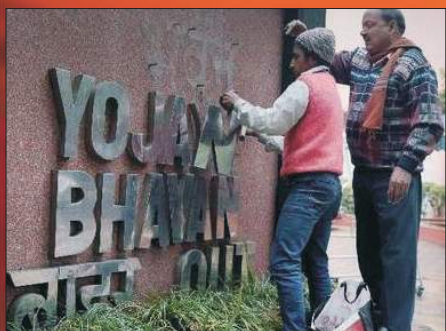


THE NATIONALIST

An Indian perspective

Issue:1, 1st Feb, 2015



Special Article

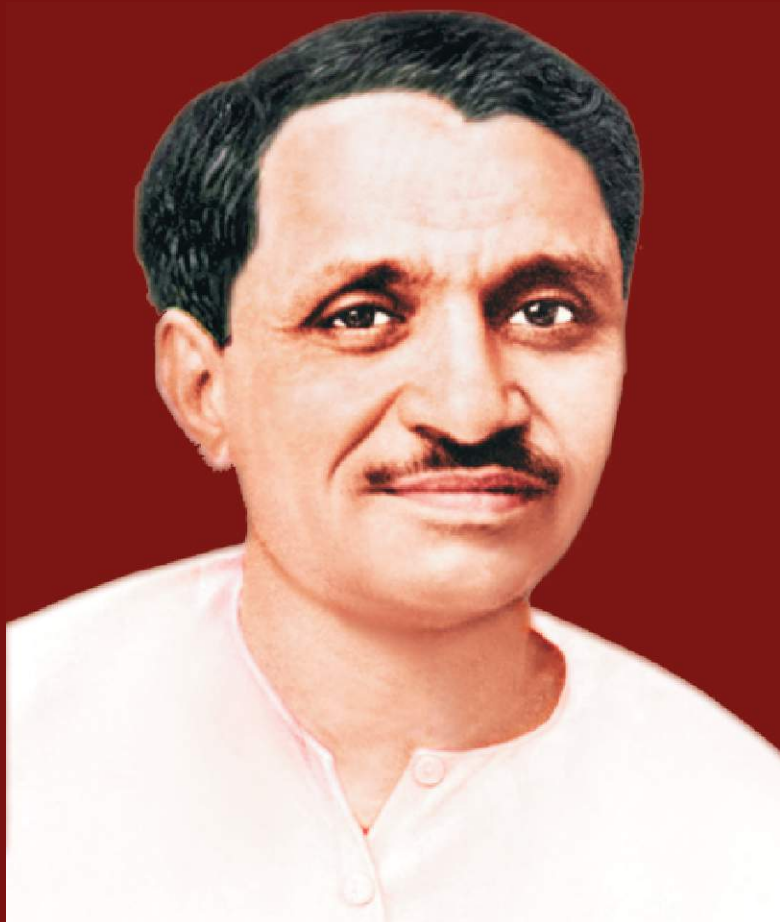
NITI Aayog: unleashing the substantial potential of the Indian people

Global Business Summit:
Prime Minister's vision

Health Care as a
Fundamental Right

Swachh Bharat
Abhiyan Series

राष्ट्रीयता का आधार



“हमारी राष्ट्रीयता का आधार ‘भारत-माता’ है, केवल भारत नहीं। माता शब्द हटा दीजिए तो भारत केवल जमीन का एक टुकड़ा मात्र रह जाएगा। इस भूमि का और हमारा ममत्व तब आता है, जब माता वाला सम्बन्ध जुड़ता है। कोई भी भूमि तब तक देश नहीं कहला सकती, जब तक कि उसमें किसी जाति का मातृक ममत्व, यानी ऐसा ममत्व जैसा पुत्र का माता के प्रति होता है, न हो। यही देशभक्ति है, तथापि देशभक्ति का मतलब जमीन के टुकड़े के साथ प्रेम होना मात्र नहीं है। कई पशु पक्षी भी तो

अपने घर से बहुत प्रेम करते हैं-सांप अपना बिल नहीं छोड़ता, शेर मांद में ही निवास करता है, पक्षी रात में अपने घोंसले में लौट आते हैं-किन्तु ये देशभक्त हैं, ऐसा नहीं कहा जा सकता। मानव भी जहां रहता है, वहां से उसका कुछ न कुछ लगाव हो ही जाता है, फिर भी इतने मात्र से देशभक्ति नहीं आती। उन लोगों का प्रेम ही देशभक्ति कही जाएगी, जो देश में ‘एक जन’ के नाते सम्बद्ध हैं। पुत्र रूप, ‘एक जन’ और माता रूप ‘भूमि’ के मिलन से ही देश की सृष्टि होती है। यही देशभक्ति है, जो अमर है।”

- दीनदयाल उपाध्याय

- (राष्ट्र जीवन की दिशा, दीनदयाल उपाध्याय ; सं.-रामशंकर अग्निहोत्री, भानुप्रताप शुक्ल; लोकहित प्रकाशन, लखनऊ; 2008; पृ० 49)

Editorial Advisors :

Shri Shakti Sinha, IAS (retd)
Former Power & Finance Secretary,
Govt. of Delhi

Dr. Anirban Ganguly
Director, SPMRF

Dr. Shiv Shakti Bakshi
Executive Editor, Kamal Sandesh

Research Team:

Amarjeet Singh

Siddharth Singh

Priya Sharma

Gaurav Jha

Shailendra Kumar Shukla

Published by :

Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee
Research Foundation
11, Ashok Road,
New Delhi - 110001
E-mail : office@spmrf.org,
Telephone : 011 - 48005769

copyright © SPMRF, 2015

02 EDITORIAL

SPECIAL ARTICLE: NITI AAYOG DECODED

- 05 NITI Aayog: unleashing the
substantial potential of the
Indian people - *Shakti Sinha*
- 10 "NITI Ayog – is a path
breaking turn towards India"
- *S. Gurumurthy*
- 12 NITI Aayog: a bold initiative for
transforming India
- *Dr. Shiv Shakti Bakshi*

POLITICAL COMMENTARIES:

- 15 Leela Samson's Duplicitous and
Opportunistic Ways
- 16 The Truth from the Union I & B
Minister Himself-"Rebels
without a Cause"- *Arun Jaitley*
- 17 Distorting a cultural legacy
- *Dr. Anirban Ganguly*
- 20 "Amendments to the Land
Acquisition Law – The Real
Picture"—*Arun Jaitley*
- 24 A Quick Glance at the Ordinance
Issue- *Shubhendu Anand*
- 26 केजरीवाल का झूठ - डा. जे. के. बजाज
- 28 Welcome to the Party
- *Dr. Vinay Sahasrabudhe*

NATIONAL ISSUES

- 31 New Government Focuses on
Accelerating Development in
North East - *Siddharth Singh*
- 34 Healthcare as a fundamental
right—Modi's new gamechanger!
- *Siddharth Singh*
- 36 The Karachi boat wasn't an
ordinary fishing vessel
—*Nitin Gokhale*
- 38 सेना के लिए अच्छे दिनों का आगाज
- लेफ्टि. जन. (रिट.) सैयद अता हसनैन

PM MODI'S VISION:

- 40 Global Business Summit-Prime
Minister's vision

- 45 PM's Growth Vision - a
Challenge to India Inc
- 46 Vibrant Gujarat Summit 2015-
The Global Business Hub
- 49 Pravasi Bharatiya Divas- 2015
- 51 Indian Science Congress- Prime
Minister Spells out New Vision
for Science in India
- 53 Neglect of knowledge traditions
- *Michel Danino*

GOOD GOVERNANCE:

- 55 Pradhanmantri Jan-Dhan
Yojana: Empowering the poor
- *Siddharth Singh*
- 57 PAHAL: World's largest social
benefit drive - *Siddharth Singh*

DEVELOPMENT—NEW INITIATIVES

- 59 NERPSIP—A new lease of life for
North East
- 60 Being sensitive to the elders:
Jeevan Praman—Digital life
certificate for pensioners to
benefit one crore seniors!
- 60 E-Visa facility for 43 countries
- 61 Empowering Girls - Pragati-
Scholarship for Girls to Pursue
Technical Education

SWACHH BHARAT ABHIYAN SERIES:

- 62 Turning the mission into a mass
movement - *Siddharth Singh*

INDIA'S WORLD OF DIPLOMACY:

- 65 From Ad-hocism to New Clarity
& Vision in Foreign Policy
- *Brahma chellany*
- 68 Dynamism in India's foreign
policy under Modi
- *Siddhartha Singh*

EDITORIAL

When World War II was fiercely raging and was in its final throes and India was inching towards her freedom, Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, then in the midst of hectic political activity, launched a journal that would give voice to Indian nationalism and to the vision of liberated India.

Not much, though, is known about this particular initiative of his; however it is known that it was launched sometime in 1944 and that Dr. Mookerjee named the organ “The Nationalist” – in keeping with his own political temperament and action and with the larger goal of consolidating Indian nationalism and freedom. It is also known that Dr. Mookerjee was quite attached to this effort and put in a lot of energy and some of his own resources to sustain it and continued it for a while until he had to finally give it up under pressure of circumstances.

One of the main focuses of “The Nationalist” was to articulate the nationalist view from India and to counter any motivated or adverse propaganda or position that was formulated against that nationalist view point or against national interest. Dr. Mookerjee's paper

eminently succeeded in doing that and in creating a strong public opinion against the vivisection of the country and against Bengal being transferred, in its entirety, into Jinnah's basket. “The Nationalist”, it is said, not only focused on politics but also dwelt on national regeneration and dedicated itself to the task of nation-building.

We, at Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation (SPMRF), recalling that effort made by Dr. Mookerjee have launched this e-newsletter and have used his favourite appellation, “The Nationalist” for it. The aim is to focus on and disseminate the positive ideas and efforts being made in national interest by the present Government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and to generate a national interest discourse on the refreshingly new direction and energy that has been displayed by it in the last half year and more. Unlike in the past one decade when governance was defined by a bankruptcy of ideas and paralysis of policy and performance, the Narendra Modi led Government has redefined governance by dynamism, new ideas and a zeal for implementation.

The last decade had only given rise to national despondency and a sense of failure and stagnation. The Congress Party was incapable of enthusing people and of directing the ship of the nation in right earnestness allowing the agendas of national development, such as economic growth, strategic strength, national security, welfare of the people, educational innovation and progress etc to get diverted, diluted and blocked.

The Communist Parties, initially with their sizeable electoral mandate and later with a much reduced margin, were only interested in the creation of a state that was perpetually at conflict with itself. Totally devoid of ideas, having themselves lost their democratic mandate badly, the Communist Parties did only what they have always excelled at, i.e. playing backroom politics, raising a false bogey of societal clash and holding back India's forward march.

In between has been introduced a new dimension of politics in the country – a politics which bases itself, thrives and grows on the philosophy of anarchism. By relegating national interest to the periphery, rejecting public order, harmony and welfare, anarchism and anarchists wish to turn India into an unstable and weak republic.

The anarchist philosophy and anarchism, as Mahatma Gandhi had once said, “has no room in India.” Thus, the nadir of despondency had been reached when the national tide began to turn, until it finally grew into a resounding wave in May 2014 and sweeping away lethargy, uncertainty and indecisiveness infused in the people a new sense of determination to work for national resurgence.

In the last six months, despite the naysayers spreading false impressions, it is there for all to see, how this Government, under the vision and leadership of a dynamic and decisive Prime Minister, has reached out to the lowest and farthest strata of our society making these hitherto marginalized sections feel part of the mainstream of India's growth. Not only this, in almost all spheres of national action, be it education, be it the economy, be it industry and foreign affairs, the message is clear and the impression is unmistakable and it says that there is a different energy today driving India's affairs and leading her towards a resurgence and re-emergence as a world power ready to play her global role – not as a follower but as a leader. One can see that what Swami Vivekananda had once echoed about India's destiny, “None can resist her [India]

anymore, never is she [India] going to sleep anymore, no outward power can hold her [India] back”, gradually happening.

The BJP's emergence as a dynamic vehicle of national resurgence and its gradual rise as the largest political party, brought about by a massive and unprecedented membership drive, has re-infused a new energy in the body-politic of this country. No voice, no thought, no aspiration, no hope will be left out in the cold anymore or remain unheard as people discover BJP to be a national platform for articulating their expectations and for seeing them fulfilled.

Keeping that resurgence and goal in mind, The Nationalist shall appear periodically to disseminate and spread the message of India's resurgence as guided and initiated by the Narendra Modi led Government and will ceaselessly work to carry forward and spread the message of “One India Great India” by working to remove and dissolve all intellectual obstacles and negativities on the path.

We appeal to all nationalists to come forward and to offer their best intentions as well as lend their shoulders in pushing forward the great Chariot of Mother India on the path to a glorious future.

- Dr. Anirban Ganguly

NITI Aayog: unleashing the substantial potential of the Indian people

• *Shakti Sinha*

One common feature of most strategic defeats is the exercise of policy options that may have worked in the past but have outlived their relevance. At the same time, unnecessary diversification away from core competence has led many a corporate house to grief. Often clever leaders simply re-package tried and tested products and policies to make it appear different as a marketing package to retain/win market share, something Mrs Indira Gandhi did with great skill in the famous 'Garibi Hatao' elections of 1971.

The recent constitution of the NITI Aayog has led many critics of the government to allege that essentially nothing has changed except the name. That in any case the Planning Commission had evolved, that planning was longer predicated on government investment driving economic growth and so on. And if it won't 'plan', what will the new body do? According to these critics, if it is simply meant to sort out Centre-State or Inter-State issues, then we already have the National Development Council and the Inter-State Council. In other words that the change is not significant and

other than possible weakening of its role, the Planning Commission has reincarnated as the NITI Aayog. A few analysts have criticised the change on the ground that it has not been thought through, or that it leaves out much of substance e.g., it is not clear who would approve state plans, or dispense with plan funds among other perceived gaps.

Opposition parties have gone further in criticising the Modi government's actions. The government has been accused of conspiring to gut the federal spirit of the polity, and excessive centralisation of powers in the PMO. These are serious charges, particularly as it directly challenges Modi's stated desire to develop the spirit of cooperative federalism in the running of the economy, arguing that the days of government of India dictating to the States was over. In other words the allegation is that the government says one thing but does the very opposite. It would be worthwhile to look at this allegation first before moving on to assessing whether the NITI Aayog represents a new way of doing things or is simply old wine in a new bottle?

The Planning Commission was neither a Constitutional body nor a statutory one; it was a creation of a resolution of the Union cabinet. It reported to the Prime Minister, who was both its Chairman and its Minister, with at best a Minister of State to take care of parliamentary work and other official formalities. The NITI Aayog is exactly the same in these respects so it can be nobody's case that this change has in any way adversely affected the federal equilibrium or that it will lead to an increase in centralisation in the office of the Prime Minister. But where it differs from the Planning Commission is that it actually seeks to give the States a role in its management, and creates a mechanism to sort out regional issues. Unlike the unitary nature of the Planning Commission, the NITI Aayog will have a Governing Council whose members will be Chief Ministers of States and Lt. Governors of Union Territories. Further, it can constitute regional councils on 'specific issues and contingencies impacting more than a state or a region'. The PM or his nominee would chair this issue-based council whose members would be the relevant Chief Ministers and Lt. Governors. Clearly, the opposition objects too much, for the NITI Aayog would

actually make the States effective stakeholders in the development process, a true example of cooperative federalism.

The substantive part of the criticism is that the change is not substantial or well-thought out. These criticisms have more weight as they are not tainted by political bias or the need to score debating points. Many such analysts have, in fact, welcomed the abolition of the Planning Commission as a Stalinist relic that has no place in a market economy. Since the NITI Aayog has just been set up, we can only judge it from the intentions to establish it, as reflected in its composition and terms of reference.

Its unusual federal governing arrangements and mechanism to handle specific regional issue has already been referred to. What makes the latter, issue-driven regional councils, particularly in the Indian context, is that it seems intended to be a time-bound, solution-based mechanism, not a self-perpetuating one. This and the provision to associate domain experts where necessary in the new set-up sums up PM Modi's penchant for practicality and moving-on, not excessively intellectualising or constant referencing and procrastinating a la Hamlet or UPA.

The choice of name, which is actually an acronym, does not appear to be an accident. Modi campaigned and came to power based on the promise of transforming India, a 'young' and deeply aspirational country. It is no more about poverty alleviation; it is about its elimination. Our governing arrangements with 'mai-baap' sarkar as its fulcrum where the people were expected to be passive recipients, called upon once in five years to exercise their preference, had become an anachronism. The Indian people had moved with the times but our political parties were still bogged in identity-politics using the dole as their only tool of mobilisation. The policy making process has broken down, driven by individual preferences and the need to be seeing to satisfy specific groups. The disconnect between the people and the State had broken down largely, giving rise to the phenomenon called the Soft State, whose writ was easily challenged by criminal elements, malcontent extremists and the nexus between the corrupt elements of the polity, business and bureaucracy. The extent of breakdown was such that it was even reflected at the top, with individual ministries in the government of India not working in harmony. Different ministries vied with

each other to become relevant to the growth process by creating innumerable hurdles in the path of investment in manufacturing and infrastructure. This was seen as progress. The result was an inter-ministry deadlock that led to, what the then finance minister and now president, termed 'policy paralysis.' The result was an under-performing India with a few bright sparks in states with effective leadership.

