministry to receive contributions. Funds from the Kosh are being made available to the 'Swachh Vidyalaya' programme.

The Railway Ministry has taken up

the issue of cleanliness in a big way. Officials say plans are afoot to provide dustbins in all newly manufactured coaches including non-Ac from 2015-16 onwards. Besides, retro-fitment on existing coaches has also been planned in addition to plans for garbage compactors. Separate directorate for environment and housekeeping has been created and integrated policy for cleanliness is under formulation.

Bio toilets have been introduced on the coaches to eliminate open discharge of fecal matter on the track. More than 17,000 such toilets has been fitted till now and equal number of toilets will be fitted 2015-2016. Two sections have been identified to be made "zero toilet discharge" section by October 2, this year-Kanalus –Swarka-Okha and Porbander-Wansjaliya. Jammu –Katra and Manmadurai-Rameshwaram will be covered late in the year. All the trains originating and terminating and passing through will be equipped with bio-toilets.

A lot of work has already been done under Swachh Vidyalaya Abhiyan. A success of the first phase will push the country into the next phase of the Swachh Bharat Mission after the Independence Day.

India is Moving Towards Self Reliance in Defence Production



One of the key sectors where the Modi Government has done extraordinary work is the defence sector where every decision of the Government has been taken with a clear vision and with the only objective: of achieving substantive self-reliance in the design, development and production of equipment, weapon systems, platforms required for defence in as early a time frame as possible; creating conditions conducive for the private industry to take an active role in this endeavour; enhancing potential of SMEs in indigenisation and broadening the defence R&D base of the country.

In pursuance of the Policy of

achieving substantial self-reliance in Defence Production, the Government has taken several initiatives to promote the participation of domestic defence industries in Defence Production and Procurement. These include, preference to 'Buy (Indian)' and 'Buy & Make (Indian)' categories of acquisition over 'Buy (Global)' and the decision of liberalisation of FDI





from 26% to 49% as well as liberalisation of Industrial Licensing Policy.

The FDI policy for the defence sector has been reviewed and as per the revised policy, the composite foreign investment upto 49% is allowed through Government route (FIPB) and beyond 49% with the approval of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) on case-to-case basis wherever it is likely to result in access to modern and state-of-the art technology in the country. Besides, the restrictions such as single largest Indian shareholder to hold at least 51% equity and complete restriction on Foreign Institutional Investor (FII) existing in the earlier policy have also been removed to facilitate investment in the sector.

At present only 60 Industrial Licence applications for defence sector are presently pending with the Government. While total 287 Industrial Licenses have been issued till date in defence sector. Since June 2014, 70 Industrial Licenses have been issued in the

defence sector. Some of the proposals for which licenses have been issued were pending since 2009 as necessary formalities / processes were not complete.

All the initiatives which the government has taken till now will go a long way to make India self-reliant in terms of high end technology and thereby indigenizing the defence industry. A visionary work which was mainly started during the regime of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee will finally reach to its ultimate conclusion in PM Modi's tenure. A self-reliant India in terms of technology will also energise some other initiatives of the Government like 'Make in India' and will certainly bring more investment to boost up the economy.

SPMRF Desk

GST Bill will be a Game-Changer



The GST bill would simplify the indirect tax procedure and eliminate the burden of age-old taxes, like sales tax which was a source of harassment and corruption. It would also prevent leakages of revenue.

The select committee of the Rajya Sabha has approved the 122nd Constitution Amendment Bill that would enable the Government to introduce the Goods and Services Tax (GST). It was introduced in the Lok Sabha during the Winter Session of Parliament last December. It could, however, not be passed with the Opposition parties opposing it. While the Amendment cleared by the Rajya Sabha panel is more or less the same as the earlier Bill, it made one important change that will further boost PM Modi's

cooperative federalism spirit because now the Government has agreed to provide a full 5 year compensation package to state governments in case of any loss due to the new tax regime.

