



# THE NATIONALIST

An Indian perspective

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Special Article

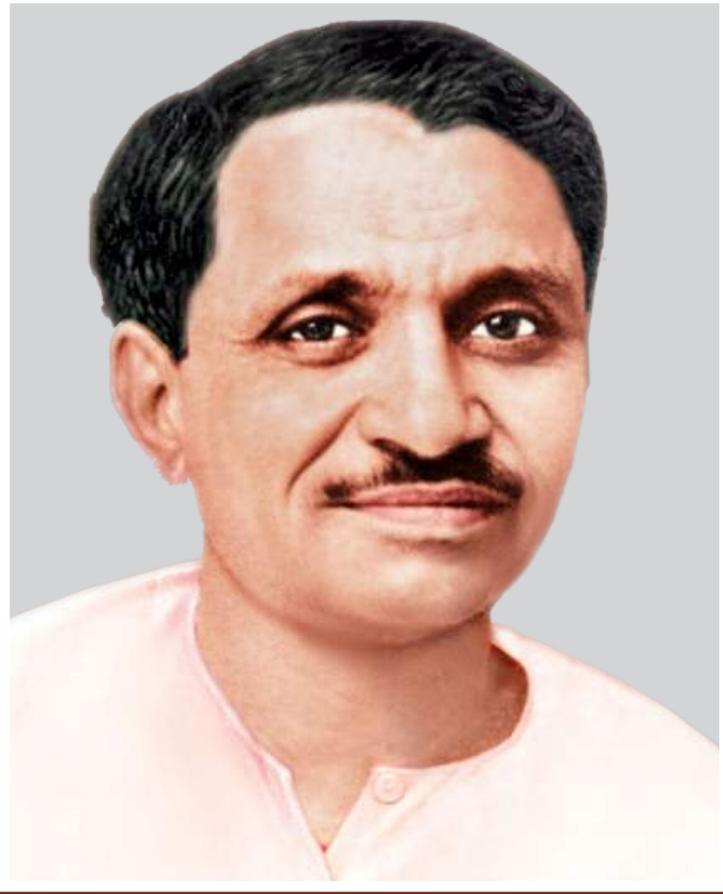
## India & ASEAN – A New Dynamism Under Narendra Modi

Digital  
India  
Week

Why  
Syama Prasad Mookerjee  
Is Relevant Today

PM Modi's Trip to Central Asia, As  
Well As Russia, Have Boosted India's  
Multi-Directional Strategy

## राजनीति दलों के लिए एक दर्शन की आवश्यकता



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

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

– पं. दीनदयाल उपाध्याय

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

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विचारधारा के लिये अनवरत कार्य करते हैं  
: अमित शाह

## Editorial

Prime Minister Modi's visit to Central Asia – was landmark outreach that has bridged the physical and mental distance between India and this region. Civilisational partners have again renewed their link and have pledged to work for creating a more stable, secure and dynamic Asia and world order. It is very refreshing that Prime Minister Modi, over the last one year, has chosen to visit those countries and region that have been long neglected by India and yet were very crucial for her to seek strategic depth and create an alternate world order.

The BRICS meet at Ufa in Russia, was also a watershed visit which has cemented the formation of an alternate global pole in which rising and emerging powers seek their space and voice. PM Modi's confident projection of India's global aspiration and his tireless outreach programmes to strengthen India's position on the global stage is yielding results. Pragmatism, realism and determined articulation of India's aspiration and world-view have redefined India's terms of engagement in the last one year. When India's foreign policy will be re-evaluated PM Modi's Central Asia visit will surely be analysed as a path-breaking one.

Close on the heel of the Central Asia visit has come the launching of Skill India, bringing to the forefront one of PM Modi's major promises of empowering Indian youth by imparting skill training. India, in earlier times, was a skilled society and great emphasis was laid on the development of skills, on entrepreneurship and start ups, similarly PM Modi has re-ignited that vision and the Skill India Programme aims at training and skilling a large number of youth over the years. Skill India is not “only to provide training and job but also to impart fresh energy and confidence among youths.” The aim is to make India the capital of human resources. Interestingly, those who regularly complain of

unemployment, especially among the proletariat, have themselves done little, over the years, to empower the proletariat. They have only used them to promote or mouth certain outdated slogans which has neither empowered nor made self-reliant those among the marginalized.