The only key element that had to be addressed was in the failure to adequately recognise and respond to the fact that most economic action had shifted to the states. This was a consequence of the fact that economic growth was now private sector-led, and not driven either by big-ticket public sector investment or by the license-permit Raj where industrialists had to constantly camp in ministries in Delhi seeking all kinds of permissions. (The license-permit Raj has only persisted in allocation of natural resources, which the government is separately tackling, untangling the mess left behind by UPA). The entire gamut of Union-States economic relations had become hostage to political exigencies, and had to be reformed if the Indian people are to realise its full potential.

The National Institution for Transforming India is an idea

whose time had come; it was just waiting to be unleashed. What India, and its governance system, needs are ideas to unlock this potential. This has to be done outside the bureaucratic mindset, outside the 'eye on next election' mindset. Government and its ministries do not have a monopoly of wisdom, nor can states be treated as supplicants, seeking permissions and funds that doled out in a discriminatory manner. The whole process must utilise knowledge where available and be transparent. The Indian people have to be participants in the process to ensure pro-people policies that lead to equitable and inclusive outcomes. The whole process must be pro-active, not defensively reactive that it had become. Perspective planning and policy development must be a bottoms-up, starting from the village upwards and based on empirical data, not whims and prejudices. People's empowerment comes from actions such as these, not from clichés like 'I have come here to give you rights!'

Since it is the individual entrepreneur and private sector in general that is pushing investment, growth and employment generation in agriculture, industry and services, the role of the government must change from being an active player to becoming an enabler. Our invest-

ment climate discourages investors as the cost of doing business has become unbearable. Enforcement of contract, reliable infrastructure, a healthy and skilled workforce need the government's special focus, with clarity on its role and policy makers looking at the overall, long term interest of the people. Where are market gaps, then as a provider of services but overseen by tough, independent regulators. Inter-ministerial and inter-sectoral issues cannot be allowed to act as impediments to growth. The national security angle has been largely absent in the narrative of policy development and implementation, which needed to be rectified. As India has moved up, the value of change, innovation and technology development must be emphasised. Productivity gains are best captured through such intervention, at all levels not just at the high-end. Greater use of e-Governance alone will liberate people who will not have to deal with opaque systems marked by corruption and delays.

The NITI Aayog is charged with all these and more, all explicitly detailed by the government. The appointment of eminent economist Prof ArvindPanagariya as its executive Vice Chairman, and of noted defence scientist Dr. V.K.Saraswat and economist Prof. BibekDebroy

shows the government's resolve of meaning business very clearly. All three are very sound academically, known to think out-of-the box, and problem-solvers. The government has announced the names of relevant ministers as ex-officio members and special invitees and is yet to name part-time members.

There are pending issues, no doubt, as the NITI Aayog is a work in progress but the doubts expressed are exaggerated. There is no need to approve state plans by what is essentially a think-tank. The Planning Commission had taken on all kinds of responsibilities, the most pernicious of which was the discretionary allocation of plan funds. Constitutionally, federal fiscal transfers are governed by the Finance Commission but sometime around 1970, allocation of plan funds was taken out of its purview through an administrative fiat. Fiscal transfers should be formulaic not discriminatory. Further, this artificial distinction between plan and non-plan must go. A better categorisation can be between capital and recurrent expenditures. A doubt has been expressed that in the absence of five-year plans, India would lose access to IDA, World Bank's soft window affiliate, amounting to around US\$1 billion a year; every eligible country has to

prepare participatory Poverty Reduction Strategic Papers (PRSPs), with India's five-year plans accepted as its PRSP. This fear is overblown. The NITI Aayog is mandated 'to evolve a shared vision of national development priorities, sectors and strategies with the active involvement of states.' This itself satisfies the PRSP requirement. In addition, the NITI Aayog is to 'develop mechanisms to formulate credible plans at the village level and aggregate these progressively at higher levels of government.' India would continue to enjoy access to IDA and other soft windows of development assistance.

The overall picture is clear. Government structures, processes, policy development approaches, lack of clarity of roles, subordinate position of states, lack of involvement of people etc needs substantial transformation. The establishment of the NITI Aayog is possibly the most significant decision of the Modisarkar that has the potential to transform India's growth story, and unleash the very substantial potential of the Indian people, which alone is the *raison d'être* of the Indian State.

(Former Jt. Secretary Prime Minister's Office, former Chief Secretary Andaman & Nicobar, former Power & Finance Secretary, Govt. of Delhi is a Member of the SPMRF Advisory Board)

View Point

“NITI Ayog – is a path-breaking turn towards India” - S. Gurumurthy

[S.Gurumurthy, noted public intellectual and economist came out in support of the NITI Ayog terming it as a “path-breaking turn towards India. In a series of educative tweets, S.Gurumurthy examined the defining dimensions of the new body created and piloted by the Prime Minister himself. S.Gurumurthy also pointed out how most in the media and among the experts have missed out on discussion the essence of the NITI Ayog, which is to work with a focus on India, on Indian needs and to evolve a “Bharatiya approach to development.”]

He outlined that:

1- Cabinet resolution on NITI Ayog formation is the greatest victory for those who were saying western model won't suit India. Resolution says that NITI Ayog must incorporate positive

influences from the world because no single model can be transplanted from outside into India. Cabinet resolution also adds that we need to find our own strategy for growth. NITI Ayog has to zero in on what will work in and for India. Cabinet resolution ends on the issue economic model saying "Our will be a Bharatiya approach to development."

2- Resolution highlights that Our entrepreneurial, scientific & intellectual human capital is strength waiting to be unleashed for unprecedented success. It also mentions that our 'Social capital' is a major contributor to development of country thus far. It needs to be leveraged by policy initiative.

3- Cabinet resolution says: "India has more than 50 million small businesses, which are a major source of employment creation.



Strengthening Small & Medium Enterprises – priority says Prof. Arvind Panagariya

In his first statement after assuming the office, Prof. Arvind Panagariya, Vice-Chairman of the NITI Ayog said that policy-making rather than planning will be his top priority. He also spoke at length on the need to push through labour reforms and strengthen the SME (small and medium enterprise) segment which is actually the backbone of manufacturing so as to take India up several notches in the competition ladder.

These businesses are particularly important in creating opportunities for the backward & disadvantaged sections of society. So Policy making must focus on providing necessary support to this sector by skill upgrades & access to financial capital, technology.

4- The cabinet resolution on NITI Ayog is a path breaking turn towards India. No media or expert has noticed it or even criticized it.

Why? It seems that media and economic experts haven't understood the significance of the resolution which has been piloted by the PM himself.

The mainline economic discourse in India is dominated by intelligent people illiterate about India. So they can't understand the turn now.

“Incubator of ideas for effective governance”

NITI

(National Institution
for Transforming India)

Aayog

replaces PlanComm

Aayog will have-

- Prime Minister to be the Chairperson
- Vice-Chairman and a CEO
- Full time members, number unspecified
- Up to two part-time members from leading universities and research organisations
- 4 union ministers as ex-officio members
- Governing council comprising all Chief Ministers and Lt Governors
- Regional Councils which will be formed to address specific issues and contingencies impacting more than one state or a region
- *Experts, specialists and practitioners with relevant domain knowledge as special invitees

FTI GRAPHICS

A pro-people, pro-active and participative development agenda is the guiding principle behind NITI Aayog –Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Objective

To evolve a shared vision of national development priorities, sectors and strategies with the active involvement of states in the light of national objectives

The Aayog will

- Seek to provide a critical directional and strategic input into the governance process
- Develop mechanisms to formulate credible plans at the village level and aggregate these progressively at higher levels of government
- Ensure, on areas that are specifically referred to it, that the interests of national security are incorporated in economic strategy and policy
- Pay special attention to the sections of the society that may be at risk of not benefiting adequately from economic progress


Through commitment to a cooperative federalism-

- Promotion of citizen engagement
- Egalitarian access to opportunity
- Participative and adaptive governance
- Increasing use of technology

● Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his Independence Day speech last year had announced the need for replacing the Planning Commission, a socialist era institution, with a new body keeping in view the changed economic scenario

● The new body has been set up by a resolution of Union Cabinet as done in case of Planning Commission which was established on March 15, 1950





NITI Aayog: a bold initiative for transforming India

• *Dr. Shiv Shakti Bakshi*

National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog has been constituted with the expectation of a new dawn in planning and policy

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had declared from the ramparts of Red Fort on 15th August 2014 that a new institution was on the anvil to replace the Planning Commission. The announcement was welcomed by almost every section of the society. It was seen as a great reformative step forward which may result in streamlining the government mechanism in line of the new challenges that our country face today.

making in India. It has replaced Planning Commission of India. It is a major policy initiative which is set to transform the decision making process while matching the new aspirations of the people. India is today an emerging economy and as

one of the largest world economies requiring major policy related inputs with global vision and initiatives to transform itself into a world leader. NITI Aayog is expected to work in this direction through its high level expertise and innovative methods and approach.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had declared from the ramparts of Red Fort on 15th August 2014 that a new institution was on the anvil to replace the Planning Commission. The announcement was welcomed by almost every section of the society. It was seen as a great reformative step forward which may result in streamlining the government mechanism in line of the new challenges that our country face today.

The Planning Commission was seen as an old institution which had outlived its utility. Formed on 15th of March, 1950 through a Cabinet Resolution it emerged as an important institution in planning and disbursement of funds to the states drawing mainly from the idea of five year planning of Soviet regime. While it was expected to

give a new dimension to development activities in the country, it started getting submerged in red-tapism and authoritarianism. Its style of functioning often invited charges of over-centralization and politicization of fund disbursement. But the main point was that the Planning Commission was no longer finding itself relevant in the

Contrary to the principles of over-centralization ingrained in the mandate given to the Planning Commission the NITI Aayog is set to function on the principles of cooperative federalism giving states much needed room for taking policy initiatives in accordance with its specific needs and circumstances.

changed circumstances where the world economy was getting increasingly globalised with the arrival of new technologies. It has not been able to measure up to the rising aspiration of the people and the federal structure of our country.

Contrary to the principles of over-centralization ingrained in the mandate given to the Planning Commission the NITI Aayog is set to

function on the principles of cooperative federalism giving states much needed room for taking policy initiatives in accordance with its specific needs and circumstances. Apart from this, it aims at ensuring citizen's engagement, egalitarian access of opportunities, participative and adaptive governance and increasing use of technology. India as an emergent economy has to position itself globally while dealing with a plethora of new technological and strategic changes which is sweeping across the world. The fast changing world in an era of digital connectivity and communication revolution calls for an institution which may be able to keep pace with the changing world by dint of its innovative capabilities and commitment to deliver highly advanced solutions while making the tempo of developmental process highly adaptive and proficient.

In such a scenario NITI Aayog is expected to work as a 'Think Tank' functioning as a directional and policy dynamo of the government. The government while constituting NITI Aayog to give institutional framework for policy making expects that it "will provide Governments at the central and state levels with relevant strategic and technical advice across the

spectrum of key elements of policy, this includes matters of national and international import on the economic front, dissemination of best practices from within the country as well as from other nations, the infusion of new policy ideas and specific issue-based support".

The country has moved away from the Nehruvian Model of economy which is now not able to match up to the emerging realities of the global economic scenario. Planning Commission was formed in line with the requirements of Nehruvian economic model and so its relevance was always doubted by the experts. The model of five year planning which was developed, monitored and executed by the Planning Commission was often criticized for delayed planning and faulty execution. Many time it so happened that the process of planning itself took half of the plan period and the targets set by it became unreal immediately after they were announced. While the Planning Commission started to exercise its hegemonic presence in decision making process and planning in India it appeared out of sync with the emerging realities and the requirements of building India in 21st century. India in 21st century is witnessing many changes and a

rethinking was very much required about the way planning is done in the country. Planning is very crucial for any economy and with right kind of planning an economy can realize its full potential. As the nation has rescued itself from various Neruvian stereotypes, there was an urgent need to also rescue planning from the clutches of Nehruvian jargons.

The decision to replace it with NITI Aayog is not only a bold policy initiative; it will lead to major changes in the decision making process and approach, while looking at various dimensions of the economy. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi should be congratulated for taking initiatives that may usher in the era of fast pace of development through highly capable institution like NITI Aayog with the focus on enabling and empowering our people. It is a welcome initiative which locates itself in changing global context while talking about Bharatiya approach to growth. While working with a global perspective it will focus on what works for India. So it aims at transforming India with India centric approach in an increasingly globalised world.

(The Author is Executive Editor, Kamal Sandesh and a PhD in Modern History from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi)

Leela Samson's Duplicitous and Opportunistic Ways

The recent Censor Board episode where the Chairperson resigned citing interference and corruption is an ideal example of opportunism.

Ms. Leela Samson has always had a negative record of administration and conduct. Samson's record as head of the premier institution of Indian dance, Kalakshetra in Chennai, has been far from glorious. She was indicted, among other things, of issuing civil works contracts to firms and architects of her choice and sanctioning other major projects without calling for tenders, she was indicted for altering the pattern and symbolism, so assiduously created and institutionalized by the legendary dancer and founder of the Kalakshetra, late Rukmini Devi Arundale, such as removing idols of Lord Ganesha from all over the campus thus altering the identity and symbolism of the institution.

Ms. Samson had to finally resign from Kalakshetra after a PIL was filed saying that she was sticking to her post even after crossing the stipulated age of 60 years.

Ms. Samson has never been particular about public propriety or

morality in public life. A Congress appointee she did not resign when the new Government took over in May 2014, even though her term had by then expired, saying that she was asked to continue until alternate arrangements were made. So what, had she a modicum of decency, Ms. Samson should have resigned nevertheless and not wait through eight months.

While leaving Ms. Samson suddenly referred to corruption in the CBFC, may we remind her that when in August 2014 the CBI arrested CBFC's CEO, Rakesh Kumar and registered a case against him for allegedly demanding a bribe, why did not she resign then, after all Rakesh Kumar was appointed by a three-member board of which she, in her capacity as CBFC Chairperson was a member?

Rather than spin tales, Ms. Samson should have been grateful that, unlike her actual political patrons who are always abrasive with political appointees holding a different view, the BJP government treated her with outmost courtesy and did not toss her out unceremoniously]

The Truth from the Union I & B Minister Himself "Rebels without a Cause"

• Arun Jaitley

The Chairperson of the Censor Board has sent her resignation to the Government. So have some other Members. They have alleged interference by the Government and corruption in the Board. Along with my colleague Shri Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, I look after the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. At no point either of us have communicated with any Member of the Censor Board or desired that any bureaucrat to do the same. I have not met or spoken to any Member of the Censor Board nor authorised anyone to do the same. It is the UPA appointed Central Censor Board which has since continued. If there is any corruption, the UPA appointees have themselves to blame. I only wished that the fact of corruption had been communicated even once by the Chairperson of the Censor Board to me. The non-functional Chairperson never did so. The charge that meetings of the Censor Board are not being held is a Self Condemnation. The meetings are to be convened not by the Minister or the Secretary but by the Chairperson. If the meetings are not being convened, it is for those responsible for non-functioning who must blame themselves. I have checked up from officials of the Ministry who informed that the funds for the Censor Board

have been returned to the Ministry as unspent by the Board.

The legal regime with regard to the functioning of the Censor Board is clear. It is the Censor Board alone which decides issues within its' jurisdiction. The aggrieved producer has a right to move to the Appeal Tribunal. The Congress Party has politicised even Membership of the Appeal Tribunal. We have restored its dignity by appointing a former Judge of high credibility as Chairperson. If an Appeal Tribunal disagrees with the Board, it is a part of the due process of law and not an onslaught on Board's autonomy. Can a subordinate judicial authority ever cry foul if its decision upset by an appellate authority? The NDA Government maintains arms length distance in all matters relating to Film certification.

The UPA Government had politicised the Censor Board. In 2004 they dismissed the existing Censor Board headed by an eminent Film actor Anupam Kher merely on the ground that Anupam Kher was appointed by the earlier Government. We did not wish to do that. It is regrettable that the UPA appointees have decided to politicise routine issues.

*Courtesy: Press release: www.bjp.org
(Dated 17/01/2015)*

Distorting a Cultural Legacy

• *Dr. Anirban Ganguly*

By not tossing Leela Samson, the Government of India has, in fact, displayed a spirit of fair-play. And she, by accusing it of interfering and obstructing her work, has only taken recourse to falsehood in order to perpetuate a hollow impression of victimhood.

The founding ideal of the Kalakshetra, was the regeneration of the Indian arts. Articulating her founding ideal, the legendary, Rukmini Devi Arundale noted that the institution was founded "with the sole purpose of resuscitating in modern India recognition of the priceless artistic traditions of our country and of imparting to the young the true spirit of art."

A vibrant dimension of the nationalist movement in India was the advocacy and effort to regenerate her arts. Some of the leading minds of the nationalist movement, noted how education in India owed no responsibility to carry forward her cultural ideals, allowing these to wither away before the juggernaut of an alien education.

AnandaCoomaraswamy pointed at this cultural challenge when he complained how education in India

"destroys, in the great majority of those upon whom it is inflicted, all capacity for the appreciation of Indian culture." Thus, in the call for national awakening was included a determined call to work for the regeneration of Indian arts.

The Swadeshi movement in Bengal, for example, had, as one of its sustaining stream, the Swadeshi art movement that attracted some of the youngest and best artistic minds of the era. Abanindranath Tagore, Nandalal Bose, supported by the likes of Sister Nivedita and Rabindranath Tagore, were some of the most dynamic proponents of this movement. The Bengal school of art, which they eventually shaped through their art activism, did leave a deep impression on the quest for cultural regeneration and autonomy over the entire land.