The provision of compensation for a full five years to the states for any losses suffered by them due to the GST is another example where PM Modi has shown his Team India spirit and has gone the extra mile to bring states on board which his predecessors have failed to do. Earlier, the compensation was phased out with full compensation for only the first three years, 75 per cent in the fourth year and 50 per cent in the fifth year. Full compensation was one of the demands of the states so to that extent it was an astute move for the

part of the Upper House panel. The select committee also reportedly suggested that the one per cent tax over and above the GST be replaced by a one per cent tax only in case of inter-state supply of goods for a consideration. This, they said, would help the manufacturing states, like Gujarat and Tamil Nadu.

It is a good move on the part of the panel to recommend that as many articles as possible should be brought under the purview of GST so that the tax rate could be moderate and spread out. It has suggested that items like tobacco and tobacco products, alcohol and electricity supply and consumption be brought under GST. It has, however, left it to the GST Council to decide whether to include petroleum products.

The panel did not take any decision on the GST rate, leaving it to the committee chaired by the Chief Economic Adviser to the Government, Mr. Arvind Subramanian, who said it should be ready in six weeks. The sub-panel of the empowered committee of state finance ministers had earlier recommended a revenue-neutral GST rate of 27 per cent and Union finance minister Arun Jaitley said it would not be more than 27 per cent. The states and other stakeholders want it at 18 per cent, to be shared by

the Centre and the states.

It would not be an exaggeration to say that if this Bill is passed it would be a game-changer — one of the most spectacular reforms in independent India. It would simplify the indirect tax procedure and eliminate the burden of taxes, like sales tax which was a source of harassment and corruption. It would also prevent leakages of revenue and it is estimated to add nearly two per cent to national GDP. Let's hope that the Opposition parties will understand the need of putting country first in all affairs because till now the Opposition, especially the Congress which has worked hard to bring Parliament to a standstill. The NDA Government is committed to fix the economy which was left out in a mess by the Congress led UPA.

(SPMRF Desk)

It's About Ideological Apartheid, Not Competence

• *K. G. Suresh*

FTII chairman Gajendra Chauhan, who was acclaimed for his role in Mahabharata as Dharamraj Yudhishtir, is today the favourite whipping boy of the so-called “intellectuals” across the country. From Bollywood stars of questionable calibre to students in institutions remotely connected to the film industry, it has become fashionable to tweet or issue statements against the besieged chairman who has been facing protests from the moment his name was announced.

In Mr Chauhan's appointment, the NDA government has not violated any rules or conventions whatsoever. Ever since the establishment of the prestigious institution which has contributed several stalwarts to the industry, the appointment of the chairman has been the sole discretion of the information and broadcasting ministry.

To begin with, since when have students started to decide who will head their institution? Are they bestowed with more wisdom than a popularly elected government? How is it that terms such as

“academic democracy” are being coined and circulated by sections who were silent all through the UPA era when people



of questionable credibility and integrity were being appointed not only to academic institutions but also the high constitutional offices of the land? But today, those who defended the appointment of Rabri Devi as Bihar chief minister as empowerment of women and backward communities are crying foul over rooftops questioning the educational qualifications of the Union HRD minister whose articulation and enthusiasm is conceded silently even by bitter opponents.

Unfortunately, the entire debate is neither about Mr Chauhan's abilities nor academic democracy. Chauhan is only a scapegoat in a larger game plan to discredit and defame all NDA appointees as RSS agents with mediocre abilities, thereby seeking to establish that only Left wing intellectuals have the capability to build and lead

institutions.

It is a desperate attempt by frustrated and insecure intellectuals who fear that the golden days of their dominance over national institutions are over. The government's move is neither about saffronisation nor about undermining institutions. It is about removing the scourge of political untouchability, discrimination and apartheid that successive governments/universities have pursued since the dawn of independence.

Many academics were denied their due for the only crime that they believed in a certain ideology or subscribed to a certain school of thought. Their ideology became the albatross around their neck. Nobody talked about their freedom of thought and expression, their academic freedom. They were at the receiving end in academic appointments and promotions. The nation's academia was dominated by a mafia which determined their fate and like Bhagya Vidhata pushed into the netherworld the lesser mortals of the right wing variety with contempt and ruthlessness. The government of the day is only ending that injustice.

The conspiracy is crystal clear. This Mafiosi is not just attacking Mr Chauhan. He has become a pretext

to condemn each and every appointment of the government — from the ICHR Chief to the censor board chief and the chairman of the National Book Trust. The target is neither Mr Chauhan nor the information and broadcasting ministry but the Prime Minister himself and the RSS.