While other political parties – in India – namely those peddling the outdated and imported ideology of Communism have just reduced themselves to name-calling and obstructionism without capacity or energy to expand or attract fresh energy, the BJP has launched into its countrywide “*prashikshan*” - training of new members as well as its *Maha-Sampark Abhiyan*. These two countrywide and massive outreach programme is aimed at further strengthening the ideological roots of the party and to orient nationalist youth who have joined the party in large numbers to dedicate themselves to constructive national service. No other party, certainly not those which make a political living by attacking the BJP, have ever had such nationalist orientation or objectives. Party President, Shri Amit Shah, has already undertaken extensive zonal tours and has interacted with workers, calling upon them to strengthen the party, the ideology and with idealism, work to bring India to the front-rank.

Parties which do not condemn Naxal terror, which keep silent when members of our armed forces or police get killed for doing their duty, parties whose leaders encourage international signature campaigns against popular leaders in India, parties which have never had nationalist moorings and which have always been ambivalent on India's position in the world and her aspiration for achieving major power status are outdated in today's India. Political evaporation awaits them in the near future...

-Dr. Anirban Ganguly,  
Director, SPMRF

# PM Modi's Digital Dialogue



PM Narendra Modi described technology as a means to “discover, learn, evolve and implement” while sharing his thoughts during the Digital Dialogue, in which he talked extensively on technology. Some salient points of PM digital dialogue are as follows:

### **Thoughts on technology:**

- “It (technology) combines 3Ss—speed, simplicity and service. Technology is fast, technology is simple and technology is a brilliant way to serve people. It is also a great teacher. The more we learn about technology and the more we learn through technology, the better it is.”
- “Technology empowers the less empowered. If there is a strong force that bring a change in the lives of those on the margins it is technology.”

### **On the Digital India initiative:**

- “The entire Nation has joined

hands to make the dream of a Digital India into a reality. Youngsters are enthusiastic, industry is supportive and the government is proactive. India is yearning for a digital revolution.”

- “The investment committed by industry towards a Digital India indicates their optimism and the positive effects will be felt for generations. Most notably, several job opportunities will be created for our people.”

### **On social media PM opined:**

“The future belongs to social media. It is egalitarian and inclusive. Social media is not about any country, any language, any colour, any community but it is about human values and that is the underlying link binding humanity.”

### **PM on mobile governance:**

“M-governance is empowered governance. It has the potential to

make development a truly inclusive and comprehensive mass movement. It puts governance into everyone's reach. It puts governance in your hands 24/7.”

### **On start-ups:**

“Start-ups are the engines of exponential growth, manifesting the power of innovation. Several big companies today are start-ups of yesterday.”

“We want India to emerge as the Innovation Hub where the next big ideas emerge, driven by the power of technology.”

**Prime Minister Narendra Modi also answered some of the questions in #DigitalDialogue. Some of the answers are as follows:**

Q1 – A very common question across social media platforms (Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn) - The Digital India week has been launched. Has the response been encouraging and up to your expectations?

Answer by PM Modi: The entire Nation has joined hands to make the dream of a Digital India into a reality. Youngsters are enthusiastic, industry is supportive and the government is proactive. India is yearning for a digital revolution.