Like the national education movement, the nationalist art and cultural movement became a crucial pillar of the political movement in India. The founding of Visva-Bharati, of the Kalakshetra, among others, were manifestations of that cultural quest seeking to express and unshackle the cultural spirit of India.

Unfortunately, these founding

ideals faced dilution in an independent India allowing the concerned cultural or education institutions to wallow in acrisse d'identité that gradually, led to its diversion from the original vision. The Kalakshetra, so assiduously created and nurtured by Rukmini Devi, fell on evil days when one of its directors, herself trained under its founder, decided to de-identify and de-culturalise it. Wherever she has undertaken some directional responsibility, Leela Samson, danseuse and disciple of Rukmini Devi, has always tampered with the founding ideal or vision of the institution either by altering its original identity or allowing a degree of anarchy or inefficiency to creep in. It would thus, be useful to look at some of the exploits of this accomplished wrecker of institutions.

Ms Samson's handling of affairs at Kalakshetra has been amply documented. It was soon after she took over in 2005, that the institution's de-culturisation began. While Rukmini Devi celebrated the abundance of Hindu deities and Hindu origin of Indian dance forms seeing this, as essential to the regeneration of Indian arts, Ms Samson, worked to eradicate these from the daily activities of the institutions. While Rukmini Devi

saw as intrinsic and organic the Hindu identity of Kalakshetra, Ms Samson, in her tenure, strove to de-Hindueise the institution, laughing-off Hindu deities as so many comic characters that needed to be erased if serious art was to thrive.

Her tenure as a Director thus, emerged to be a tumultuous one, posing a serious existential and identity crisis before the institution itself. This was the period which also saw the sidelining of a number of old inmates and associates, who had actually worked with its founder to enable the institution to strike deep cultural roots. Apart from diluting its core identity, the institution also saw administrative irregularities during her tenure, allowing the shadow of maladministration to fall upon that hallowed body.

The office of the Principal Accountant-General (Civil Audit), Tamil Nadu and Puducherry, in a report in 2011, for example, pointed out how Ms Samson, in her capacity as Director, followed an irregular policy of awarding civil construction contracts bypassing the tender route and allowing a select group to monopolise construction activities in the institution. The CAG report also pointed out how work worth Rs32 lakh, Rs62 lakh and even Rs3.9 crore was sanctioned bypassing "established procedures

of tendering." The litany continues, despite crossing the age of superannuation, Ms Samson continued to stick to the chair of this premier cultural body till the Madras High Court, hearing a Public Interest Litigation, forced her to relinquish it.

Due to her proximity to some leading political masters in the previous Government, Ms Samson was showered with posts, not only was she director of Kalakshetra, she headed the SangeetNatakAkademi and eventually the Central Board of Film Certification.

Even here, as the Chairperson of the CBFC, Ms Samson's record was not unblemished. True to her nature, she lowered its ethical standards. Her action of accepting to continue, under the present dispensation - which, by the way, showed remarkable magnanimity by asking her to stay on till alternate arrangements were made and did not act in the way her actual political patrons always do, that is by throwing out political appointees of opposing parties - displayed her sense of opportunism and her habit of being unable to stay without a

defining post.

Ms Samson's reputation of patronising irregularities followed her when her selection, Rakesh Kumar, the CBFC Chief Executive Officer, was arrested by the Central Bureau of Investigation last August for taking bribes and running a commission racket in order to certify films. But Ms Samson did not resign then, preferring to remain silent. Under her tenure the CBFC saw the least activity, with meetings not being regularly convened and funds allocated for its functioning lapsing due to inaction.

By not tossing her out, the present Government of India, has, in fact, displayed a spirit of fair-play and Ms Samson, by accusing it of interfering and obstructing her work, has only taken recourse, as she has always done in the past, to falsehood in order to perpetuate a hollow impression of victimhood. It is time Ms Samson's false leela and that of her ilk be exposed for the benefit of our national cultural health, enabling us to achieve our larger cultural goals.

Courtesy: 'Op-ed' Daily Pioneer (Dated 27/01/2015)

Amendments to the Land Acquisition Law

The Real Picture

• *Arun Jaitley*

The Government promulgated the ordinance to amend some provisions of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Resettlement and Rehabilitation (Amendment) Act, 2013. What was the need to amend the 2013 law and what is the effect of these amendments?

The State needs land for any form of development. Land is required for housing, townships, urbanization, sub-urbanization, industrialization, infrastructure, both urban and rural, irrigation and defence of India.

It has been repeatedly mentioned that the Land Acquisition Act, 1894 had become obsolete and needed amendment. It indeed had. The compensation provisions in the 1894 Act were highly inadequate and, therefore, it was desirable that higher compensation coupled with a rehabilitation and resettlement package be provided. The 2013 Act did that. I support the 2013 Act on

that ground. However, thirteen Acts of Parliament, which provided for land acquisition, were put in the Fourth Schedule of the Act. Section 105 of the 2013 Act made the provisions of the Act inapplicable to these exempted Acts. The said Section provided that the Government could issue a notification and direct 'any' provision of the Act relating to compensation or R&R would be made applicable to the exempted acts. The "Proposed" notification had to be placed before Parliament for a period of 30 days and Parliament was expected to approve, disapprove or modify the said proposed notification.

The need for an ordinance arose because such a notification would have to be put before Parliament in the Budget session itself in July-August, 2014 and the approval or disapproval taken accordingly. 31st December, 2014 being the last day for such a notification, the Government decided to amend the Section 105 and apply all the compensation and R&R provisions of the 2013 Act to the thirteen exempted laws. Through this provision the present ordinance provides

that the farmers' would get higher compensation if land is acquired under any of the exempted laws. It goes a step further than the 2013 Act itself. This also explains the urgency of issuing the ordinance on the last day of the year since otherwise the Government would have been in default of the complicated approval provisions outlined in the 2013 Act. The 2013 Act provided for consent of the land owner in varying percentages in a number of cases. It is only when the land owner's give consent that their land be acquired and the Government can initiate the acquisition process. Thereafter, the Act provided for a detailed social impact study. It further provided for special provisions with regard to food security. Historically the power to acquire the land is a sovereign power. The State needs land for any form of development. Land is required for housing, townships, urbanization, sub-urbanization, industrialization, infrastructure, both urban and rural, irrigation and defence of India. This list would be endless. A larger public interest always prevails over private interest. However, the land owner who loses the land has to be more than adequately compensated. A highly complicated process of acquisition which renders it difficult or almost impossible to acquire land can hurt

India's development. When the 1894 law is amended in the 21st century, it must provide for a 21st century compensation and cater to the developmental needs of the 21st century. It cannot completely ignore the developmental needs of the society and mandate that India does not grow.

The present amendment carves out five exceptions for which this complicated process of acquisition will not apply. However, the compensation provisions remain untouched.

The five exempted purposes are discussed herein below: The defence and security of India has been made an exempted purpose. The 2013 Act completely ignored it. Rural infrastructure, including electrification, is an exempted purpose. Roads, highways, flyover, electrification and irrigation will all add to the value of the farmer's lands. This exemption is entirely in the interest of rural India. Affordable housing and housing for poor is an exempted purpose. Migration from rural areas to urban and sub-urban centers where employment opportunities are available, is a reality. It is the migrants from rural areas who would benefit from this exception. Industrial corridors which run for a narrow distance along with various

highways, give a fillip to the entire development of those rural areas. A Delhi-Mumbai industrial corridor would benefit thousand of villages while running along with national highway. There could not be a greater opportunity for the rural areas than an industrial corridor running close to agricultural lands. This would generate employment opportunities and enhance the value of the land itself.

Infrastructure and social infrastructure projects, including those under public private partnership, where ownership of the land vests with the Governments. This is bound to benefit the entire country, particularly the people in rural areas where infrastructure and social infrastructure is inadequate.

Almost all the exempted purposes benefit rural India. They would enhance the value of land, create employment and provide rural areas with better infrastructure and social infrastructure. This is in addition to the enhanced compensation and R&R provisions being expanded to the thirteen exempted acts.

The amendment, therefore, balances the developmental needs of India, particularly rural India, while still providing enhanced compensation to the land owners. Will the State Governments ruled by

political parties, which are opposed to this ordinance, publically declare that they will not use the law which provides for enhanced compensation in the case of exempted acts and acquisition process which balances the developmental needs of society, particularly those of poor, weaker sections, rural India along with defence requirements of the country?

A larger public interest always prevails over private interest. However, the land owner who loses the land has to be more than adequately compensated. A highly complicated process of acquisition which renders it difficult or almost impossible to acquire land can hurt India's development.

This 2013 Act had over 50 drafting errors. The provision with regard to the rectification of errors will be used to cure most of them. Some are being cured through this ordinance which alters the earlier mandate of the 2013 law that unused land has to be returned five years after the acquisition. The earlier provision was clearly defective. Creation of smart cities, townships, industrial corridors, business

FM'S TAKE

“Those who are opposed to it (ordinance) can certainly mandate their party's state governments not to use the provisions of the ordinance. History will judge how these states will lose out in the era of competitive federalism
— **Arun Jaitley**
FINANCE MINISTER



URGENCY | 2013 law provided for a special notification to provide for a better compensation and relief and rehab for 13 purposes. These notifications had to be placed in Parliament for 30 working days for lawmakers to decide. With Dec 31 being the last day for notification, the govt opted for an ordinance to avoid being in default of the provision.

WHY IT IS NEEDED | The compensation provisions have been left untouched but only norms have been sought to be simplified as land is required for meeting the development needs of housing, industrialization, infrastructure & defence

centers, defence projects, cantonments, ports, nuclear installations, building of highways, irrigation projects, dams have a long gestations period. They cannot be completed in five years. If the earlier provision is to be effected, we would be a nation of incomplete projects on account of defective legislative drafting.

The draft provisions of the 2013 Act enthusiastically provide that no part of an acquired land could be used for a private educational institution or a hospital. How will new smart cities and townships come up? Will they only have a civil hospital and a Government school/ college and no other healthcare and educational institutions will be allowed to be established there? The ordinance permits hospitals and educational institutions to be estab-

lished on an acquired land. That is the purpose of acquisition for townships. A township without a social infrastructure would be inherently incomplete. The needs of a modern growing and developing India need a balanced approach. Development and justice to the land owner must coexist. One cannot be done at the cost of the other. The amendment ordinance is based on extensive consultations where State Government of most political parties supported these changes. Those who are opposed to it can certainly mandate their party's State Governments not to use the provisions of the ordinance. History will judge how these States will lose out in the era of competitive federalism.

*Courtesy: Press release: www.bjp.org
(Dated 04/01/2015)*

A study of Ordinances promulgated by various governments in India

• *Shubhendu Anand*

The present Modi-led NDA government is under fire from various quarters for having resorted to 'ordinance-route' in order to pass various Bills that were pending. The opposition (Congress) which is targeting

the government for passing ordinances instead of passing the bills through Parliament seems to have forgotten its past when in the period of 50 years of its rule, it passed 456 ordinances, that's a 9 per year. The antics of the opposition in

Figure 3: Ordinances promulgated during different Lok Sabhas

Prime Minister	Lok Sabha Session	Lok Sabha Years	Ordinances Promulgated
Jawaharlal Nehru	1st	1952-1957	39
Jawaharlal Nehru	2nd	1957-1962	20
Jawaharlal Nehru (1962-1964), Gulzarilal Nanda (1964), Lal Bahadur Shastri (1964-1966), Gulzarilal Nanda (1966), Indira Gandhi (1966-67)	3rd	1962-1967	31
Indira Gandhi	4th	1967-1970	38
Indira Gandhi	5th	1971-1977	99
Morarji Desai (1977-1979), Charan Singh (1979-1980)	6th	1977-1980	28
Indira Gandhi	7th	1980-1984	58
Rajiv Gandhi	8th	1984-1989	35
Vishwanath Pratap Singh (1989-1990), Chandra Shekhar (1990-1991)	9th	1989-1991	16
PV Narasimha Rao	10th	1991-1996	77
Atal Behari Vajpayee (May 16 - June 1, 1996), HD Deve Gowda (June 1, 1996 - April 21, 1997), IK Gujral (April 21, 1997 - March 19, 1998)	11th	1996-1998	77
Atal Behari Vajpayee	12th	1998-1999	25
Atal Behari Vajpayee	13th	1999-2004	33
Dr. Manmohan Singh	14th	2004-2009	36
Dr. Manmohan Singh	15th	2009-2014	25
Total			637

the Rajya Sabha, where the BJP has just 45 out of 245 seats, meant the bills were not even considered, let alone passed. The government which is committed to good governance and development was left with no choice but to resort to ordinance in their stead.

The minority Congress government led by PV Narasimha Rao issued 77 ordinances in its 5 year term from 1991 to 1996. The Left-backed United Front Government, which was supported by the Congress from the outside - passed only 61 Bills during its 1996-98 term under two PMs, HD Deve Gowda and IK Gujral, but issued a record 77 ordinances.

A study of the various Bills and Ordinances passed by various governments since the beginning of the First Lok Sabha doesn't give a rosy picture for the Congress or the other opposition parties. The table below shows the number of ordinances promulgated during various Lok Sabhas under various Prime Minister's rule.

Between 1952-2014, various governments promulgated 637 ordinances, that's a average of 11 ordinances per year. Of these, 456 were issued in about 50 years of rule by Prime Ministers of the Congress Party.

Records show that India's first Prime

Minister Jawaharlal Nehru issued about 70 ordinances between 1952 to 1964. Mrs. Indira Gandhi issued more than 138 ordinances during her tenure as Prime Minister from 1966 to 1977. During her tenure as the Prime Minister from 1980-1984, Mrs. Gandhi promulgated 58 ordinances. Rajiv Gandhi issued 35 ordinances during his tenure as Prime Minister from 1984-1989. All these three Prime Ministers took the 'ordinance route' despite having clear majority in both the houses of the Parliament. The minority Congress government led by PV Narsimha Rao issued 77 ordinances in its 5 year term from 1991 to 1996.

It is noteworthy that the Left-backed United Front government - which was supported by the Congress from the outside - passed only 61 Bills during its 1996-98 term under two PMs, HD Deve Gowda and IK Gujral, but issued a record 77 ordinances. So those who are crying foul that ordinance kill the basic spirit of democracy, are the one who have set the standards in past in doing the same thing.

The NDA government led by Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee during 12th and 13th Lok Sabha had a better legislative performance which promulgated 58 ordinances against 353 bills that it passed.

The Manmohan Singh led UPA I and UPA II issued 61 ordinances in its 10 year rule which ended May, 2014.

Data over the last 60 years indicates that the year 1993 when PV Narsimha Rao led Congress government was in power saw the highest number of ordinances being passed.