If indeed the critics and the students of the FTII have a genuine reason for protest, they should listen to the counsel of eminent filmmaker Shyam Benegal, whose name is often being invoked by them.

“They should talk to Mr Chauhan. If they fear he is not competent, it's best that they talk to him and quiz him. It's important”, he says.

Mr Chauhan himself has offered to talk to the students and asked for an opportunity to prove himself. Can there be anything more democratic? It cannot be my way or the highway. *(The author is Adjunct Professor, Makhanlal Chaturvedi National University of Journalism and Communication)*

(Courtesy: The Asian Age/July 17, 2015)

Holding Parliament To Ransom

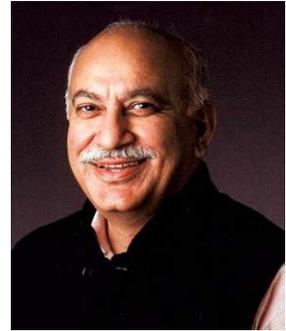
• *M J Akbar*

The centre of gravity in any democracy is best measured by the credibility of its Parliament, an institution that fuses a core Puritan simplicity with a Catholic electoral horizon. There is position, represented by government. There is opposition. The space in between is occupied by debate. Socrates, famously, established democracy's philosophical principles when he replaced competition with dialogue.

After six decades of experience, Indian democracy has come to a curious pass. A government insists on discussion over an opposition demand, and opposition rejects debate. Congress, under the elbow-jerk leadership of Rahul Gandhi, wants verdict now, trial later. If you insist on judgment without discussion, what is left to discuss? The mordant joke doing the rounds is that Rahul will do anything to avoid speaking in Parliament.

Parliament proceedings are no longer a closed-door affair, reported and interpreted by a select few from print media. Television cameras have democratised debate to a spectacular degree. Members speak in front of the largest jury in history, in the court of public opinion. By

sabotaging debate, Congress is denying the Indian people the opportunity to hear evidence from all sides, and then make up their minds.



Sushma Swaraj has said as many times as she has been asked that she is ready to make a statement in the house so that MPs have the liberty to respond, criticise, analyse or support her case on merits. It is Congress, for reasons unfathomable, that refuses to engage. If Congress is dissatisfied with Swaraj's explanation, it can mount a counteroffensive in the house or elsewhere, before a watching and listening nation.

If Congress feels that it has not got satisfaction from this parliamentary process, it can consider other options. After all, the life of this Parliament is not going to end this week, or this year or next year. There is time enough. So why does Rahul hold Parliament to ransom even before a preliminary requirement of democracy is underway?

Congress is not talking of a boycott



of only one debate. It wants to shut Parliament as an institution unless a cabinet minister and two chief ministers resign. This is Alice in Wonderland politics: “Off with his head!” said the Queen. Why? “Because I say so.”

Perhaps the truth is simple: You shout instead of talking only when you have nothing to say.

The argument one hears from Congress MPs has, in essence, two parts. One was articulated by Congress frontbencher Anand Sharma in the Times of India last week, that Congress cabinet ministers and a chief minister resigned despite being, at least in the Sharma morality play, “innocent”. Let us examine this proposition. Why did Congress ask its ministers to resign if they were innocent? Why should anyone who

is innocent be punished? That is utterly weak governance. The plainer fact is that no one was innocent. One cabinet minister was reprimanded by the Supreme Court for altering evidence. A second had to go when his close relative was caught making money. They did not resign because of mere allegations. They went only when proof appeared in the public domain through a competent process.

The second part is that BJP also stalled Parliament. But BJP only did so towards the end of the second term, when public anger at scams had climbed to boiling point.

If you recall massive scams like 2G or coal mines or Adarsh, it took years of investigation before guilt was established, through constitutional instruments like CAG, which established loss of

revenue running into hundreds of thousands of crores.

The telecommunications rip-off occurred during the first UPA term, as the Radia tapes showed; the confrontation came only later in the second term after the CAG report, particularly when senior Congress intellectuals like Kapil Sibal insisted that there was “zero loss“.