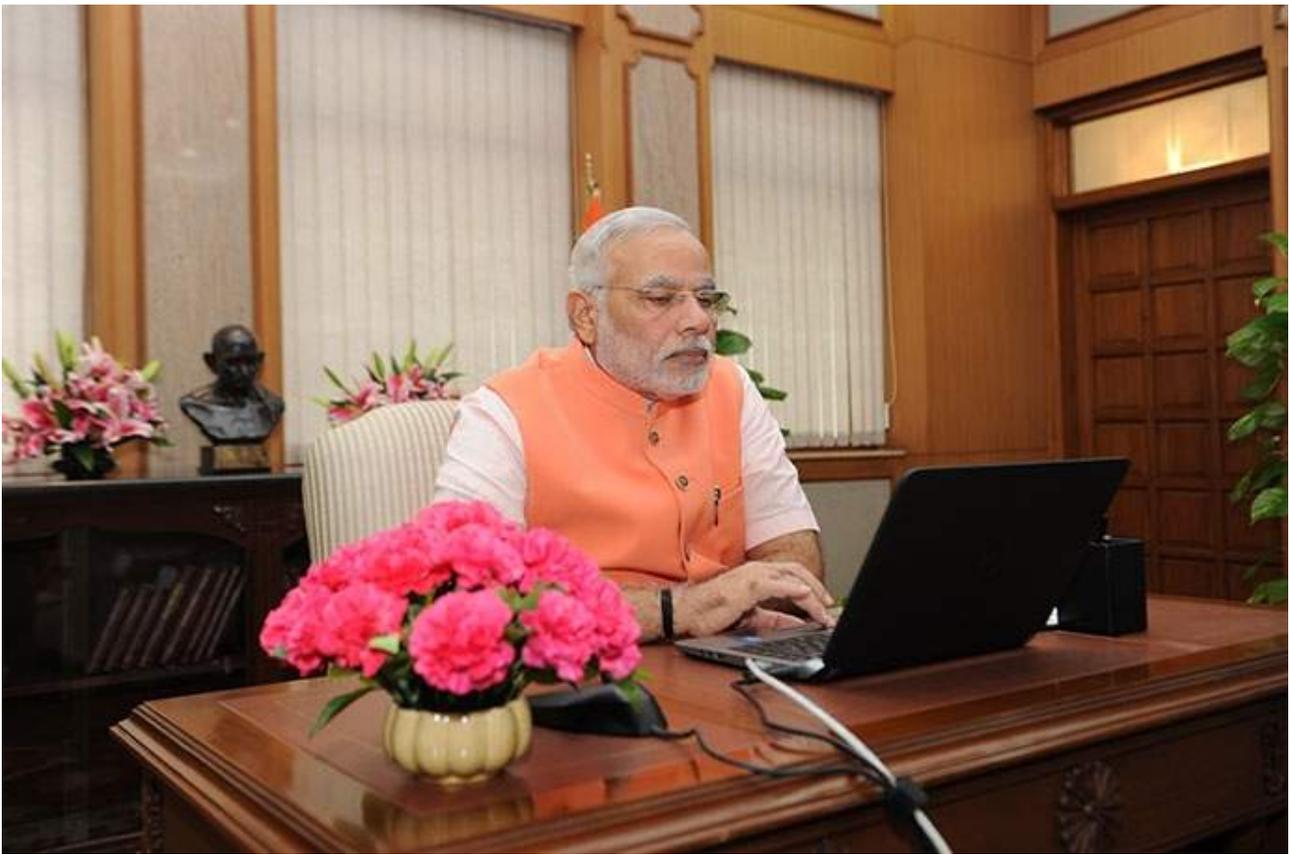
When the Digital India initiative was launched, the fervour was

unimaginable and unprecedented. The investment committed by industry towards a Digital India indicates their optimism and the positive effects will be felt for generations. Most notably, several job opportunities will be created for our people.

Never before has something been planned at such a large scale. I want to add that this dream will be fulfilled not by the Central Government or the private sector alone. Everybody (Centre, State Governments, organisations, corporates, and people) has to come together and is working towards a digital India.

Several people wrote to me asking how Digital India will touch their lives. They shared ideas for citizen-centric services from the national till the Panchayat level. @RishiBagree highlighted an App on waste management. @rangats and @kumawatraj have talked about PDS improvement and electronic ration cards.

I want to tell everyone - our quest for a Digital India is all encompassing. It is going to touch your lives in several ways, making it easier. For instance, the Digital Locker and e-Sign will manage all key documents with ease and efficiency. Documents can be accessed at a click and that too



without being inconvenienced. Take healthcare- eHospital would mean no more wasting time standing in hospital lines. Instead, there is online registration for appointment, online payment and online reports. @microrao asked me about an online portal where information and prices of drugs and medicine will be made available. He will be happy to know that DeitY is actively working on this. The National Scholarship Portal brings together all scholarship schemes under a single application form. Thus, you will have one convenient platform to search the right scholarship, filling several forms and tracking their progress.