(A graduate of the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), currently studying law at the University of Delhi, is a Research Associate at

केजरीवाल का झूठ

• डा. जे.के. बजाज

अपने कुछ साथियों के साथ दो दिन गुजरात की सड़कों पर घूमने के पश्चात् अरविंद केजरीवाल स्थान-स्थान पर कहते फिर रहे हैं कि उन्होंने गुजरात के विकास के विषय में सब कुछ जान लिया है, वास्तव में वहाँ विकास जैसा कुछ हुआ ही नहीं है। गुजरात की कृषि के संबंध में उनका विशेषतः कहना है कि गुजरात सरकार के दावों के विपरीत पिछले दस वर्षों में वहाँ कृषि में विकास नहीं बल्कि 11 प्रतिशत प्रति वर्ष का ह्रास हुआ है।

आंकड़े प्राप्त करने के लिये अरविंद केजरीवाल के कुछ अपने निजी स्रोत होंगे, उन्होंने बताया नहीं है कि वे किन आंकड़ों के आधार पर अपनी बात कह रहे हैं। पर भारत सरकार का आंकड़ों के संकलन का अपना एक बड़ा और सक्षम तंत्र है। इस तंत्र के विभिन्न विभागों द्वारा संकलित एवं प्रकाशित आंकड़ों के अनुसार गुजरात की अर्थव्यवस्था के विभिन्न आयामों में पिछले दसके वर्षों में अद्भुत विकास हुआ ही दिखता है।

गुजरात का सकल उत्पादन

भारत के एवं विभिन्न राज्यों के सकल घरेलू उत्पाद संबंधी 'राष्ट्रीय खाता सांख्यिकी' आंकड़ों का संकलन भारत सरकार के सांख्यिकी एवं कार्यक्रम क्रियान्वयन मंत्रालय द्वारा नियमित किया जाता है। 'राष्ट्रीय खाता सांख्यिकी' की एक नयी श्रृंखला 2004-05 से प्रारंभ की गयी थी। इस श्रृंखला के आंकड़ों के अनुसार 2004-05 में गुजरात का कुल घरेलू उत्पाद 203 सहस्र करोड़ रुपये था, 2011-12 में 399 सहस्र करोड़ रुपये है, ये दोनों आंकड़े 2004-05 के भावों के अनुसार हैं। इसका अर्थ है कि इन 7 वर्षों में गुजरात का कुल उत्पाद दो गुना हुआ है।

गुजरात के सकल उत्पाद में कृषि का भाग 2004-05 में 26.7 सहस्र करोड़ था, 2011-12 में 45

सहस्र करोड़ है। इस प्रकार इन 7 वर्षों में कृषि उत्पाद में प्रायः 70 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि हुई है।

इस अवधि में देश के कृषि उत्पाद में मात्र 32 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि हुई है। गुजरात के सकल उत्पाद में विनिर्माण (मेन्युफैक्चरिंग) का भाग 2004-05 में 55.4 सहस्र करोड़ था, 2011-12 में 112.5 सहस्र करोड़ है। राज्य में विनिर्माण क्षेत्र का उत्पाद भी इस प्रकार दोगुना हुआ है।

इन आंकड़ों से तो स्पष्ट है कि गुजरात में कृषि एवं विनिर्माण दोनों क्षेत्रों में पर्याप्त और देश की अपेक्षा कहीं अधिक वृद्धि हुई है।

गुजरात का कृषि विकास

ऊपर के सब आंकड़े विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में 2004-05 के स्थिर भावों पर उत्पादन के मूल्यों के आंकड़े हैं। विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में वास्तविक उत्पादन के आंकड़ों का भी संकलन होता है। कृषि के लिये ऐसे आंकड़े भारत सरकार के कृषि एवं सहयोग मंत्रालय के अर्थ एवं सांख्यिकी निदेशालय द्वारा संकलित किये जाते हैं और इनका बहुत व्यापक स्तर पर प्रसार होता है। अर्थ एवं सांख्यिकी के विषय में कुछ रुचि रखने वालों के लिये ऐसे आंकड़े सुगमता से सुलभ रहते हैं।

इन आंकड़ों के अनुसार 2001-02 में गुजरात में फसलों के अंतर्गत सकल क्षेत्र 107 लाख हेक्टेयर था, 2010-11 में 122 लाख हेक्टेयर है। नौ वर्षों में फसलों के अंतर्गत के क्षेत्र में 15 लाख हेक्टेयर का अथवा 14 प्रतिशत का विस्तार छोटा नहीं होता।

सिंचित क्षेत्र में और भी बड़ा विस्तार हुआ है। 2001-02 में गुजरात में शुद्ध सिंचित क्षेत्र 30 लाख हेक्टेयर था, 2010-11 में 42 लाख हेक्टेयर है। सिंचित फसलों का सकल क्षेत्र इस अवधि में 36 लाख हेक्टेयर से बढ़ कर 56 लाख हेक्टेयर हुआ है। इस प्रकार 9 वर्षों में सिंचाई लगभग डेढ़ गुना बढ़ गयी है।

फसलों के उत्पादन में भी पर्याप्त वृद्धि हुई है। इस समय गुजरात की सबसे बड़ी दो फसलें कपास एवं

गेहूँ हैं। 2000-01 में गेहूँ के अंतर्गत क्षेत्र 2.87 लाख हेक्टेयर था और उस वर्ष कुल 6.50 लाख टन गेहूँ का उत्पादन हुआ था। 2010-11 में 15.8 लाख हेक्टेयर क्षेत्र पर गेहूँ की खेती हुई है और लगभग 50 लाख टन गेहूँ का उत्पादन हुआ है। 2000-01 का वर्ष कृषि के लिये बहुत अच्छा नहीं था, पर हम 2000-01 के आगे-पीछे के तीन वर्षों और 2009-10 के आगे-पीछे के तीन वर्षों का औसत भी ले लें तो इन नौ वर्षों में गेहूँ का क्षेत्र प्रायः 2.8 गुना और उत्पादन साढ़े-तीन गुना हुआ है।

कपास की खेती में भी वैसी ही उल्लेखनीय वृद्धि हुई है। 2000-01 में राज्य में कपास का क्षेत्र 15.4 लाख हेक्टेयर था और लगभग 21 लाख गाँठ कपास उगी थी, 2010-11 में लगभग 26 लाख हेक्टेयर पर कपास की खेती हुई है और 97 लाख गाँठ कपास का उत्पादन हुआ है। यहाँ भी हम 2000-01 के आगे पीछे के और 2009-10 के आगे-पीछे के सालों के जोड़ कर तीन-तीन वर्षों की औसत ले लें तो कपास के क्षेत्र में लगभग डेढ़ गुना और उत्पादन में 5 गुना की वृद्धि इन नौ सालों में हुई है।

केंद्र सरकार द्वारा संकलित एवं प्रकाशित इन आंकड़ों के अनुसार तो गुजरात की खेती में पिछले दसके वर्षों में असाधारण वृद्धि हुई है। कृषि उत्पाद 20 प्रतिशत बढ़ा है, फसलों का सकल क्षेत्र 14 प्रतिशत बढ़ा है, सिंचाई डेढ़ गुना हुई है, गेहूँ का उत्पादन साढ़े-तीन गुना हुआ है, कपास का उत्पादन पाँच गुना हुआ है। इन सब आंकड़ों की अनदेखी करते हुए अरविंद केजरीवाल गुजरात में कृषि के ह्रास की कहानी बताते हुए घूम रहे हैं। आंकड़ें सड़कों पर तो

पड़े नहीं होते, न ही गुजरात के किसी खेत को देख कर यह अनुमान लगाया जा सकता है कि इस वर्ष यहाँ कितना उत्पादन होगा और दस वर्ष पहले कितना हुआ होगा। इसलिये दो दिन गुजरात में घूम कर वहाँ के विकास के विषय में जान लेने की बात असंगत ही है। पर अरविंद केजरीवाल का तो आंकड़ों से गहरा संबंध रहा है, वे भारतीय राजस्व सेवा के अधिकारी रहे हैं। उनके साथियों में अनेक ऊँचे समाजविज्ञानी हैं, दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय, जवाहरलाल नेहरू विश्वविद्यालय एवं समाजविज्ञान के अन्य उच्च संस्थानों के प्राचार्य हैं। यह मानना कठिन है कि वे यह न जानते हों कि आंकड़े कैसे और कहाँ से लिये जाते हैं और किस प्रकार आंकड़ों का संकलन एवं आकलन किया जाता है। फिर भी यदि वे गुजरात में कृषि के ह्रास की बात करते फिर रहे हैं तो वे जान-बूझ कर झूठ ही बोल रहे हैं। उन्हें और उनके साथियों को कदाचित् लगता है कि राजनीति तो झूठ से ही चलती है, राजनीति में कुछ भी कहा जा सकता है। पर वे तो राजनीति को सुधारने आये थे, उन्होंने और उनके साथियों ने समाजविज्ञानियों वाली अपनी सत्यनिष्ठा क्यों छोड़ दी।

वैसे पिछले दस वर्षों में अनेक राज्यों में और विशेषतः भाजपा-प्रशासित राज्यों में कृषि की स्थिति बहुत सुधरी है। मध्यप्रदेश में तो इस दशक में एक नयी हरति-क्रांति ही हो गयी है।

उसकी चर्चा फिर कभी।

— डा. जितेंद्र बजाज

निदेशक, समाजनीति समीक्षण केंद्र, नई दिल्ली)

(साभार : यथावत)

Welcome to the Party

• Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe

[The Bharatiya Janata Party has launched an unprecedented membership drive across the country. It is perhaps for the first time, post independence, that a political party has reached out in such a massive way to the grass-roots and has worked to make the ideal of participatory democracy and politics a reality. The BJP National President Shri Amit Shah has himself indefatigably travelled across the length and breadth of the country in order to expand the base of the party and to make it a participative forum for the people of India. The ideal of this gigantic national drive is the fact that a strong BJP shall make a strong nation]

Out of sight of the mainstream media, BJP president Amit Shah has adroitly used a routine membership campaign as a powerful tool to rebuild the BJP from the bottom up when all is going well for the party, redefining political recruitment. For the BJP, there could not have been a better time to reach out to the people and try to create a mass base from the reservoir of goodwill that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been able to create for himself. Modi has successfully brought an end to the climate of frustration and cynicism. This has helped restore popular confidence in democratic governance.

Not long ago, the centrality of political parties in a multi-party democracy had prompted political scientists to describe democracy as “partyocracy”. But few parties realise their own importance. The world over, political parties are finding that people are losing faith in them.

However, knowing that people have no choice but to select one or the other among them, parties ignored their organisational health.

For the BJP, there could not have been a better time to reach out to the people and try to create a mass base from the reservoir of goodwill that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been able to create for himself. Modi has successfully brought an end to the climate of frustration and cynicism.

There were few efforts to set their houses in order, especially in countries like India, where there are over 1,300 registered political parties, many of which rarely make their presence felt when elections aren't due. Most parties continue to confine themselves to electoral contests. As a result, their

occasional noise-making is seen as an attempt to assert their nuisance value. Propagation of dynasty being the basis of a majority, parties continue to experience an acute crisis of purpose, giving a fillip to the tendencies of machine politics.

All this has, over the years, contributed to the degeneration of parties. For many, politics became a full-time business and winning elections, more of a technique. The dominance of money, muscle, caste and arbitrary and non-transparent

There are a number of remarkable features to this campaign, the first ever conducted via cellphone. Technology has made the process highly democratic, inclusive, and extremely easy and seeker-friendly.

candidate selection processes has contributed to the technique orientation of electoral verdicts. In several cases, electoral victories were more about the party's dexterity in mastering this technique than about the ability to win a popular mandate. Consequently, building a robust party organisation became secondary, making parties "empty vessels", as The Economist put it.

The twin motivations of gaining power and continuing to wield it became the central agenda of political parties, making competitive compromises the order of the day.

After the end of what political scientists refer to as the third wave of democracy, the phenomenon of the "end of ideology" proved to be a great leveller, gradually doing away with the cleavages between different political parties. Little wonder then that the ideologically motivated party worker has become an endangered species, and most parties see a seasonal flood of stormtroopers, and leader loyalists rather than party faithfuls. These factors contribute to the institutional degeneration of political parties in most democracies across the world, and India is no exception.

Seen in this context, the importance of a massive recruitment drive by the BJP under Shah cannot be overstated. There are a number of remarkable features to this campaign, the first ever conducted via cellphone. Technology has made the process highly democratic, inclusive, and extremely easy and seeker-friendly. The BJP has demonstrated how joining the party no longer depends on the recruiter's discretion. As a

result, this has redefined party recruitment in a way that suits the modern era.

The BJP has called this campaign Sashakta BJP-Sashakta Bharat (Strong BJP for a Stronger India). Besides, the campaign slogan, “Saath Aaye, Desh Banaye (Come Together, Build the Nation)”, also aims at restoring respect to the act of joining a political party, something people are uncomfortable with. The BJP's ambitious plans to register crores of countrymen till March 31 will be followed by a campaign to connect with the new recruits and later, conducting largescale capacity building programmes all over the country. Engaging with the emerging aspirational classes in a productive manner and ensuring their participation in developmental and community activities remains a challenge, albeit one that is not too daunting for a cadre-based party. The BJP seeks to induct fresh energy in party cadres, paving the way for a total organisational renewal. If things unfold as planned, it may restore the institutional primacy of political

The BJP seeks to induct fresh energy in party cadres, paving the way for a total organisational renewal. If things unfold as planned, it may restore the institutional primacy of political parties in a democracy.

parties in a democracy.

If democracies are to deliver good governance, they need to have smart drivers in the form of organisationally healthy political parties.

Democracies without political parties are unimaginable. Hence, empowering them through the path of greater institutionalisation is the only solution. And obviously, the way towards that is via recruiting new members, infusing new blood and promoting new ideas. New politics, after all, requires fresh approaches to the way politics is conducted.

(The writer is National Vice President, BJP & Director, Public Policy Research Centre)

*Courtesy: The Indian Express
(Dated 14/01/2015)*

New Government Focuses on Accelerating Development in North East

• *Siddharth Singh*

North East India is one of the most naturally endowed but still highly neglected regions in the country. The region is recognized as an area with physical and social infrastructure deficit and its development has struggled in the past because of

In a first path-breaking step, the previous NDA government under Prime Minister Vajpayee established the Ministry for the Development of the North Eastern Region (DONER) for specially focusing and spear-heading the development of the Northeast region. This demonstrated how the Northeast was always central to the NDA's concerns.

many factors like long-running insurgencies, disinterested governance from Delhi, endemic corruption, and tensions among the region's various ethnic groups. Despite its unique biodiversity,

hydro-electric potential, hydro-carbon reserves, forests wealth, rich soil and abundant flora and fauna, the area remained neglected. In a first path-breaking step, the previous NDA government under Prime Minister Vajpayee established the Ministry for the Development of the North Eastern Region (DONER) for specially focusing and spear-heading the development of the Northeast region. This demonstrated how the Northeast was always central to the NDA's concerns.

Changing North East India from being mere border points to profitable economic gateways has become an urgent imperative for India under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi because PM has himself outlined in his vision for this region that in the present era of globalisation where distances are decreasing and boundaries are changing into gateways, the potential of North East India can no longer be sidelined. PM Modi has repeatedly said in his vision for North East that "The eastern part of the country is the gateway to the

eastern world so before we look east towards other countries in the region for trade and deeper engagement, we have to look east within our own country". Proper connectivity between North East India to rest of the country, physically as well as psychologically is the top priority of the new government.

Describing India's north east as a "Natural Economic Zone", Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his last visit announced a slew of projects to develop the region that included a special scholarship for 10,000 students and expansion of rail, air, road, and digital connectivity. Another scheme called Ishan Vikas was also announced which will help students from north east in internship and exposure to visit IITs, NITs and NIFTs in other parts of India during their vacation. Every year, 2000 students and 500 teachers from north east area will go to other parts of the country. This exposure will certainly benefit this area.

The Northeastern states can be the capital of India's organic agriculture. Northeastern states can provide organic food to India and to the world also and that's why the Modi government has announced to set up six new colleges especially in the field of agriculture in north east area. For this Rs. 100 crore have been allocated for organic farming

in North East.

A new 24x7 channel 'Arun Prabha' which was announced in budget, will provide a strong platform to the culturally and linguistically rich NE and an annual event in the North Eastern states to promote unique sports tradition in the Himalayan region. A new sports university is also going to be set up in Manipur.

PM Modi has repeatedly said in his vision for North East that "The eastern part of the country is the gateway to the eastern world so before we look east towards other countries in the region for trade and deeper engagement, we have to look east within our own country".

Tourism is another particular sector in which North East India is rich and has got abundant amount of untapped business potential. The region is an exceptional tourism destination with the exotic flora and fauna, natural scenic beauty, unique performing arts and varied cuisine and handicrafts. Prime Minister has always reiterated the tourism potential of the Northeast and how it could spearhead the overall

growth of the entire region.

Government has earmarked Rs 53,000 crore in the Union Budget for development of Northeast. Rs 28,000 crore has been earmarked for construction of new railway lines to boost connectivity. The north eastern states rail connectivity is a mission area for the new government. Plans for the development of railway infrastructure in the north-eastern states includes connectivity

Describing India's north east as a "Natural Economic Zone", Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his last visit announced a slew of projects to develop the region that included a special scholarship for 10,000 students and expansion of rail, air, road, and digital connectivity.

to all state capitals, uni-gauge broad-gauge network in the region, expansion of network to unconnected areas of the region, strengthening international borders and improving trade and connectivity with neighbouring countries. Recently Meghalaya got its rail connectivity with the completion of the Dudhnoi-Mendipathar lines.

Comprehensive telecom develop-

ment plan for north east region includes provision of 2G mobile coverage in identified uncovered areas. The Telecom Commission has approved the proposal to implement a comprehensive telecom development plan at an estimated project cost of Rs. 5336 crore.

In conclusion, special development efforts are being made to fast track the economic growth of the region. For transforming the potentials of North East India into actual growth, the need of the hour is to have a long term policy perspective with certain level of sincerity in governance of North East India. Prime Minister Modi has shown the resolve and sincere commitment in developing this region through his actions in last 7 months of his tenure. People of the North Eastern region have a lot of expectations from Prime Minister Modi because of his track record of good governance. The focused approach to development, timely completion of projects with support and participation of skilled locals will bridge the development deficit. Prime Minister Modi's Government has breathed a fresh energy and perspective in the vision of Northeast India's growth and progress.

(Siddharth Singh is a Research Associate at SPMRF)

Healthcare as a Fundamental Right- Modi's new game changer!

• Siddharth Singh

The latest draft on National Health Policy, released by the Modi government, intends to make health a 'fundamental right'. Intentions of the new government seem to be very noble in this regard and aim to make healthcare more universal and affordable. The National Health Policy draft addresses the urgent need to improve the performance of health systems. Given the two-way linkage between economic growth and health status, this new National Health Policy draft is a declaration of the determination of Government to leverage economic growth to achieve health outcomes and an explicit acknowledgement that better health contributes immensely to improved productivity. The key challenges identified by the draft include the pathetic state of primary care, scarcity of trained human resources as well as fragmented approach to healthcare delivery and so on.

The primary aim of the National Health Policy 2015, is to inform, strengthen and prioritize the role of the Government in shaping health systems in all its dimensions like

investment in health, organization and financing of healthcare services, prevention of diseases and promotion of good health through cross sectoral action, access to technologies, developing human resources, encouraging medical pluralism, building the knowledge base required for better health, financial protection strategies and regulation and legislation for health.

Draft also outlines the government commitment to increase the government expenditure on healthcare from the current 1.04% to 2.5% of the GDP which means Rs 3,800 per capita expenditure.

The landmark take away of the new draft which has attracted the most attention so far is the new Government's policy intent to make health a fundamental right. Doing so would make denial of health "justiciable" which basically means that any citizen can sue or can question the government if he or she is sick and unable to access healthcare facility.