The investigative process in the Lalit Modi case, as any check with the courts will confirm, is being intensified only now. Memory is not as short as some would wish it to be. UPA filed nothing more than a FEMA case against Modi and made little effort to get the accused back after he had disappeared to London.

UPA was in power when Modi took the flight to London, and did little to stop his departure. Today, in the Vyapam matter, the high court has been given charge of investigations, and is satisfied that both STF and SIT are doing their work with integrity.

Congress asked for CBI intervention; the government agreed very quickly .Contrast this with Rahul Gandhi's inability to see anything wrong with the extortion of money from liquor barons, recorded on video, by an aide of Uttarakhand chief minister Harish Rawat, or the silence about Himachal Pradesh's Applegate

controversy, where Vir Bhadra Singh's apples became pricier than those grown in the Garden of Eden.

Governments today have to respond fast, and transparently, not because any opposition party wants this to happen, but because India's public opinion will not tolerate any cover-up. Our citizens constitute the most stringent judiciary in history. If Indian democracy is safe, it is because of the vigilance of citizens, not the outbursts of politicians.

The writer is an author, editor and national spokesperson of BJP

Courtesy: TIMES OF INDIA, Date : July 27, 2015

Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana: The Will To Serve Our Villages

•Nirmala Sitharaman

Few week back, fellow parliamentarian Tathagata Satpathy wrote on the Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) and chose to call it a “flawed scheme, that looks good on paper but whose implementation is flawed” ('Adarsh Milligram Yojana', 'Poke Me', ET, July 11). Since he has written so decisively about the flaws in “implementation” of SAGY, a rejoinder is in order to set the record straight on why putting SAGY into action is no rocket science. All that it perhaps takes from us is sincere commitment.

In comparison to a Lok Sabha MP, it may indeed be easier for a Rajya Sabha MP to adopt and allocate funds under SAGY. But to state that it is a Herculean task for a Lok Sabha MP to implement SAGY is also incorrect. For instance, when an MP from the Lok Sabha claims that he finds it impossible to pick a few villages out of thousand-odd ones in his constituency and is left asking “on what basis” he should pick a village for adoption, the answer is not that difficult. What better basis for adopting a village than choosing, say, 'the least developed village' and transforming it into a 'model

village'?

The outcry that the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme



(MPLADS) funds are too little for the execution of SAGY because there are so many assembly segments within one parliamentary constituency is again hollow. As per the official website of the MPLADS, in the financial year 2014-15, the government had released Rs 2,147.50 crore for all the members of the current Lok Sabha. Even though a year has passed, 75 per cent of the funds — Rs 1,659.88 crore — remain unspent.

Many MPs have been unable to recommend more than 50 per cent of their MPLADS funds that were meant to be utilised in the past year. Drawing from my personal experience, I provided for three reverse osmosis water treatment plants, an underground drainage system, a digital community centre and a dozen roads in my adopted villages under the MPLADS, and was still left with enough money to



fund more than 20 projects in the rest of the West Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh.

One of the key reasons why villages have lagged behind is not because there are no schemes for their development. It is because these schemes have not been effectively implemented. The idea behind SAGY is to use the leadership skills of MPs to ensure that at least around 800 adopted villages every year are given guaranteed access to the existing central and state-sponsored schemes for which funds are already available with the district administration.

For example, my adopted village,

Pedhamyanavanilanka, is a coastal village in Andhra Pradesh that gets submerged in water every monsoon. At the time I was conducting the 'need assessment' survey there to pencil down its top priorities, an obvious demand from the villagers was for the construction of an elevated bridge to ensure that the village is not cut off from rest of the world.

It did not require me to generate additional funds for implementation of this project. The proposal for such a construction was already covered under the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Nabard)

scheme. All I had to do was to ensure that the project was expeditiously implemented.

There are dozens of centrally sponsored schemes — the Pradhan Mantri Grameen Sadak Yojana, the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employee Guarantee Act (MNREGA), the Jan Dhan Yojana, the Indira Awaas Yojana, the Pradhanmantri Jeevanjyoti Beema Yojana, the Atal Pension Yojana and others — which can be readily implemented in the adopted villages without having to mobilise additional funds. Then there are activities like promoting the culture of cleanliness and hygiene, gender neutrality, retention of children in school, etc, that have no financial bearing at all.