The real strength of these initiatives will come when they are

extensively used. More usage will enable them to become mature and world class. That is why, I urge everyone to use these innovative services as much as possible. For instance, think of paying the salary of your support staff from your mobile to their Jan Dhan accounts. Similarly, keep using these services in as many ways as possible.

Q2- @BGMahesh (BG Mahesh) asked – what is your tech routine. In what ways in technology a part of your life.

Answer by PM Modi: Technology for me is- discover, learn, evolve and implement. It combines 3Ss- speed, simplicity and service. Technology is fast, technology is simple and technology is a brilliant way to serve

people. It is also a great teacher. The more we learn about technology and the more we learn through technology, the better it is. Technology enthuses the world. I see technology as this vast ocean whose small droplets I have been able to touch upon. Of course, I want to know more and more about latest technology but due to my schedule it becomes very tough. Yet, I am a curious mind when it comes to anything that facilitates public good and so, I try to learn more and more about how technology can ensure public good. I keep thinking about it and try to know as much more as possible.

Like any common person, I scan my mails and try to be as regular in correspondence (by my own standards I am still slow). Technology makes access to information a lot faster. I am able to access news on the go. I may be travelling in the hills, in the Northeast or in interior Chhattisgarh but thanks to technology I am abreast with what is happening.

I have been using technology for my work right from the days when I was doing party work. As a Chief Minister I made attempts to integrate technology in the working of the government and my efforts to do the same continue in Delhi. A few

months ago we launched PRAGATI, a technology based multi-purpose and multi-nodal platform where projects are monitored and people's problems are addressed. On the last Wednesday of every month, I sit down with top officials during the PRAGATI sessions and we cover substantial ground in a wide range of sectors. We are already seeing the difference this can make.

Technology transforms people's lives. From mitigating poverty to simplifying processes, ending corruption to providing better services, Technology is omnipresent. It has become the single-most important instrument of human progress.

Technology is here to stay. The future of technology lies in its humanization. Technology on a day-to-day basis is getting adaptive to human emotions, preferences and choices. To me technology used wisely is a catalyst to magically transforming the way we live.

Q3- @ramyavenugopal (Ramya Venugopal) asked- You are active on @LinkedIn with a vibrant following. How has social media helped u connect better with people?

Answer by PM Modi: The future belongs to social media. It is egalitarian and inclusive. Social

media is not about any country, any language, any colour, any community but it is about human values and that is the underlying link binding humanity.

A great example is the recent #SelfieWithDaughter trend. Through social media I read about this initiative in a district in Haryana and I thought I must talk about it during my 'Mann Ki Baat' and ask parents to share selfies with their daughters on social media. The rest is history. Worldwide and in India this became a trend. People from Africa, Europe, the Americas, South Asian neighbours shared selfies taken with their daughters. When people were sharing selfies, they were not responding to the call of a Prime Minister, it was a connect between humans for a cause that is important for all of us and has resonance across the globe.

On Yoga Day the world could see what is happening all over due to social media. Physical distance was rendered irrelevant. Similarly, during the previous 'Mann Ki Baat' I asked people to share glimpses of #IncredibleIndia and I got lakhs of responses. One Vietnamese person shared his memories of India and I got an opportunity to talk to that person on Twitter. When a group of friends decided to clean the Ghats in

Varanasi it created waves across the world. If this doesn't indicate something then what does?

My being on social media has enriched me in many ways. After a long day at work, I log on to social media and it is very very refreshing. I am active on Facebook, Twitter, Google+, LinkedIn and Instagram. It gives me a pulse of what people think. I get a lot of feedback. For example, someone tweeted to me that during one of the speeches I spoke too fast. It acts as a mirror for all of us in our otherwise very busy lives.

I am a firm believer in the use of social media. It has given voice to the common man. This is an empowering platform and it should be used as positively and creatively as possible. That is when you will understand the power of that medium and you will be able to make a difference.

Q4- Narayan Reddy from Andhra Pradesh wrote: There is a sense that technology further empowers those who are already empowered. How can technology change the lives of people on the margins? @RupamG (Rupam Ghatak) asks – rural India needs better internet penetration, how can digital India achieve that?

Answer by PM Modi: Technology empowers the less empowered. If

there is a strong force that bring a change in the lives of those on the margins it is technology. It serves as a leveler and a springboard.