The paradigm shift or the landmark take away of the new draft which has attracted the most attention so far is the new Government's policy intent to make health a fundamental right. Doing so would make denial of health "justiciable" which basically means that any citizen can sue or can question the government if he or she is sick and unable to access healthcare facility. Though the idea of making health a fundamental right existed yet till now no government in the past has made any genuine or honest effort in realizing this idea.

The argument in favour of making health care a fundamental right can be summed up as follows: the right to health is a natural corollary of the right to life and therefore denying someone healthcare is like denying a human being the right to live out her natural life span. So it is the state's duty to protect its citizens from diseases and illness. Making health a fundamental right would thus give citizens the power to hold the state accountable for fulfilling its responsibility toward them.

Even the World Health Organization (WHO) has been battling aggressively for universal health care. In fact, the whole National health policy 2015 document seems to have been inspired by the WHO's report on health system financing, which calls for an

insurance-centric (pooling together of funds via compulsory prepayment) universal healthcare programme. Most nations are now moving towards a commitment to some form of universal health coverage. Many developed nations have laws for providing healthcare facilities to their citizens and in recent time some developing nations like Brazil and Thailand have also implemented their policy on universal health access to their citizen in a much effective and efficient manner.

In conclusion, a country is recognized as a developed nation only if it is counted among world's top ranking nations in terms of human development to which health is of paramount importance. Growing expenditure in health care also erodes the savings of common man and also estimated to be one of the major contributors to poverty because the drain on family incomes due to health care costs neutralizes the gains of income. Modi Government is resolute to lift quality of life of the people of India and for that the new proposed Law to make health a Fundamental Right is bound to change the face of India from a developing to world's most developed nation.

(Siddharth Singh is a Research Associate at SPMRF)

The Karachi boat wasn't an ordinary fishing vessel

• Nitin Gokhale

[The Karachi boat episode, where our security agencies displayed courage, alertness and prompt action - they succeeded in foiling another 26/11 type attack, demonstrating thereby that the new Central Government is serious about national security - generated peculiar speculation by a section of the media and experts who began seeing in it some concoction and doubting the integrity of our security and intelligence establishment. Going beyond the sensational however, there have been some serious experts and observers who have analysed the issue in the right light and perspective. People need to know how our national security under this Government is being strengthened and how India's adversaries are being tackled with determination.]

For a number of important functionaries in the Indian Coast Guard, NTRO (the National Technical Research Organisation) and other members of the security establishment, New Year's Eve 2014 was not a time of celebrations. Most of them were at their desks as several surveillance aircraft and ships scoured the vast expanse of Arabian Sea off the Gujarat coast for a suspicious boat that had sailed from Karachi on 31st Dec night. The NTRO, with its electronic and cyberspace surveillance capability, had first chanced upon a conversation that spoke of 'delivering valuable cargo' on the India coast and that 'arrangements were made to receive it on the Western sea coast' on the morning of 31st December. The call had originated in Karachi. Still it was only one input. The Coast Guard and the Navy, already on alert because of

heightened tension with Pakistan were then informed. As the search was mounted by ships and airplanes, it was not until 11 PM on 31st December that a boat was spotted about 200 nautical miles off the coast of Porbandar.

Their suspicion aroused, a Coast Guard ship sought to intercept the fishing boat and investigate. Instead of cooperating with the Indian Coast Guard, the fishing boat headed back towards the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL). The Coast Guard, aware of the possibility of explosives and arms stored onboard kept circling around the boat which nevertheless continued its dash towards the IMBL. After about an hour of the cat and mouse game, the Coast Guard ship fired several warning shots. The occupants of the boat, perhaps running low on fuel, then set it on fire. Several loud explosions

occurred and a massive fire broke out on the boat. At least four men were spotted on the boat before it sank, a Ministry of Defence statement said.

There have been suggestions that the boat was used by diesel and liquor smugglers. As Coast Guard officials point out, smugglers when caught don't try to run away. Instead, they normally surrender. And they certainly don't kill themselves. Occupants of the suspicious boat however not only behaved abnormally but chose to embrace death instead of being caught. Why? Simply because they had something to hide even if one was to assume that they were not terrorists but were simply couriers out to deliver deadly cargo of explosives and arms.

Given that the attackers in the 26/11 mayhem had come into Mumbai via sea, immediate parallels were sought to be drawn to that episode but on available evidence, it is still not clear if Mumbai was the target or if the occupants on destroyed boat were assigned to

carry out any terrorist attack. What is clear however is the boat was no ordinary fishing vessel. Neither was the behaviour of the people on board normal.

There have been suggestions that the boat was used by diesel and liquor smugglers. As Coast Guard officials point out, smugglers when caught don't try to run away. Instead, they normally surrender. And they certainly don't kill themselves. Occupants of the suspicious boat however not only behaved abnormally but chose to embrace death instead of being caught. Why? Simply because they had something to hide even if one was to assume that they were not terrorists but were simply couriers out to deliver deadly cargo of explosives and arms.

For the past three months, several intelligence inputs have indicated that Pakistan's ISI continues its relentless attempts to send hit squads of the Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) into India both through the land and maritime boundaries. Increased vigil by the Indian agencies has prevented any major attack so far...

[Nitin Gokhale is a veteran journalist and strategic expert who has covered extensively security issues, India's Northeast and foreign affairs]

Courtesy: www.abplive.in (Dated 03/01/2015)

सेना के लिए अच्छे दिनों का आगाज

• लेफ्टि.जन. (रिटा.) सैयद अता हसनैन

पिछले कुछ वर्षों में भारत की प्रतिरक्षा क्षमता प्रमुख आंतरिक और बाह्य चुनौतियों के कारण दो पहलुओं से गंभीर रूप से प्रभावित हुई है। दुनियाभर में तेजी से आगे बढ़ती रक्षा प्रौद्योगिकी के साथ रफ्तार बनाए रखने में अक्षमता और युद्ध लड़ने के लिए जरूरी ताम-झाम हासिल करने की व अपनी सशस्त्र सेना को तैयार रखने में विफलता। मनोहर पर्रिकर के रक्षा मंत्री बनने से कुछ सकारात्मक माहौल बना है। इसकी वजह कार्यकुशल होने की उनकी ख्याति और आईआईटी ग्रेजुएट होने से टेक्नोलॉजी की पृष्ठभूमि है।

सेना के लिए हथियारों व अन्य साजो-सामान की खरीदी संबंधी निर्णय प्रक्रिया में पिछले एक दशक में जो पंगुता देखी गई है उसके कारण सैन्य मामलों में आई क्रांति और रूपांतरण भारतीय सुरक्षा मशीनरी को छुए बिना ही निकल गई। सेनाएं अपने क्षेत्र के तुलनात्मक सुरक्षा परिदृश्य से तालमेल रखकर योजनाएं बनाती हैं, जिसे परस्पेक्टिव प्लानिंग कहते हैं। यह पंद्रह साल की दीर्घावधि इंटीग्रेटेड प्लानिंग का हिस्सा होती है। ऐसा इसलिए किया जाता है, क्योंकि सैन्य साजो-सामान हासिल करने की प्रक्रिया धीमी होती है। इसमें भविष्य की जरूरत का बहुत पहले ही आकलन करने की आवश्यकता होती है ताकि विश्लेषण, समीक्षा, उपलब्धता के अनुसार वित्तीय व्यवस्था की जा सके और कोई खामी हो तो उसे दुरुस्त किया जा सके।

सैन्य सामग्री की खरीद स्वदेशी या बाहरी स्रोत से की जा सकती है। यह उपलब्धता, उपयुक्तता और प्रौद्योगिक जरूरत के पूरा होने पर निर्भर होता है। चूंकि सैन्य सामग्री बहुत महंगी होती है, इसलिए यह ध्यान रखना पड़ता है कि इस्तेमाल के लिए मिलने में लगने वाले समय के दौरान ही टेक्नोलॉजी बेकार न हो जाए। ऐसी व्यवस्था भी सुनिश्चित करनी होती है कि मौजूदा उपकरणों में नई टेक्नोलॉजी का समावेश किया जा सके। फिर कलपुर्जों की सप्लाई भी

सुनिश्चित रहे, क्योंकि कुछ उपकरण पुराने होने के बाद उपयोगी बने रहते हैं। इसके अलावा प्रगत देशों द्वारा विकसित आधुनिक उपकरणों की उपलब्धता का भी आश्वासन लेना पड़ता है।

प्रतिद्वंद्वी पर बड़त कायम करने या उसके पास उपलब्ध टेक्नोलॉजी के बराबर हाई टेक्नोलॉजी स्वदेश में गैर-मौजूद हो सकती है। इसके कारण कई बार हमें पुरानी टेक्नोलॉजी खरीदने पर मजबूर होना पड़ता है और कई बार अनाप-शनाप कीमत पर। स्वदेशी टेक्नोलॉजी के लिए शोध की महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका रहती है। भारत की शोध सुविधाओं और

हेलिकॉप्टर स्वदेश में बनाने और प्रधानमंत्री के पूर्ण समर्थन के साथ भारत के प्रतिष्ठित घरानों को इस क्षेत्र में आने के लिए प्रोत्साहित करने का विचार बहुत अच्छा है। कौशल विकास मंत्रालय के निर्माण के पीछे इस महत्वाकांक्षी लक्ष्य के लिए तकनीकी श्रम-बल उपलब्ध कराना है। रक्षा मंत्री ने कहा कि 75,000 करोड़ रुपये की रक्षा खरीद में 65,000 करोड़ रुपये की खरीद भारत में होगी और उसका निर्माण भी भारत में किया जाएगा। यह कहकर उन्होंने अपनी प्राथमिकता स्पष्ट कर दी।

वैज्ञानिक समुदाय के बारे में धारणा यह है कि उन्होंने वांछित क्षमता से कम उपलब्धियां हासिल की हैं। उदाहरण के लिए टैंक विरोधी स्वदेशी मिसाइल 'नाग' पिछले 25 वर्षों से विकसित हो रहा है पर कुछ भी नतीजा सामने नहीं है।

देश में धातु विज्ञान टेक्नोलॉजी की गुणवत्ता ऐसी है कि हम लंबी दूरी की तोपें बनाने की कभी हिम्मत ही नहीं कर सकें। मजबूरन भारतीय सेना पुरानी तोपों की

जगह नई तोपें न ला सकीं या 1987 में आखिरी बार खरीदी गई 155 मिमी की बोफोर्स तोपों को विदा कर सकें। रक्षा खरीद में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाने वाला मुद्दा है, इसकी खरीद प्रक्रिया। भारत पांच तरीके से सैन्य सामग्री की खरीद करता है। भारतीय खरीदी, भारत में खरीदी और निर्माण, भारत में निर्माण, वैश्विक खरीद व भारत में निर्माण, वैश्विक स्तर पर खरीद। हालांकि, जोर स्वदेशीकरण पर ही रहता है। सौदे पक्के करने के लिए दुनियाभर के रक्षा क्षेत्र में दलाली या सुविधा राशि का भुगतान आम है। दुर्भाग्य से बोफोर्स और कुछ अन्य सौदों में भारत का कटु अनुभव सैन्य सामग्री की खरीद में बहुत बड़ी बाधा रहा है।

प्रधानमंत्री ने कार्यकुशल रक्षा मंत्री की तलाश के लिए पर्याप्त समय लिया। इस अंतरिम समय में उन्होंने रक्षा मंत्रालय व वित्त मंत्रालय सर्वाधिक अनुभवी केंद्रीय मंत्री अरुण जेटली को सौंपे। सेना के सूत्रों ने निजी स्तर पर स्वीकार किया कि रक्षा व वित्त एक ही नेतृत्व के नीचे रखना ताजगी देने वाला बदलाव रहा, इसलिए परिकर की पहचान होने तक पृष्ठभूमि अच्छी तरह तैयार हो चुकी थी। रक्षा आधुनिकीकरण की बारीकियां समझना सैन्य क्षेत्र के पेशेवरों के लिए भी आसान नहीं होता। हालांकि, परिकर को श्रेय देना होगा कि उनका प्रबंध कौशल, निर्णय प्रक्रिया व जोखिम लेने की क्षमता में मददगार साबित होता है।

परिकर ने सुनिश्चित किया है कि प्रक्रिया में आमूल परिवर्तन करने की बजाय यहां-वहां थोड़े फेरबदल कर लिए जाएं, जिससे अमूल्य समय बचाया जा सके। 'मेक इन इंडिया' नारे के तहत स्वदेशीकरण एकमात्र सबसे महत्वपूर्ण पहलू है, जिसे उचित महत्व दिया जा रहा है। हालांकि, इस बात का पूरा अहसास है कि यह रास्ता बहुत लंबा है और इसलिए वैश्विक स्तर पर खरीदी और अनुबंध के तहत बाहर से खरीदकर स्वदेश में निर्मिति से संतुलन साधा जाए। जहां रक्षा शोध व विकास संगठन (डीआरडीओ) के बारे में यह धारणा है कि यह नाकाम रहा है, लेकिन कुछ सेक्टर में इसे नए सिरे से मदद करके इसे आवश्यक ताकत दी जानी चाहिए।

हेलिकॉप्टर स्वदेश में बनाने और प्रधानमंत्री के पूर्ण

समर्थन के साथ भारत के प्रतिष्ठित घरानों को इस क्षेत्र में आने के लिए प्रोत्साहित करने का विचार बहुत अच्छा है। कौशल विकास मंत्रालय के निर्माण के पीछे इस महत्वाकांक्षी लक्ष्य के लिए तकनीकी श्रम-बल उपलब्ध कराना है। रक्षा मंत्री ने कहा कि 75,000 करोड़ रुपये की रक्षा खरीद में 65,000 करोड़ रुपये की खरीद भारत में होगी और उसका निर्माण भी भारत में किया जाएगा। यह कहकर उन्होंने अपनी प्राथमिकता स्पष्ट कर दी।

हालांकि, यह निर्णय तभी साकार होगा जब कुशल श्रम और टेक्नोलॉजी का सहयोग उसे मिलेगा। 15,750 करोड़ रुपये की 814 तोपें और उनमें भी शुरुआती सौ तोपें सीधे शेल्फ से खरीदने का पहला ही फैसला वांछित संतुलन स्थापित कर देगा। दो अन्य फैसले भी रक्षा मंत्रालय की समझ-बूझ दर्शाते हैं। पहला निर्णय तो रक्षा सौदों में मध्यस्थों की भूमिका को वैध बनाना। ये अब तक अपनी भूमिका तो निभाते रहे हैं पर प्रक्रियागत पारदर्शिता का अभाव था। इससे जानकारी प्राप्त करना, सौदेबाजी करना, आजमाकर देखना और कीमत तय करना अधिक वैध तरीके से पारदर्शी हो जाएगा।

यह सब तो पहले भी होता रहा है, लेकिन इसमें न जाने कौन-कौन से बिचौलिए भाग लेते थे, जिन पर किसी का नियंत्रण नहीं होता था। लागत और बिक्री की कीमत में पारदर्शिता रहेगी। दूसरा निर्णय जो अभी अमल में आना है वह दागी कंपनियों पर से प्रतिबंध को आंशिक रूप से उठाने का है। इससे टाटा ट्रक जैसे महत्वपूर्ण सैन्य सामानों के लिए कल-पुर्जों की आपूर्ति का रास्ता खुल जाएगा। इससे रक्षा खरीद का माहौल ही बदल जाएगा। रक्षा खरीद का क्षेत्र अपरिहार्य रूप से जोखिम वाला क्षेत्र है, लेकिन इन सात महीनों में नई सरकार ने इस अत्यधिक नकारात्मक क्षेत्र को कुछ सकारात्मक रुख देने की दिशा में लंबा रास्ता तय कर लिया है।

(लेफ्टि.जन. (रिट्.) सैयद अता हसनैन — श्रीनगर में सेना की 15वीं कोर के कमांडर रहे हैं)

साभार : दैनिक भाष्कर (दिनांक: 15-01-2015)

Global Business Summit-Prime Minister's vision

New Age India-P.M. spells his vision

The New Age India has also begun its transition; from a winter of subdued achievement lasting 3 to 4 years, to a new spring that beckons.

generating and employment is enabled by skills; where skills are synced with production and production is benchmarked to quality; where quality meets global standards and meeting global standards drives prosperity. Most importantly, this prosperity is for the welfare of all.

My clean India

When we do Swachh Bharat, it has multiple impacts. It is not just a fad or a slogan. It changes people's mindsets. It changes our lifestyle. Swachhata becomes a habit. Waste management generates economic activity. It can create lakhs of Swachhata entrepreneurs. The nation gets identified with cleanliness. And of course, it has a huge impact on health. After all, diarrhoea and other diseases cannot be defeated without Swachhata!

The mantra of independence was सत्याग्रह (Satyagraha). And the warriors were सत्याग्रही (Satyagrahis). The mantra of New Age India must be स्वच्छाग्रह (Swachhagraha). And the warriors will be स्वच्छाग्रही (Swachhagrahis).