The least convincing claim against SAGY is that it is an “armchair” scheme “imposed” on the people. SAGY requires that its development plan is designed by individual members of the village in a gram sabha. Can such a scheme be called an “armchair” scheme? Under SAGY, MPs have to take up issues that are given priority by the villagers. Is this an “imposition”? It is, in fact, the closest that any administration has come to the people in designing, implementing and evaluating a scheme.

The Prime Minister's vision for

SAGY is simple and yet game-changing. If around 800 parliamentarians adopt a village every year, by 2019, more than 4,000 villages will be transformed into model villages. Without putting an ounce of extra burden on the taxpayer and by effective utilisation of presently under utilised local area funds, SAGY would transform the lives of more than 2.5 crore people in rural India. This, by no measure, will be an ordinary feat.

The writer is Union minister of state for commerce and industry.

Courtesy: Economic Times, July 18, 2015

With BJP, India Will See Enterprise Take Off — And Bihar Will Finally See Development: Rajiv Pratap Rudy



What are Skill India's priority areas?

The National Skill Development Council (NSDC) has conducted a survey to assess the country's incremental human resource requirement. It has identified 24 priority areas — these include agriculture, banking and financial services, beauty and wellness and domestic help among other sectors.

Can Skill India dovetail with Make in India?

Make in India requires a huge skilled workforce. There's an incremental HR requirement of 119.2 million people in priority sectors by 2022, which include

building, construction, real estate, capital goods, transportation, auto, pharma, etc. All these are priority sectors in Make in India — and we've realised that Make in India cannot happen without Skill India.

We're hopeful the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana, National Skill Mission and proposed National Skill University and multi-skill institutes will be vital in providing this skilled workforce.

Globally, India lags seriously behind in entrepreneurship — how are you addressing this?

Entrepreneurship needs specific focus. Entrepreneurship in India is presently necessity-driven, rather

than innovation-driven. The Global Innovation Index 2014 ranks India 76 out of 143 countries. In India, only 0.09 companies were registered for every 1,000 working-age persons — among the lowest rates of G20 countries in 2011.

Our position in key entrepreneurial triggers — innovation, access to funds, ease of tax and regulations, coordinated support, entrepreneurial culture — explains this. Our ministry is rightly positioned to address this challenge.

We'll soon announce the National Policy for Entrepreneurship 2015 — this focusses on infusing entrepreneurship culture, education through mentorship, fostering social entrepreneurship and grassroots innovation, inclusivity, providing ease of doing business, eliminating information deficits, improving access to finance and launching the national mission on entrepreneurship.

This ministry will have coordinated delivery of national and state government entrepreneurship programmes and access to resources. We'll integrate entrepreneurship education with mainstream curriculums — and we'll support young entrepreneurs through a web and mobile-based platform, the entire ecosystem in

Hindi, English and regional languages.

Promoting entrepreneurial culture in India is essential. In the US, the average valuation of start-ups is \$4.2 million compared to \$2.3 million in India. As a proportion of early-stage investing, angel investments in India comprise around 7% as against 75% in the US. India also lags in early-stage venture capital investing. Annual investments are around \$240 million as against \$6.3 billion in the US — and \$700 million in China.

All these statistics certainly highlight the need to focus on entrepreneurship, both from government and industry.

Alongside, what are BJP's poll prospects in Bihar — can you beat Nitish and caste factors?

BJP, under the able leadership of PM Narendra Modi, believes in development. The party is dedicated to citizens at the lowest strata of the social pyramid.

With recent MLC elections, it's evident the people of Bihar believe in us — we're confident that with our government in Bihar, the state will finally start to progress on its much-awaited development.