Take for instance the farmer. Technology can make agriculture productive, prosperous and profitable. We have seen this worldwide. I was happy to know that crores of Indian farmers have been receiving agriculture related information through SMS.

Just recently, the Cabinet cleared the Scheme of Promotion of National Agriculture Market through Agri-Tech Infrastructure Fund. 585 regulated markets across India will be integrated with common e-platform. Farmers and traders can get opportunities to purchase and sell agricultural commodities at optimal prices in a transparent manner.

When a person can call for an auto rickshaw from the mobile yes, it makes life convenient for him or her but imagine the difference it makes in the auto driver's life. Due to technology things like railway tickets have become easier to obtain. No need to take a day off from work and stand in line.

Small entrepreneurs not having abundant capital, get a chance to create value, through technology. Our handicraft workers who were

dependent on seasonal tourist flow, can now sell their products across the world with a single click. Aggregators of various kinds have given a fresh lease of life to thousands of people across our country. Be it retail, tourism, transport, food industry, technology has given a new platform to thousands of people, most of who are on the margins.

Q5- Shaili Chopra- As a digital entrepreneur I would like to know how does technology and India's demographic dividend converge, especially for young women?

Answer by PM Modi: I think this is a natural convergence and India is the natural place for such a convergence. Yes, many parts of the world have technology but no other nation is blessed with a demographic dividend like ours. India offers the complete package.

The industrial revolution may have come late to India, but we are going strong in the current start-up revolution. I am told that we are currently the 4th largest startup ecosystem in the world and soon we are poised to be 2nd, only after USA. And the best part is- this is driven by the youth. This is drawing the interest of the world and has energized people across India. This is convergence for you.

Exuberance and Talent of our youth is finding an outlet of expression through technology. This is not only driven by demand side dynamics but is well complemented by our supply side potential as well. Hence technology is serving as a connecting bridge between our ever expanding consumer market and our demographic dividend. Here, I want to point to our MyGov experience. It gives people the opportunity to contribute to Nation building through technology. Many of the ideas we have got through MyGov are brilliant. So, when @Priyanka\_1512 (Priyanka Aggarwal) says, “please let youth like me (working in private IT companies) know how can we contribute to a Digital India” or when @thetakshakpai says, “how do you intend on encouraging fresher tech/engineering students to contribute to #DigitalIndia?” – I want to tell them and many others – go to MyGov and enrich the platform with your contribution.

Q7- Chandan Kumar from Bihar asked- What impact will technology and automation have on India considering a huge low skilled base?

Answer by PM Modi: Technology has time and again created opportunities for a whole new

generation of Jobs and Industries. I have been studying with great interest what is happening around the world. We are seeing the advent of a new generation of Machines. Some are calling it the next Machine Age. 3D Printing, Internet of Things, Intelligent Machines and Robotics will automate many Industries. While some see a threat I see an opportunity.

Let me explain why - we in India already have a natural advantage given our strengths in Software and Information Technology. Even as Technology and Automation may make low skilled jobs redundant in some sectors we have the natural advantage to learn new skills and lay claim to a whole new generation of jobs to manage all of this new age automation.

Hence my mantra is – don't talk about "Digital India", "Make in India", “Design in India” and "Skilled India" in silos. All of them are interrelated. It is in the synergy across all three lies India's Opportunity for the 21st Century.

Q9- Ankhi Das- I compliment you for cutting through layers and reaching out to all directly and having a conversation. I hope this is a start of the many Digital Dialogues that you will have in our country. What is Digital India's top priority?



What is Digital India's top priority? What role do you see universal access and the internet playing within Digital India?

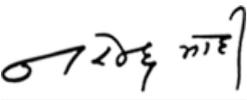
Answer by PM Modi: These 3As are important for a Digital India- Accessible, Additive and Affordable. Access is key. We want our 125 crore Citizens to be digitally empowered. We already have broadband usage across India go up by 63% in the last year. We need to accelerate this further. The government efforts must be complemented by similar energy and proactiveness by other stakeholders. I would also like to see the private sector become part of the efforts to ensure broadband Internet has the widest reach across India.