People must understand the



Mahatma Gandhi said that we should not rest until we “wipe every tear from every eye”. Elimination of poverty is fundamental to me. This is at the core of my understanding of cohesive growth. To translate this vision into the reality of a New Age India, we must be clear about our economic goals and objectives. The government must nurture an ecosystem where the economy is primed for growth and growth promotes all-round development; where development is employment-

Clean Ganga program, as an economic activity also. The Gangetic plains account for 40% of our population. They have over one hundred towns, and thousands of villages. Improving Ganga will develop new infrastructure. It will promote tourism. It will create a modern economy helping millions of people. In addition, it preserves the environment!

Fast moving government: ushering in reforms

The petroleum sector has seen major reforms. Today, India's cooking gas subsidy is the world's largest Cash Transfer Programme. Food inflation has come down from over 15% a year ago to 3.1% last month.

The poor have been included in the financial system. In a short span of 4 months, over 100 million new bank accounts have been opened under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana. For a country of our size, this was an immense challenge. But with will, determination and the full support of every banker, we are today a nearly 100% banked country. Soon, all accounts will be linked with Aadhaar. Banking habits will become common across

the country. This now opens immense possibilities for the future. People's savings will rise. They will invest in new financial instruments. 1.2 billion people can hope for pensions and insurance. As the nation progresses, these bank accounts will drive demand and growth. We have always debated about social unity, national unity and so on. But we have never debated about financial unity. About bringing everyone into the financial system. This is one cause which both capitalists and socialists agree on.

A major institutional reform is the move away from merely planning, to transforming India. The setting up of the National Institution for Transforming India, NITI Aayog, is a step in this direction. This will take the country forward on the path of cooperative federalism, with a competitive zeal. The NITI Aayog is our Mantra for creating trust and partnership between the Centre and States.

Development has many dimensions. While on one hand we need higher incomes, we also need a society which is cohesive and which balances the stress and strain of a modern economy.

History is witness to the rise and fall of nations. Even now, many

countries have become rich in an economic sense, but are poor in a social sense. Their family systems, value systems, social networks and other elements which hold a society together have broken. We should not go down that path. We need a society and economy which complement each other. That is the only way for a nation to go forward. Development should be everyone's agenda. It should be a people's movement.

Taking small but mighty steps

Reforms are not an end in itself. Reforms must have a concrete objective. The objective must be to improve the welfare of the people. Approaches may be many. But the goal is one. Reforms may not be apparent to one and all at first sight. But small acts can drive reforms. What appears minor can actually be vital and fundamental. Further, there is no contradiction between doing big tickets items and doing small things.

One approach is to have new policies, programmes, large projects and path breaking changes. Another approach is to focus on the small things that matter, create a people's movement and generate mass momentum, which then drives

development. We need to follow both paths.

Let me explain this a bit. Generating 20,000 MW of power attracts a lot of attention. That is important. At the same time, 20,000 MW of power can be saved through a people's movement for energy efficiency. The end result is similar. The second is more difficult but is as important as the first. In the same way, improving a thousand primary schools is as important as opening a new university.

The new AIIMS we are setting up will improve public health in the same way as our promise of Health Assurance. To me, Health Assurance is not a scheme. It is about ensuring that every Rupee spent on health is well spent; that every citizen has access to proper healthcare.

Reimagining Railways

There are thousands of railway stations in the country where not more than 1 or 2 trains stop in a day. These facilities, created at a cost, remain unused for most of the day. These stations can become growth points for the nearby villages. They can be used for skill development.

Revolutionizing Agriculture

In agriculture too, our main goal is to raise productivity. This will require using technology, increasing soil fertility, producing more crop per drop, and bringing the latest from lab to land. Cost of cultivation will go down as efficiency rises. This will make agriculture viable.

On the output side, the entire value chain in agriculture will be addressed through better storage, transport and food processing linkages. We will link farmers to global markets. We will give the world the Taste of India.

Sharp, Effective, Fast, Flexible

I have often called for Minimum Government Maximum Governance. This is not a slogan. This is an important principle to transform India. Our systems need to be made sharp, effective, fast and flexible. This requires simplification of processes and having trust in citizens. This needs a Policy Driven State. We need to change this. Our systems need to be made sharp, effective, fast and flexible. This requires simplification of processes and having trust in citizens. This

needs a Policy Driven State.

What is Maximum Governance, Minimum Government? It means government has no business to be in business. There are many parts of the economy where the private sector will do better and deliver better. In 20 years of liberalisation, we have not changed a command and control mindset. We think it is okay for government to meddle in the working of firms. This must change. But this is not a call for anarchy.

Why do we need the State? There are 5 main components:

- The first is public goods such as defence, police, and judiciary.
- The second is externalities which hurt others, such as pollution. For this, we need a regulatory system.
- The third is market power; where monopolies need controls
- The fourth is information gaps; where you need someone to ensure that medicines are genuine and so on.
- Last, we need a well designed welfare and subsidy mechanism to ensure that the bottom of society is protected from deprivation. This specially includes education and healthcare.
- We in government, must

constantly ask the question: How much money am I spending, and what outcomes am I getting in return? For this, government agencies have to be improved to become competent.

Efforts to achieve big dreams:

India is a 2 trillion dollar economy today. Can we not dream of an India with a 20 trillion dollar economy? Digital India will reform government systems, eliminate waste, increase access and empower citizens. It will drive the next wave of growth, which will be knowledge-driven. Broadband in every village, with a wide range of online services, will transform India in a manner we cannot foresee. Skill India will harness the demographic dividend which everyone talks of.

SabkaSaath, SabkaVikas:

we need to take care of the poor, deprived and left behind sections of society. I believe that subsidies are needed for them. What we need is a well targeted system of subsidy delivery. We need to cut subsidy leakages, not subsidies themselves. Wastage, as I said

earlier, must be removed in subsidies. The target group should be clearly identified and the subsidies should be well delivered. The ultimate objective of subsidies should be to empower the poor, to break the cycle of poverty, and become foot-soldiers in our war on poverty.

Ek Bharat, Shrestha Bharat

Today, everyone is looking towards Asia for inspiration and growth. And within Asia, India is important. Not just for its size, but for its democracy, and its values.

India's core philosophy is

सर्व मंगल मांगल्यम्

(Sarva Mangala Maangalyam)
and

सर्वे भवन्तु सुखिनः

(Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah).

This is a call for global welfare, global cooperation and balanced living.

India can be a role model of growth and cohesiveness for the rest of the world. Swami Vivekananda had said "Arise, awake, do not stop until the goal has been attained". This should inspire us all to achieve the vision of a New Age India.

PM's Growth Vision - a Challenge to India Inc

P rime Minister Narendra Modi's brilliant step-by-step exposition of what he envisions for the country, part of which has already been put in motion, is a challenge to India Inc. Everyone wallowing in cobwebs of traditional thinking, and with baggage of left, right, centre, socialist, capitalist, anti-rich, pro-poor, will need to change the way they think on the economy, that

Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Digital India, Skilling India, More Crop per Drop, Clean Ganga, Make in India, as well as the use of technology, are not just slogans but the engines of growth that can fuel the economy whether in manufacturing, agriculture or services.

must be modernised if growth and development are to be achieved swiftly and be inclusive...

Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Digital India, Skilling India, More Crop per Drop, Clean Ganga, Make in India, as well as the use of technology, are not just slogans but the engines of growth that can fuel the economy whether in manufacturing,

agriculture or services. The Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojna, with a bank account for every home, and later an insurance policy and other financial instruments, will not just foster inclusive growth but will create demand, that will lead to more production. These are the new engines of growth, where small and medium industries and young entrepreneurs have a major advantage, as the PM spelt out so succinctly.

One hopes that this speech, made to what is called the “cream” of business, industry and society...is widely publicised and packaged down to the panchayat level in every district of India through Doordarshan and radio so that ordinary people are inspired to create what Mr Modi envisions — a roadmap for a people's movement...

Courtesy: Deccan Chronicle (Dated 19/01/2015)

Vibrant Gujarat Summit 2015 (The Global Business Hub)

The seventh edition of the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit in Gandhinagar was bigger and more impressive than all the previous editions as over 21,000 Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) worth Rs 25 lakh crore have been signed. The three-day event saw political and business leaders from across the world converge in Gujarat's capital and pledged huge amounts of investments.

Six summits held so far have been a resounding success that immensely contributed to the transformation of Gujarat into a "Global Business Hub". The brand "Vibrant Gujarat" which had began as an "investors' summit", has now evolved into an ideal platform for knowledge sharing, social and business transformation.

The prime focus of the Government of Gujarat in this year's summit was inclusive development and the key areas for development identified included: Innovation, Sustainability, Youth & Skill Development, Knowledge Sharing and Networking. Also, this Summit is an ideal convergence for other states and other countries to showcase their strengths, highlight

business opportunities, facilitate knowledge dissemination etc. The summit provides an attractive opportunity to its participants to understand the potential of Gujarat in various sectors. Besides, it provides platform to interact with policy makers, industry leaders and renowned academicians from all over the world.

Highlights of Prime Minister's Speech in Vibrant Gujarat Summit:

Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam

We are a family not only in terms of space, but also because we recognise that someone's dream is dependent on someone's direction, someone's success is related to someone's support, someone's curiosity is linked to someone's care. This is what a family does. The ultimate objective is welfare of all.

Treat Problems as Opportunities

We, in India, believe that problems present us with opportunities to become stronger, disciplined and innovative. We will

have to change the way we have been approaching problems. Recession is often seen just in the context of business and industry. Have we ever thought of recession as being the result of low per capita income in countries where a majority of the global population lives? Have we ever thought of its solution in terms of enhancing the common man's employability, income and purchasing power?

On Revival of Indian economy

We have put focus on building Infrastructure through public and private Investments. This will include national roads, national grids of gas, electricity and water. It also includes rural infrastructure, 24×7 electric supply, farm irrigation and cleaning of rivers. In order to execute the infrastructure plan, a fast track PPP mechanism is being put in place. We are undertaking the Sagarmala project to ensure port led development. Just as we need highways, we need I-ways too. Under the Digital India Initiative, It will be used to drive Government processes to improve service delivery and programme implementation, and also to provide broadband connectivity to villages. We launched Make In India initiative to encourage the growth of

manufacturing in the country to make India a global manufacturing hub as well as to promote labour intensive manufacturing. We are trying to complete the circle of economic reforms speedily. We are also keen to see that our policies are predictable. We are clear that our tax regime should be stable.

Civilisational Values

India has to be seen from a different angle. It is not just a country of today. It is also an old civilisation. It is not just a country of a few cities. It is a country of thousands of towns and several hundred thousand villages. It is a country of diverse communities. Therefore, India has its own solutions for many pressing problems. Our philosophy is a philosophy of conservation. Our culture teaches us nurturing of nature. Our way of life is that of harnessing. Such thoughts and practices have existed in India for centuries.

Why investors should choose India?

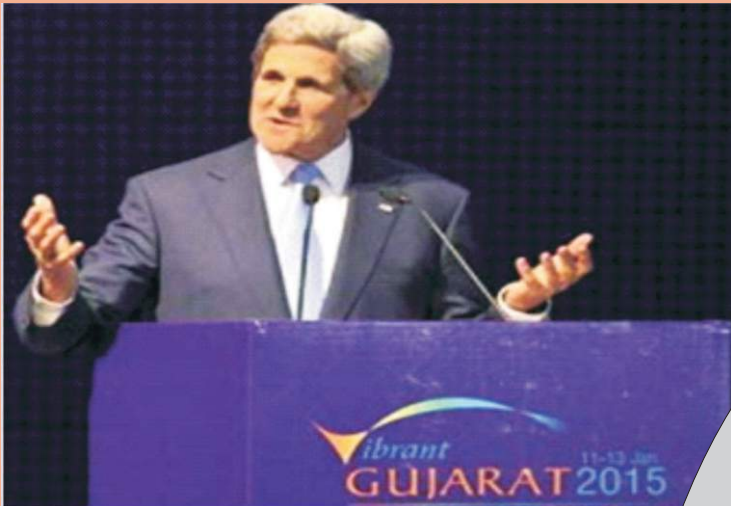
India is a land of opportunities. India has three things to its credit - Democracy, Demography and Demand. This is what you all are looking for. There are immense possibilities for global investors in India because we are planning to

take a quantum leap. It is not limited to one sector or region, it is truly unlimited. And we want to do things in a cleaner and greener way.

Dreaming big

We are dreaming big and our dreams are numerous. Our dreams can become the seeds of your growth. Our aspirations can propel your ambitions.

John Kerry in Vibrant Gujarat Summit-2015



It has been an extraordinary journey of “a young man who sold tea right by the rail road here in Gujarat to the PM's residence on the Race Course Road”. Indian Prime Minister's journey seemed improbable. So we join with you celebrating extraordinary new chapter of India that is being written by the people of world's largest democracy.

PM Modi's plan, 'SabkaSaath, SabkaVikas' or 'together with all, development for all' - that's a concept, a vision that we want to support. We believe it's a great vision, and our private sector is eager to be a catalyst in India's economic revitalisation,". “I was very taken during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's campaign 'SabkaSaath, SabkaVikas' — participation of all for development of all. That sounds like a pretty good slogan for all of us to adopt, and if we adopt it we can get the job done.”

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (2015)

New initiatives by Government

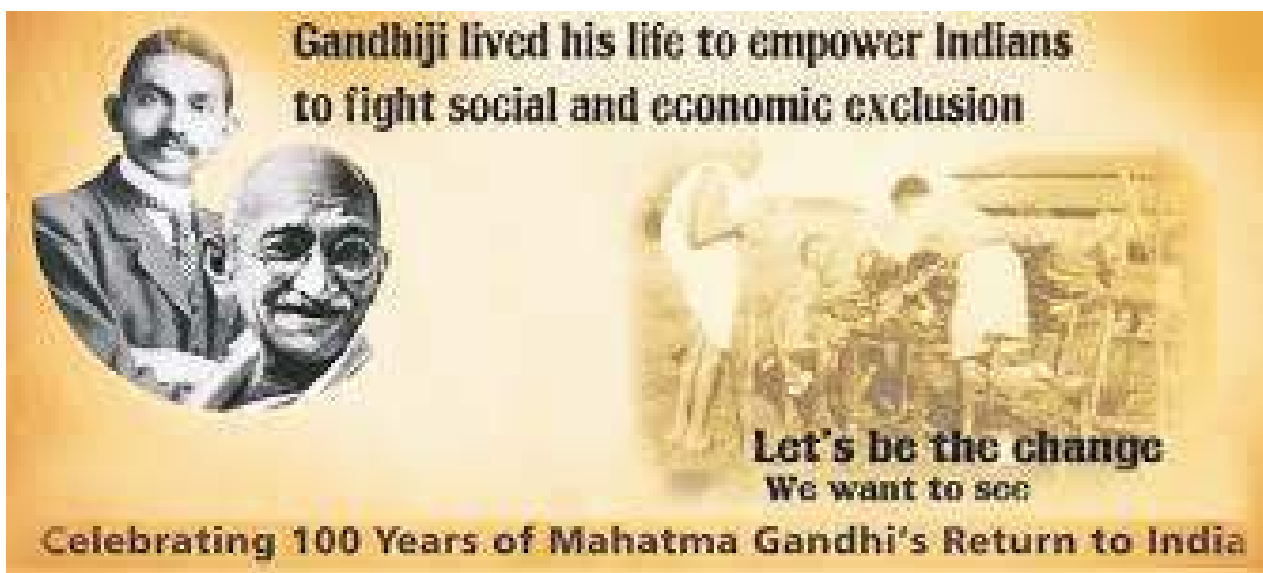
The Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) Card notification has been withdrawn by the central government with immediate effect and further it has been notified that all existing PIO Card holders will be deemed to be Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) Card holders. Now only one OCI Card with enhanced benefits is in existence. Prime Minister Modi had announced in USA and Australia during his recent visits that the PIO and OCI cards will be merged and the Indian Diaspora will be given maximum possible benefits. Keeping in view of the promise, an Ordinance was promulgated on January 6, 2015 whereby the eligibility and additional benefits of PIO Card have

been incorporated in OCI Card and certain other relaxation to OCI Card holders have been given by amending the Citizenship Act, 1955. The amendments to the Citizenship Act will benefit PIOs and will give them benefits like life-long visa and exemption from appearing before the local police station on every visit. These new initiatives which has been taken by the Modi Government, has been lauded by all the Non Resident Indians living across the globe.