Courtesy: The Times of India, July 24, 2015,

भारतीय जनता पार्टी के राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष श्री अमित शाह जी द्वारा पटना के ऐतिहासिक गांधी मैदान में दिए गए उद्बोधन का मुख्य अंश



भाजपा के राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष श्री अमित शाह ने गांधी मैदान से एनडीए के परिवर्तन यात्रा का शुभारम्भ कर के बिहार चुनाव प्रचार अभियान की शुरुआत की और जनता दल गठबंधन पर जमकर हमला बोला। बिहार के सभी जनप्रतिनिधि और पूरी जनता को बधाई देते हुए श्री शाह ने कहा कि विधान परिषद के चुनाव में 24 में से 13 सीटें देकर जनता ने राजग को जिताकर हमारे विजय अभियान की शुरुआत कर दी है। उन्होंने कहा कि विधानपरिषद चुनाव में एनडीए की जीत से साफ पता चलता है कि बिहार में अब हमारी सरकार आने वाली है। उन्होंने कहा कि अब देखना होगा कि राज्य में गरीबी, जंगलराज और भ्रष्टाचार लाने वाले सत्ता में रहेंगे या बिहार को विकास के पथ पर अग्रसर करनेवाली एनडीए सरकार। उन्होंने कहा कि 15 साल तक लालू जी और राबड़ी देवी की सरकार को आज भी जनता भूल नहीं पाई है। कुछ समय पहले तक नीतीश

एनडीए को सत्ता में लाने और लालू के बिहार के जंगलराज को हटाने की बात किया करते थे। आज नीतीश जी क्यों बदल गए? उनका आदर्श कहाँ चला गया? श्री शाह ने जनता से अपील करते हुए कहा कि सुशासन लाना है तो बिहार में एनडीए की सरकार बनानी पड़ेगी। श्री शाह ने कहा कि नीतीश कुमार ने बिहार की जनता के जनादेश की पीठ में छूरा भोंका है। श्री शाह ने कहा कि बिहार महावीर और बुद्ध की धरती है, यह जयप्रकाश नारायण और राजेंद्र प्रसाद की धरती है, यह अशोक और चन्द्रगुप्त मौर्य की धरती है, यह कर्पूरी ठाकुर और बाबू जगजीवन राम की धरती है, लेकिन लालू जी के कुशासन, भ्रष्टाचार और जंगलराज ने इसे बदनाम कर दिया। उन्होंने कहा कि एक तरफ राजग गठबंधन है जिसके सभी नेता आज एकजुट, बिहार से जंगलराज के खात्मे, इसके अभूतपूर्व गौरव को वापस लाने तथा बिहार को सर्वोत्तम राज्य बनाने

के लिए दृढ़ संकल्पित हैं वहीं दूसरी तरफ यूपीए है जहाँ एकजुटता तो दूर, उनके नेताओं में एक साथ आने की भी हिम्मत नहीं है। नीतीश में हिम्मत नहीं है कि लालू जी का फोटो अपने पोस्टर में साथ में लगाएं। सोनिया भी लालू को साथ बिठाने से परहेज करती हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि क्या बिहार की जनता महादलित को धोखा देने वाली पार्टी की सरकार बनाना चाहेगी? क्या बिहार की जनता जनमत का अनादर करने वाली युगल जोड़ी की सरकार बनाना चाहेगी? उन्होंने कहा कि गौरवशाली बिहार को लालू-नीतीश ने अब तक के शासन में बर्बाद कर दिया। अगर फिर से नीतीश-लालू के हाथ में सत्ता गई तो जंगल राज आएगा। क्या बिहार की जनता फिर से जंगलराज लाने के लिए लालू और नीतीश की सरकार बनाना चाहेगी? अगर नहीं चाहते तो मजबूत एनडीए की सरकार बनायें।