Our digital India initiative is about value addition. It must enrich the lives of the people. It must offer something unique to everyone,

which can make a positive difference.

Similarly, Affordability is the third key. A product can be accessible and additive but it will never leave the long-term impact until it can be affordable. Because, at the end of the day, who are we working for? Who will gain the most from these initiatives- the poor, the marginalised, the neo-middle class. In terms of scale, extent and influence, our Digital India initiatives must be path breaking and all inclusive, laying the foundation for how we script India's development story in the 21st Century.

*Courtesy: [www.pmindia.in](http://www.pmindia.in)*

  
NARENDRA MODI

## Modi's Ten-Point Initiative for BRICS Nations

**P**itching for closer cooperation and coordination among BRICS nations, Prime Minister Narendra Modi proposed a 10-point initiative that includes India hosting the first trade fair for the grouping and establishing research centres for railways and agriculture.

Calling it 'Das Kadam: Ten Steps for the Future', Modi put forward new initiatives for the BRICS grouping that is formed by major emerging economies. The proposed initiatives for the BRICS include a trade fair, a Railway Research Centre, cooperation among supreme audit institutions, a Digital Initiative and an Agricultural Research Centre. They also include State/Local Government's Forum, cooperation amongst cities in field of Urbanisation, BRICS Sports Council and Annual Sports Meet, a film festival and the first major project of NDB to be in field of Clean Energy.

### These 10 steps include:

- BRICS Trade Fair
- BRICS Railway Research Center
- Cooperation Among Supreme



### Audit Institutions

- BRICS Digital Initiative
- BRICS Agricultural Research Center
- BRICS Forum of State/Local Governments
- Cooperation Among Cities in field of Urbanization
- BRICS Sports Council and Annual BRICS Sports Meet
- First Major Project of NDB (New Development Bank) to be in the field of Clean Energy
- BRICS Film Festival

NARENDRA MODI

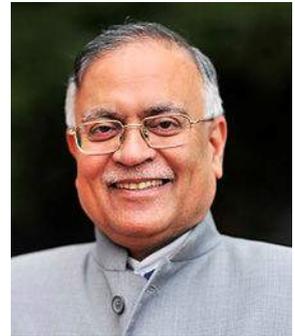
# India & ASEAN – A New Dynamism Under Narendra Modi

• *Pradeep K Kapur*

Since assuming office in May 2014, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has imparted a lot of dynamism and substantial content to our relations with many countries, including the US, Russia, China, Japan, Canada, some countries of ASEAN, European Union, Africa, Latin America, Asia Pacific, and the BRICS and G20.

PM Modi has been proceeding ahead at a brisk pace with clarity of thought and purpose and keeping the national interest in perspective. This has helped to raise India's profile globally in the comity of nations. It is with consternation and concern that one notes how some analysts and politicians are seeking to create controversies about his visits abroad. As a former diplomat of I wish to make a very elementary point and that is that visits by the Indian PM, President, Vice-President, Speaker, and some senior Ministers, and also similar visits to India by dignitaries from other countries, are indeed very essential and necessary if India is to assume its rightful place in the global community. What is in our national interest, is that many more such visits and not less visits must continuously happen to consolidate the gains that are being accrued in India favours due to Prime Minister Modi's indefatigable external outreach. Any right thinking and far-seeing individual would therefore

endorse, the steps being taken by PM Modi to enhance the depth, the content, and the scope of India's relations with other countries.



It would be useful to briefly look at India's relations with countries of South East Asia and Asia Pacific. India's relations with ASEAN were raised from the level of a Sectoral Dialogue Partnership in 1992, to a full Dialogue Partnership in 1995 to a Summit level relationship in 2002. Having been closely involved with the process both at the Ministry of External Affairs headquarters in New Delhi and in the region and as Ambassador to Cambodia from early 2001 to late 2004, I saw how rapidly the engagement with this crucial region picked up between 1999 and 2004.

That momentum imparted to India and ASEAN relationship was very crucial enabling India to become an active member of the different forums and activities of the ASEAN groupings, including. Collaboration is also increasing between India and ASEAN countries under the: Mekong-Ganga Cooperation Programme, and various initiatives being taken by India to support the CLMV group (Cambodia, Lao, Myanmar, Vietnam) within the

overall framework of ASEAN.