Highlights of PM' speech:

भारत के नागरिक विश्व के 200 से ज्यादा अधिक देशों में बसे हैं और मैं विश्वास से कह सकता हूँ कि उन 200 देशों में एक प्रकार से पूरा भारत बसा हुआ है। आप सबके माध्यम से भारत वैश्विक बना हुआ है।

मैं आपको विश्वास दिलाता हूँ कि अब भारत की धरती पर संभावनाएं आपका इंतजार कर रही हैं। वक्त





बहुत तेजी से बदल चुका है। भारत एक नए सामर्थ्य के साथ उठ खड़ा हुआ है। और विश्व, भारत के प्रति बहुत आशा भरी नजरों से देख रहा है।

आज भी गांधी कभी-कभी उलझनों में घिरी इस दुनिया को वैचारिक स्वतंत्रता का संदेश देने की क्षमता रखते हैं। आज भी गांधी के विचार विश्व को, और खास करके मानवतावाद को केंद्र में रखकर समस्या का समाधान कैसे हो सकता है, विकास की राह कैसे सरल हो सकती है, आखिरी छोर पर बैठे व्यक्ति की जिंदगी में बदलाव कैसे आ सकता है। शायद गांधी से बढ़कर के चिंतन कहीं नहीं है।

दुनिया हमें स्वीकार करने के लिए सज्ज बैठी है और विश्व हमें स्वीकार करने के लिए सज्ज बना है तब ये हमारा दायित्व बनता है कि हम अपने आप को विश्व की अपेक्षा के अनुसार अधिक सज्ज करें, अधिक सामर्थ्यवान बनाएं। दुनिया को देने के लिए हमारे पास क्या नहीं है? अगर आवश्यकता है, तो हमारे भीतर एक विश्वास की आवश्यकता है, अपने पर भरोसे की आवश्यकता है।

जो विश्व में भ्रमण करता है, वो इतना ज्ञान और अनुभव अर्जित करता है, और वो ज्ञान-अनुभव इतना पैना होता है, इतना ताकतवर होता है, कि कितना ही गहरा समंदर क्यों न हो, पानी का कितना ही बड़ा सागर क्यों न हो, लेकिन उस पर एक तेल बिंदु पड़े, तो जिस प्रकार से वो उस पर प्रभावी होकर के फैल जाता है। यह विश्व भर में भ्रमण करके पाया हुआ ज्ञान भी उतना ही ताकतवर होता है, यह मन्त्र कह रहा है। और वो ताकत के धनी आप हैं। उस ताकत का उपयोग, माँ भारती की सेवा के लिए कैसे लगे? आने वाले दिनों में, भारत जो विकास की ऊंचाइयों को पार कर रहा है, आप भी उसके साथ जुड़िए, इस महान सांस्कृतिक विरासत से विश्व को परिचित कराएं और जिस मन्त्र को लेकर हमारे पूर्वजों ने कल्पना की थी हम ही तो लोग थे, जिन्होंने पहली बार विश्वास से कहा था— “वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम्”। **The whole world is a family.** पूरे विश्व को जिसने परिवार माना है, वो हमारा DNA है। वो हमारी संस्कृति है।

Prime Minister Spells out New Vision for Science in India

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, has called for efforts to ensure that science, technology and innovation reach the poorest, the remotest and the most vulnerable person. He said that for a prosperous future for India, we need to put science, technology and innovation at the top of national priorities. Prime Minister said that more resilient agriculture, appropriate and affordable technologies for rural areas, improving healthcare, making clean technology affordable, and making India a leading manufacturing nation and a hub for knowledge and technology-intensive industries, were some of the key objectives before Indian scientists.

The Prime Minister said a Nation's progress and its human development are linked to science and technology. He said human development has been the larger purpose and the driving force of India's scientific pursuits, and science has helped shape modern India.

The Prime Minister said, that a discussion on science and human development, cannot be divorced

from the questions of political decisions; social choices; and of equity, ethics and access. He said that when he speaks of ease of doing business in India, he also wants to pay equal attention to the ease of doing research and development in India. He said funding proposals must not take too long to clear, and scientific departments must have flexibility of funding decisions based on the uncertainties inherent in research activities. He also called for clear regulatory policies for research and development in areas like biotechnology, nanoscience, agriculture and clinical research.

The Prime Minister said each government department should have an officer focusing on science and technology relating to its area of work; and, allocate a percentage of its budget for such activities. "We have to place the university system at the cutting edge of the research and development activities in the country," he added. He said universities must be freed from the clutches of excessive regulation and cumbersome procedures. The Prime Minister called upon Indian industry to step up investments in science and technology in its own interest. The Prime Minister said

India must "restore the pride and prestige of science and scientists in our nation; revive the romance for science in society; rekindle the love

for it in our children; and, encourage our scientists - to dream, imagine and explore."

Importance of Ancient Indian Mathematics



Manjul Bhargava, the first Indian-origin mathematician to win the coveted Fields Medal, in his latest interview to NDTV (Jan 21, 2015), said that inspiration behind his discoveries in number theory has been the classic works of ancient Indian mathematicians. He said that the classic works of Pingala, Hemachandra, and Brahmagupta have been particularly influential in his work. In the interview, he also goes on to explain how the ancients derived elegant mathematical patterns from rhythms of Sanskrit poetry and how he managed to simplify and expand the work of 18th century German Maths legend Carl

Friedrich Gauss with the help of Hemachandra's Identity and a simple Rubik's Mini-Cube. He also said that while growing up, he got chance to read some of the works of the masters: the great linguists/poets such as Panini, Pingala, and Hemachandra, as well as the great mathematicians Aryabhata, Bhaskara, and of course Brahmagupta. He said that their works contain incredible mathematical discoveries, and were very inspirational to him as a young mathematician. The classic works of Pingala, Hemachandra, and Brahmagupta have been particularly influential in his work. Linguists such as Panini, Pingala, Hemachandra, and Narayana discovered some wonderful and deep mathematical concepts while studying poetry.

Neglect of Knowledge Traditions

• Michel Danino

Most mainstream history books on classical India, such as D.N. Jha's *Ancient India* (revised edition 1998) or Romila Thapar's *Penguin History of Early India: From the Origins to AD 1300* (2003), are almost completely silent on Indian scientific achievements. Professor Jha does briefly mention Aryabhata (whom he has clearly not read, as all his statements about him are factually wrong) and Varahamihira, but not once Brahmagupta or Bhaskaracharya, classical India's finest mathematicians, or their many peers from Bhaskara I to Sridhara, Mahavira or Narayana Pandita. Curiously, Professor Thapar also limits her discussion of Indian science to a couple of paragraphs on Aryabhata and Varahamihira, conveying little of the former's real breakthroughs.

...And it is not just mathematics, astronomy or medicine that have been blanked out by mainstream Indian historiography: chemistry, metallurgy, agricultural and veterinary science, water management and irrigation techniques, textile manufacture and dyeing, construction and transport technologies, perfumery and

cosmetics, numerous crafts, and a few intriguing technologies from ice-making to weather prediction and water divining, are all equally worthy of study. They are part of India's considerable heritage of indigenous knowledge systems, beside an equally extensive intellectual field ranging from grammar, prosody, philosophy and logic to literature, plastic and performing arts.

Any study of classical Egypt, Greece or China would naturally include accomplishments in all those fields, so why are most of our Indian historians so shy of dealing with them? I believe plain ignorance of India's traditional knowledge systems is one factor; this attitude is largely a subconscious relic of the colonial era, which had decreed that India's literatures were vehicles of superstition rather than of any genuine knowledge. As a result, most scholars prefer to confine themselves to an overview of literature and the arts. Yet scientific and technological advances are of equal importance; ironically, we owe the first studies of them to a few fine European scholars of the 18th and 19th centuries, such as Jean-Sylvain Bailly, Henry Thomas

Colebrooke, G. Thibaut or Léon Rodet.

Indian scholars followed with major contributions, but Independent India did little to promote the field: no Indian university has a department of history of science. Search the Internet for a substantial resource on past Indian mathematicians and you will soon reach the website of Scotland's University of St. Andrews. Indeed, scholars from the U.S., France, Japan or New Zealand have in recent years contributed important studies to the field. On the other hand, most of their Indian colleagues — thankfully there have been quite a few and of a very high order — have worked with little or no institutional support. It is hard to understand why our educational system and intellectual circles have failed to realise the importance of history of science as a full-fledged academic discipline. And a very

enriching one, too, for it deals not just with the evolution of scientific ideas but with the interface between many civilisations and cultures.

This lacuna is what needs to be addressed. The historians behind the recent IHC petition should realise that some of the blame for the distortions they object to lies at their own door. Their resolution is titled “In Defence of Scientific Method in History,” but what is “scientific” about suppressing the genuine achievements of Indian science? If our students had substantial exposure to them, they would feel no need to let their imagination run wild.

(Michel Danino, historian of Indus Civilisation, & Sarasvati River, is guest professor at Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar. micheldanino@gmail.com)

Courtesy: Extracts from his article that appeared in ‘The Hindu’ (Dated 04/01/2015)

Pradhanmantri Jan-Dhan Yojana: Empowering the Poor

• Siddharth Singh

Pradhanmantri Jan Dhan Yojana was announced by the Prime Minister on 15th august from the ramparts of Red Fort and it was launched on 28th august 2014. The primary objective of the scheme is to deepen financial inclusion. Although many initiatives have been taken in past also for financial inclusion but they had not achieved the desired success. But the PMJDY has achieved the target set by Prime Minister before the stipulated time frame and it has also become a one of its kind financial inclusion plan anywhere in the world on such a large scale. The scheme had set an ambitious target of opening 7.5 crore bank account till 26th January 2015 and target was achieved well in time. So target was revised to 10 crore and till now that figure has also been crossed. Current status of the programme is that till now more than 11 crore account has been opened with a deposit of approx Rs.9000 crore. Prime Minister had promised to end financial untouchability when he launched this scheme. PM also had emailed 700,000 bank employees urging them to support the government

mega drive. So achieving the target well within stipulated time shows the firm commitment of the new government under the enthusiastic leadership of Prime Minister that work can be done if there is a will to do that work. Under the programme, account holders are being provided with zero-balance bank account. There is no fee to open the account. Each account holder gets a RuPay debit card with accident cover of Rs 1 Lakh and life insurance of Rs 30 Thousand. It also includes an overdraft facility of Rs 5000 for aadhar linked accounts.

Access to a bank account and other financial products can have a transformative effect on poor. Bringing the poor inside the Indian banking financial system will serve two main purposes. First, government can put in place the





**Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana
listed in
GUINNESS BOOK OF WORLD RECORDS**

future economic reform like correcting the leakages in prevailing subsidy scheme by switching to direct benefit transfer so as to curb the leakages. And second, a reformed public distribution system with direct benefit transfer scheme will ultimately benefit the poor because then subsidy will reach directly in his or her account.

Without bank account there is little chance of savings, transfer of funds and getting credit from banks. Bank credit to poor families can change the scenario. So far the unbanked population has been vulnerably dependent on informal channels of credit most likely on moneylenders who use to charge at least 5 times more than what the bank charges while lending. This mega financial inclusion drive of government will serve many purposes. On one hand it will create a platform for inculcating the habit

of saving money while on the other hand it will open more avenues for providing credit to poor. It will plug gaps and leaks in public subsidies and welfare programme. It will also give universal access to banking facilities so financial literacy will also improve.

Many critics have started criticising this government initiative by saying that till now 75% of the opened bank account have zero balance. But while criticising they forget one basic fact that financial inclusion plan has been started for the inclusion of those who till now were financially untouchable and deprived of basic banking facility. Now the government will be in a position to reach to the last person or poorest of poor directly bypassing all intermediaries.

I n c o n c l u s i o n , The Pradhanmantri Jan Dhan Yojana is undoubtedly a landmark scheme that has the potential to uplift lives of the poorest of the poor who have remain trapped in a perpetual vicious cycle of exclusion and deprivation. PMJDY is expected to reduce government's subsidy bill by checking leakages and will provide relief or subsidy only to the real beneficiary.

(Siddharth Singh is a Research Associate at SPMRF)

PAHAL: World's Largest Social Benefit Drive

• **Siddharth Singh**

[The entire philosophy and scaffolding of the new Government is based on the vision and ideal of "Good Governance." One of the expressions of "Good Governance" is policy initiative and implementation and also as the Prime Minister has ceaselessly stressed, it is the "simplification of procedures and processes in the Government so as to make the entire system transparent and faster." The launching and implementing of new initiatives in the past few months demonstrates this Government's focus on delivering "Good Governance."]

LPG is a clean fuel and over 16 crore households use it for cooking purposes at highly subsidized rates. Apart from the lack of awareness of the huge subsidy burden, the pricing of domestic subsidized LPG below the market price has also led to diversion of subsidized LPG to commercial purposes, which unnecessarily adds to the subsidy burden of the exchequer. LPG being an essential commodity, its supply and distribution has been regulated by various regulations to control the trade and illegal diversion. However the only way to prevent illegal diversion is to move LPG in the supply chain at one market price so that the incentive for illegal diversion is eliminated. The total subsidy (2013-14) on LPG was Rs. 46,458 crore, accounting for 25% of the overall fuel subsidy burden of Rs. 1,39,869 crore. Hence, it is imperative to infuse transparency and efficiency in the LPG supply chain to achieve twin objectives of reduction in diversion and

improving consumer services.

PAHAL (DBTL) has been introduced to curb the diversion of the subsidized LPG. Under the scheme, consumers will pay the market price for the domestic cylinder and the subsidy will be transferred directly to their bank account. PAHAL (DBTL) was designed to ensure that the benefit meant for the genuine domestic customer reaches them directly and is not diverted. PAHAL (DBTL) also ensures that precious public money is saved by eliminating diversion. Further, LPG customers who do not wish to avail the LPG subsidy can choose to Opt out of subsidy using Form 5 (section 8.5) that can be submitted to the distributor. LPG consumers will link their Aadhaar number in the LPG database and in the bank account database, and then the subsidy will be routed to the individual bank accounts in accordance with the delivery of LPG cylinders. Alternatively, the LPG consumers who do not have



The advertisement features a smiling couple in traditional Indian attire. To their left is a red gas cylinder with the text "Get your money. Save public money!". To the left of the cylinder is a circular logo with the word "PAHAL" in large red letters, followed by "... a new direction" and "Direct Benefit Transfer for LPG (DBTL)" in smaller text. The background is a textured yellow.

NEW YEAR - NEW INITIATIVE
Contribute in nation-building.

Register your LPG connection in PAHAL (DBTL) and get your subsidy amount directly in your bank account. Starting today, this scheme is being launched across India.

Aadhaar number can also get subsidy into their bank account by simply linking their Bank Account with their LPG database.

Modi Government's ambitious programme, PAHAL, is the world's largest direct social benefit transfer scheme. This scheme has already surpassed Brazil's famous Bolsa Familia programme which was world's largest social benefit programme till now.

Benefits of PAHAL (DBTL) Scheme

Launch of PAHAL (DBTL) will reduce subsidy burden on Government of India because of elimination of supply chain

leakages and unauthorized usage as well as reduction in multiple connections by linking it to Aadhaar so as to avoid duplication. Overall it will improve the public service delivery. Oil Marketing Companies (OMC) will also be benefited from the reduction in administrative overheads due to lesser policing. Reduction in number of grievances related to unauthorized usage, diversion and delayed deliveries will also help oil marketing companies to improve their service delivery. On the other hand, LPG Consumers will get LPG subsidy in cash directly in their bank account automatically.

(Siddharth Singh is a Research Associate at SPMRF)

NERPSIP—A new lease of life for North-East

[The Northeast has always been a special area of focus for BJP led NDA governments. It was during the previous NDA regime's tenure that a special central ministry was set-up to spearhead the integral development of the North-eastern states. The Ministry of

The Union Government has approved the project for six states - Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura and Nagaland - and aims to strengthen the intra-state transmission and distribution system. The main aim of the project is to address the lacuna in the intra-state transmission and distribution infrastructure in the North East region.

Development of Northeastern Region was specially conceived and tasked to infuse developmental dynamism in the region. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given a special focus on the region infusing new energy and a new direction by announcing various projects that will aim to usher in an era of integration and prosperity]

The decision of the Modi Government to approve the North Eastern Region Power System Improvement Project (NERPSIP) is in tune with its firm commitment for the economic development of north eastern states. Since the intra-state transmission and distribution system in the north eastern states have remained very weak the Central Electricity Authority was directed to develop a comprehensive scheme for the North Eastern Region (NER) in consultation with the Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL). The Union Government has approved the project for six states – Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura and Nagaland – and aims to strengthen the intra-state transmission and distribution system at an estimated cost of Rs. 5112 crore including capacity building expenditure of Rs. 89 crore. The main aim of the project is to address the lacuna in the intra-state transmission and distribution infrastructure in the north east region. Implementation of this project will create a reliable state power grid and will also improve the grid connectivity of north east region with rest of the nation.

Being Sensitive to the Elders: Jeevan Praman—Digital Life Certificate for Pensioners to Benefit One Crore Seniors!

Jeevan Praman is an Aadhar based Digital Life Certificate for pensioners. This new initiative which has been taken by the central government will benefit over one crore pensioners because the digital certification has done away with the requirement of a pensioner having to submit a physical life certificate once in every year in order to ensure continuity of pension being credited into his or her account. Now with this new initiative with the use of technology, key details of pensioner will be uploaded to a central database on real time basis so as to enable the Pension Distributing Agency to access a Digital Life

Certificate. The earlier requirement entailed that a pensioner either personally presents himself or herself before the Pension Distributing Agency or submits a Life Certificate issued by the Central Pension Accounting Office. At present an approximate 50 lakh individuals draw pension from the Central Government alone. Over 25 lakh retired personnel draw pension from the Armed Forces. The new Digital Certificate Jeevan Praman will go a long way in reducing hardship which so many senior citizens undergo to produce a Life Certificate every year.

E-Visa facility for 43 countries

[The Prime Minister has often spoken of the need to promote tourism and improve the scope of travel. In pursuance of that objective and his promise of facilitating travel the Government has taken a wholly new step]

Visitors from over 40 countries, including Germany, the US, Israel and Palestine, will now avail of the much waited electronic visa facility. The e-visa facility for 43 countries

has been rolled out by the Modi Government to simplify the complexities in travel so as to promote tourism and people to people contact. Russia, Brazil, Germany, Thailand, UAE, Ukraine, Jordan, Norway and Mauritius, among others, would be getting the e-visa facility in the first phase. It would be a historic occasion for the tourism sector because tourism sector was demanding this facility

for long. All arrangements, including the software for the system, are now ready and would become operational at nine international airports — Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Kochi, Thiruvananthapuram and Goa.