नीतीश के प्रचार अभियान पर तंज कसते हुए श्री शाह ने कहा कि पर्दा या पोस्टर लगाने से कोई फायदा नहीं है। अब बिहार के दिल में सिर्फ एनडीए है। बिहार की जनता ने विकास के लिए राजग को अपना समर्थन देना तय कर लिया है। नीतीश कुमार ने लालू का हाथ थामकर बिहार की जनता की पीठ में खंजर भोंकने का काम किया है। हम बिहार विधानसभा में दो तिहाई से अधिक सीटें जीतकर मजबूत सरकार बनाने वाले हैं। उन्होंने केंद्र सरकार की उपलब्धियों की चर्चा करते हुए कहा कि पिछड़े समाज का बेटा और एक चाय बेचने वाला गरीब जब देश का प्रधानमंत्री बना तो उसे के दर्द का एहसास था, उसे पता चला कि गरीबों का बैंक में खाता नहीं है। तब श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी जी की नेतृत्व वाली केंद्र सरकार जन-धन योजना लेकर आई ताकि उनके विकास के लिए आवंटित की गई राशि सीधे उन तक पहुंचे। आज गरीबों के विकास की बात हो रही है। गरीबों के सम्मानित जीवन के लिए, उन्हें रोजगारोन्मुखी बनाने के लिए तथा उनके लिए फंड के दरवाजे खोलने का काम मोदी सरकार ने ही किया है। चाहे जन-धन योजना हो, जीवन सुरक्षा बीमा योजना हो, दीनदयाल ग्राम ज्योति योजना हो, मुद्रा बैंक योजना हो या फिर मृदा स्वास्थ्य कार्ड – भाजपा नेतृत्व वाली केंद्र सरकार ने सारी योजनाएं

गरीबों को ही ध्यान में रखकर बनाई है। स्पष्ट है कि यह सरकार गरीबों की सरकार है और गरीबों का विकास ही इसकी प्राथमिकता है। ऐसा भाजपा नीत केंद्र सरकार के कारण ही संभव हो सका है। उन्होंने कहा कि बिहार में व्यापार को बढ़ावा देने के लिए हमारी सरकार ने इलाहाबाद से पटना और हल्दिया तक जलमार्ग बनाने का फैसला किया है, किसानों के उत्पाद को सरकार द्वारा खरीदा जाएगा, युवाओं को रोजगार मिलेगा और जंगलराज खत्म होगा। उन्होंने आम जनता से अपील की कि अगर ऐसा चाहते हैं तो बिहार में एनडीए की सरकार बनानी होगी। हम जाति-पाति की बात नहीं करते हैं, गरीबी की कोई जाति नहीं होती लेकिन अगर गरीबी दूर करना है तो हमारी एनडीए की सरकार बनानी होगी। अमित शाह ने कहा कि आने वाले दिनों में जाति व मजहब की बात की जाएगी, लेकिन इससे विकास नहीं होने वाला। हमें इससे ऊपर उठकर यहाँ भाजपा की सरकार बनानी होगी। हम बिहार के विकास के लिए कटिबद्ध हैं और बिहार का पुराना गौरव वापस दिलाएंगे। कार्यक्रम के अंत में श्री शाह ने एनडीए के 160 परिवर्तन रथों को रवाना किया। उन्होंने कहा कि जल्द ही इनकी संख्या 260 की जाएगी, जो मोदी जी का दूत बनकर हर गांव तक पहुंचेंगे। ये सभी एनडीए के प्रत्याशियों के लिए प्रचार करेंगे और बिहार से भ्रष्टाचार तथा कुशासन के जंगलराज को जड़ से उखाड़ फेंकने की दिशा में काम करेंगे। श्री शाह ने कहा कि कांग्रेसमुक्त भारत का सपना जो मोदी जी ने देखा है, हमें उसे बिहार में भी लागू करना है।

Dr.APJ ABDUL KALAM: A PEOPLE'S PRESIDENT



"Each individual creature on this beautiful planet is created by God to fulfill a particular role. Whatever I have achieved in life is through His help, and an expression of His will. He showered His grace on me through some outstanding teachers and colleagues, and when I pay my tributes to these fine persons, I am merely praising His glory. All these rockets and missiles are His work through a small person called Kalam, in order to tell the several million-mass of India, to never feel small or helpless. We are all born with a divine fire in us. Our efforts should be to give wings to this fire and fill the world with the glow of its goodness."

- Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam

"The gigantic task of reconstruction, cultural, social, economic and political can be rendered possible through coordinated efforts of bands of trained and disciplined Indians. Armed with the knowledge of India's past glory and greatness, her strength and weakness, it is they who can place before their country a programme of work, which while loyal to the fundamental traditions of Indian civilisation will be adapted to the changing conditions of the modern world."

- Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee

*Convocation Address delivered at Gurukul Kangri
Viswavidyalaya, Haridwar, 1943*