In order to get an e-visa, one would need to apply on the designated website along with the required fees. They would be granted an electronic version of the visa within 96 hours. As per the Government's decision, all countries, except a few in the “prior list”, would be brought into the e-

visa regime over the next two years. Barring a few like Pakistan, Sudan, Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Nigeria, Somalia etc. all the countries will be covered under the e-visa regime in phases, the official said. The e-visa is expected to give a big boost to foreign tourist arrivals in the country. About 52 lakh foreign tourists visited India during January-September. This decision of the Modi Government is yet another step in simplifying a complex process in order to boost the tourism sector and further increase revenue generation as well as employment.

Empowering Girls - Pragati- Scholarship for Girls to Pursue Technical Education

The Prime Minister has always spoken and worked to empower with technical skills young learners from deprived sections of society, especially the girl-child. In continuance of that conviction of his and to provide encouragement and support to the girl child to pursue technical education, the Prime Minister launched a scheme named “Pragati Scholarship” has been launched by the Union Government. The salient features of the scholarships are as under:

- Number of scholarship per

annum: 4000

- One girl per family whose family income is less than Rs. 6 lakh per annum.
- The candidate will be selected on merit at the qualifying examination.
- Amount of scholarship: Tuition fee of Rs. 30000/- or at actual, whichever is less and Rs. 2000/- per month for 10 months as incidentals each year.

Swachh Bharat Abhiyan: Turning the mission into a mass movement

• Siddharth Singh

The Swachh Bharat Abhiyan which was launched by PM Modi on 2nd of October 2014 actually marked the beginning of the largest programme on sanitation by any Government in India till date. The programme aims to ensure access to sanitation facilities to every person by 2019 (including toilets, solid and liquid waste disposal systems and village cleanliness). The programme also aims to ensure safe and adequate drinking water supply to every person by 2019. The Swachh Bharat Abhiyan exists in two sub-missions, SBM (Gramin) and SBM (Urban). The major objectives of the mission which are stated in the official draft guidelines are:

- To eliminate open defecation,
- Eradication of manual scavenging,
- Construction of sanitary toilets,
- Scientific waste management
- Bringing about a transformational behaviour change in people regarding sanitation.

The issue of sanitation has been getting its due importance among all other national issues because

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has himself taken up the issue of sanitation and cleanliness when he addressed the nation on Independence Day from the ramparts of the Red Fort. By invoking the name of Mahatma Gandhi and with a spirit of giving back what was closest to Gandhi, Modi announced the launch of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. Year 2019 coincides with the 150th birth anniversary year of Mahatma Gandhi who considered sanitation more important than Independence. Prime Minister has vowed to make India clean and Open Defecation Free (ODF) by 2019 through this campaign.

The Swachh Bharat Abhiyan is unique in the respect that it is launched both as a sanitation policy and as a public campaign. When the campaign was launched by PM Modi from Rajghat on October 2 last year, he along with others took the Swachhta pledge and appealed everyone to participate in the movement. Swachhta Pledge actually encourages every individual to remain committed to cleanliness and devote 100 hours per year to the same. PM also started a campaign in this regard on social

media by nominating 9 famous personalities to join this mission and make it a success. Those nominated persons were further required to nominate another set of people and so on, creating a nationwide ripple effect.

This campaign is a significant attempt to make India sanitation conscious. The launch of the mission comes in the wake of a perception about Indian cities not being very clean. A number of people in the rural areas still do not have access to toilets while some school in the rural areas does not have toilets. According to the census 2011, only 32.70% of rural households had access to toilets. According to a U.N. report released last year, India continues to have the largest number of people in the world defecating in the open.

The Swachh Bharat Abhiyan aims to build 11.1 crore toilets which will be required to cover every household. The total expected cost of the programme over five years is Rs.62,000 crore. Government is sanctioning Rs.12,000 for the construction of the Individual Household Latrine (IHHL).

The action plan for the Swachh Bharat Mission also calls for a National Reach Out Campaign. The most important component in

National Reach Out Campaign is changing the mindset of the people who are habituated to defecate in the open and this includes even those who have toilets. To bring in behavioral change is the biggest challenge before government. The measures included in National Reach Out Campaign are:

" A continuous door to door contact with every rural household in the country so that the people can be made aware of the importance of using a toilet and the consequences of not doing so.

" Launching of a national and state level media campaign making use of audio and video advertisement and local outreach programmes to communicate the message.

While mass media can create awareness and can also bring about changes in attitude of people. Another thing which is equally important is the creation of necessary infrastructure for construction of toilets in villages and the laying pipelines for supply of water in realizing the dream of Swachh Bharat.

The new draft action plan for Swachh Bharat includes strengthened monitoring mechanisms. The draft calls for an annual survey of 'Toilet Use' to



monitor the sanitation status of every household in the country on a continuous basis. The draft action plan also focuses on making India open defecation free by 2019, to keep villages clean through construction of individual as well as cluster and community toilets and through solid and liquid waste management through active participation of village Gram Panchayats.

Thus the high degree of policy priority accorded to sanitation with the introduction of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan could go a long way in achieving an open defecation free India in the coming years. The effective implementation of the programme would translate into

improved human development indicators for the country. A momentum in the Swachh Bharat Mission has already been created across the country. Now the need is to sustain this momentum and to ensure that the campaign becomes a movement of the masses. Although the task is mammoth but as Prime Minister himself says if this mission translates into action on the ground and if Swachh Bharat becomes a reality by 2019 then this will be an ultimate & epochal tribute to our Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi.

(Siddharth Singh is a Research Associate at SPMRF)

From Ad-hocism to New Clarity & Vision in Foreign Policy

(An Assessment of a Paradigm Shift in India's Foreign Policy)

• Prof. Brahma Chellaney

“After a long era of ad hoc and reactive Indian diplomacy, the new clarity and vision Modi represents is widely seen as a welcome change for India”

Modi, like Abe, has surprised many by investing considerable political capital in high-powered diplomacy. But Modi, a provincial leader, came to office, unlike Abe, with little foreign-policy experience. In recent months, foreign leaders have made a beeline to call on Modi — ranging from Chinese President Xi Jinping to U.S. President Barack Obama, who will be the guest of honor at India's Jan. 26 Republic Day parade, a year after Abe had that privilege. Modi, after hosting Russian President Vladimir Putin in December, is preparing to receive Obama at a time when U.S.-led sanctions against Moscow have underscored the risks of a new Cold War. No American president before was the chief guest at India's Republic Day.

Modi has also sought to strengthen bilateral partnerships with several other powers, including Japan, Israel, Germany and Australia.

Building closer ties with important democracies has become the leitmotif of his foreign policy. For example, his much-photographed bear hug with Abe in Kyoto has come to symbolize the

At home, Modi has shaken up the diffident foreign-policy establishment with his proactive approach and readiness to break with conventional methods and shibboleths. By taking bold new tacks, Modi is charting a course to boost India's strategic influence both in its neighborhood and the wider world.

dawn of an alliance between the world's largest democracy and Asia's oldest (and richest) democracy. Likewise, Modi is enhancing defense and economic cooperation with Israel, with India ordering more Israeli arms in the

past six months than in the previous three years.

When Modi won the election, his critics claimed the nationalist would pursue a doctrinaire approach in office. However, one trademark of Modi's diplomacy is that it is shorn of ideology, with pragmatism being the hallmark. Nothing better illustrates his pragmatism than the priority he has accorded to restoring momentum to India's relationship with America.

Another example of Modi's pragmatism is his effort to befriend China. He has invited Chinese investment in his plan to modernize India's infrastructure, especially railroads, power stations and industrial parks...

There was concern in Washington that Modi might nurse a grudge against the United States and keep American officials at arm's length. After all, the U.S. continued to deny Modi a visa over his alleged involvement in the 2002 anti-Muslim riots in his home state of Gujarat even after he had been cleared of any wrongdoing by an inquiry appointed by India's Supreme Court. Yet, when he won

the election, Obama was quick to telephone him and invite him to the White House...

Modi's White House visit last September helped him to establish a personal rapport with Obama. Obama's impending India visit represents both a thank you to Modi for rising above personal umbrage and an effort to lift the U.S.-India relationship to a higher level of engagement through the major new opportunities being opened up for American businesses by Modi's commitment to pro-market economic policies and defense modernization...

Another example of Modi's pragmatism is his effort to befriend China. He has invited Chinese investment in his plan to modernize India's infrastructure, especially railroads, power stations and industrial parks...

...Modi's Pakistan policy blends a firm response to border provocations with friendly signals. For example, he invited his Pakistani counterpart, Nawaz Sharif, to his inauguration and asked Indian schools to honor the victims of the recent Peshawar attack in Pakistan with a two-minute silence.

At home, Modi has shaken up the diffident foreign-policy

establishment with his proactive approach and readiness to break with conventional methods and shibboleths. By taking bold new tacks, Modi is charting a course to boost India's strategic influence both in its neighborhood and the wider world.

Indeed, Modi has put his stamp on foreign policy faster than any predecessor, other than the country's first post-independence prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru. Yet Modi appears to have no intent of enunciating a Modi doctrine in foreign policy. He wants his actions to define his policy trademarks.

His actions have already started speaking for themselves — from his moves to engineer stronger partnerships with Japan and Israel (countries critical to Indian interests but which also courted him even as the U.S. targeted him) to his mortars-for-bullet response to Pakistan's ceasefire violations. His firm stand at the World Trade Organization on food stockpiling, central to India's food security, demonstrated that he will stand up even to a powerful, rich nations' cabal.

More significantly, Modi's policy appears geared to move India from its long-held nonalignment to a contemporary, globalized practicality. This means from being

nonaligned, India is likely to become multi-aligned, even as it tilts more toward the U.S. and other democracies in Asia and Europe. Yet, importantly, India will continue to chart its own independent course. For example, unlike Japan, it has refused to join

Modi's policy appears geared to move India from its long-held nonalignment to a contemporary, globalized practicality. This means from being nonaligned, India is likely to become multi-aligned. ...After a long era of ad hoc and reactive Indian diplomacy, the new clarity and vision Modi represents is widely seen as a welcome change for India.

American-led financial sanctions against Russia.

After a long era of ad hoc and reactive Indian diplomacy, the new clarity and vision Modi represents is widely seen as a welcome change for India.

(Brahma Chellaney is a leading Geostrategist & Author)

Courtesy: Extracts from the article that appeared in 'The Japan Times' (Dated: 18/01/2015)

Dynamism in India's foreign policy under Modi

• Siddhartha Singh

In last eight months, after coming to power with the strongest mandate ever, the new government under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has raised expectations that new government will finally unburden the country's

New government under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has raised expectations that new government will finally unburden the country's foreign policy from the ideological fixation of the Nehruvian era enabling the diplomats and thinkers in South Block to reorient their approach to meet the demands of new geopolitical realities.

foreign policy from the ideological fixation of the Nehruvian era enabling the diplomats and thinkers in South Block to reorient their approach to meet the demands of new geopolitical realities. Modi's

massive election victory has potentially freed his foreign policy from being held hostage by domestic politics.

The new political dispensation under Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been on an upward trajectory. The reticence and dogmatism that characterized much of India's diplomatic moves in past few years, have now given way to newer and innovative ways of signaling and communicating in both bilateral and multilateral engagements. Another equally welcoming signal is the fact that after a long gap of decades, one can find the foreign policy initiatives bearing the stamp of the persona of the Prime Minister himself who is confident, articulate, bold and charismatic.

As Prime Minister Modi always mentions in his speeches that 21st century belongs to Asia and so for this dream to translate into reality, India must assume a larger role in the shift of global power towards Asia. This can only be achieved on the basis of domestic strength as well as projection of "Brand India" across the

world. Given the enormity of the economic challenges, Modi government has emphasized especially on trade and commercial relations in their foreign policy approach. Government has prioritized economic diplomacy to facilitate India's economic revival.

The mainstay of our foreign policy initiatives in the last few months have been to achieve a fine balance between the 'near' and the 'far away'. In terms of 'the near', it involves engaging, managing, comforting and trusting its neighbouring states by underlining the cultural and historical continuities, while on the 'far way' front, it involves a re-engagement with the big powers. When it comes to dealing with big powers, till now geo-economics has guided Modi's foreign policy. The Prime Minister is a pioneer of trade and economic diplomacy with a proven track record in Gujarat where as Chief Minister; he made several successful trips to China, Japan, and South Korea, cultivating a personal rapport with leaders like Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. Modi seeks trade routes for deepening relations with big powers that matter to India's economic revival and geopolitical rise.

For instance, geo-economics is playing a vital role in driving Sino-

Indian relations. Modi is well aware that China needs the Indian market while India also needs Chinese investments. India's growing relationship with Japan under the NAMO-ABE axis has provided a new impetus to this bilateral relation. Japanese firms that are facing growing hostility in China, increasingly see India as a better destination for investments.

The reticence and dogmatism that characterized much of India's diplomatic moves in past few years, have now given way to newer and innovative ways of signaling and communicating in both bilateral and multilateral engagements.

By inviting Barack Obama as a chief guest on Republic Day of India, Modi has tried to strengthen India's relationship with the United States. The Indo-U.S. relationship has suffered in recent years from stagnation on trade negotiations, disputes over intellectual property in W.T.O. etc. But despite all these things, when Modi visited United States of America, from then a new warmth has been noticed in Indo-U.S. relation.

Prime Minister Modi has launched a Make in India programme to make India a manufacturing hub as well as to create more and more jobs for the youth and he as well as the Ministry

The mainstay of our foreign policy initiatives in the last few months have been to achieve a fine balance between the 'near' and the 'far away'. In terms of 'the near', it involves engaging, managing, comforting and trusting its neighbouring states by underlining the cultural and historical continuities, while on the 'far way' front, it involves a re-engagement with the big powers.

of External Affairs, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Commerce and Trade is successfully pursuing his agenda of “Make in India” in all global interactions. Prime Minister Modi has set an ambitious target of bringing India's rank under 50 from 142 in ease of doing business in India. In short, Modi government's priority is to bridge the gap between

the country's development goals and its foreign policy.

In conclusion, the new government has raised huge expectations for India's foreign policy. Every move the government makes is being keenly watched and there are indications that Modi's foreign policy will be significantly different from that of his immediate predecessors. According to Brahma Chellany, “because of its geographical location, India is the natural bridge between the west and the east, and between Europe and Asia”. Through forward thinking and a dynamic foreign policy, India can truly play the role of a bridge between the east and the west. A pro-active and multi-pronged strategy of multi-alignment is the need of hour. A gradual reorientation of India's foreign policy is required so as to support the development of India or in other words to serve the national interest in letter and spirit. Till now India seems to be on the right path under Prime Minister Modi.

(Siddharth Singh is a Research Associate at SPMRF)

Making BJP the largest Party in the World

BJP President Amit Shah has consistently focused on ensuring that BJP keeps growing its membership and voter base. Shri Shah said that the BJP membership drive is not to increase the Party's power but to give more strength to the people of India and so it is increasingly important that more and more people join BJP. Shri Shah also stated that membership drive has been started at a time when BJP is in power and so a new movement of development has begun. He said that the Party's aim is to have three times its current membership (from the current 3.5 crore to 10 crore) so that's why this membership drive is very important because once more and more people get associated with it, the Party will be strengthened and so will the country. There is a tremendous countrywide response to the membership drive, especially in the Southern states where the enthusiasm to join the BJP has surpassed all past records. Party President Amit Shah has given a new interpretation to BJP's plan of "Going South". For BJP now "Going south" means taking the country to greater heights! It is perhaps for the first time in the political history of modern India that we have a Party which, even after winning an absolute majority in the Lok Sabha, (2014 elections) is not stopping by resting on its laurels but has chosen to make itself stronger by demonstrating growth in hitherto hostile and impregnable territories. Till now BJP has succeeded in enrolling 4 crore new members and so it seems that Party President Amit Shah's plan of enrolling 10 crore new members is not a distant dream.



A promotional poster for the BJP membership drive. At the top, there are portraits of Amit Shah on the left and Narendra Modi on the right, with the BJP lotus logo in the center. Below them, the text reads "Membership Drive crosses 4 Crore mark" in large, bold letters. Underneath, it says "सशक्त भाजपा, सशक्त भारत" and "साथ आएं, देश बनाएं". At the bottom, it says "To Join BJP Call 1800 266 2020". The background features a crowd of people cheering with their arms raised.

Membership Drive crosses
4 Crore
mark
सशक्त भाजपा, सशक्त भारत
साथ आएं, देश बनाएं

To Join BJP Call
1800 266 2020

"We do not wish it to be known that we are simply the torch-bearers of somebody else, because we have also our own philosophy and our ideology. The doctrine for which India has stood has been the doctrine of live and let live...there are certain fundamental and basic ideologies for which India has stood and even stands today. We stand for freedom of expression, for freedom of thought, for freedom of association and religion and our Constitution has been based on the sound principles of democracy...Today two things are vitally necessary. We have to strengthen our military position and if we cannot do it alone we shall have to do it in collaboration with others with whom we can stand on a common platform in defence of a common ideology. Then we shall have to strengthen internal strength and peace, and satisfactorily solve the economic problem...so that we can create that solidarity and stability which would be impregnable both from the national and international standpoints."

- Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee

(Discussion in Parliament on the International Situation, 6th December, 1950)