In 1962, India was invited to the meeting in Bangkok where the initial proposal for the formation of ASEAN was discussed. ASEAN was established in 1967. Most of the countries were in different stages of development at that point. India was reluctant to enter into any grouping or alliance at that stage. Over the next two decades, while the formation of ASEAN was moving ahead slowly, various discussions were held about India joining ASEAN, but India did not take any steps to bring this to fruition. In 1982, Foreign Minister Narasimha Rao was on his way to another round of discussions on ASEAN in Bangkok but he was asked to come back from Calcutta itself. The reason given at that time was that he was asked not to proceed “due to his mother's illness”.

It was only in 1992, a full thirty years after the first meeting in 1962 that India finally took some steps to initiate a formal relationship with ASEAN as a grouping, in the form of a 'Sectoral Dialogue'. This slowly expanded to a 'Full Dialogue Partnership' in December 1995. Discussions were thereafter initiated for raising this dialogue to Summit level.

As Ambassador of India to Cambodia in early 2001 one of the most challenging and difficult task before me was to nudge the ASEAN-India relationship getting ahead, and try to ensure the success of the first ASEAN-India Summit meeting. At the 7th Summit in Brunei in November 2001,

it was decided that the next ASEAN Summit would be held in Phnom Penh in 2002. Just two years earlier, in 1999 Cambodia was the last member to join ASEAN. The Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen was very interested to work out the details and discuss the strategy for India's Summit level partnership with ASEAN. It was finally decided that PM Vajpayee would visit Cambodia in April 2002 prior to the second visit later that year.

The two visits of PM Vajpayee to Cambodia in April and November 2002 were landmark visits. The last such visit by any Indian PM had taken place almost 50 years back in 1954. These two important visits helped us to change the landscape of India-Cambodia relations and set a very strong basis for the India-ASEAN summit level relations. Some countries were not happy to see this burgeoning relationship. Efforts were made by some other countries to dilute this process from the early stages itself by proposing that the ASEAN-India Summit should be convened once every two years, even though the summit level meetings with China, Japan, and Korea were convened every year. The ostensible reasoning was that this would be reviewed at a later stage after some content and substance had been added to this relationship. But anyhow these did not stick and the sound foundation laid for the growth of India-ASEAN relationship is now being further consolidate under PM Modi and the proactive engagement with this region.

Under PM Modi's leadership, Indian trade is to be increased from 67.9 billion US Dollars in 2013 to 100 Billion US Dollars by 2015. Two milestone agreements have also been signed at the ASEAN India Summit in Myanmar:

- Agreement on Trade in Services

- Agreement on Investment of the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation between ASEAN and India.

India will also extend substantial cooperation in implementing the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER), and the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre). In his address PM Modi had said that "There are many similarities and convergences between us. India and ASEAN are second and third in terms of population. We are among the largest economies and among the three fastest growing economies in this century. Majority of us here belong to the developing world. We have the strength and the potential of a young population." He had also promised that he would improve not only the trade environment in India but also move ahead with speed in moving ahead with the connectivity projects with ASEAN. Through his extensive outreach to countries in India's east and north and with his visit to Mongolia, Korea and now the ongoing tour of Central Asia, PM Modi,

is in fact infusing fresh energy, perspective and direction to India's hitherto languishing strategic vision. It is crucial for the eventual fruition of India's Act East Policy as well. He has based this outreach on his essential pillars of foreign policy of – samvad, sanskriti, sabhyata – and the world is responding. India's relationship with ASEAN can be further boosted when propelled by these three crucial engines of engagement.

Where do we go from here?

India needs to continue to expand its relationship with ASEAN, in view of the strategic and geo-political importance of the region to India and to the world. There is some overlap between our interests and the US 'Pivot to Asia Policy, there is also a similar overlap with Japan, EU and some of the other countries such as South Korea and Australia to support the ASEAN countries to emerge stronger. India has to act jointly with some of the other countries with similar interests.

There is a lot of respect and acceptance of India due to its benign role throughout its history. India, under PM Modi's leadership, is moving now ahead positively and seems poised to make a positive difference in the region as a major power.

*(Ambassador Pradeep K Kapur, is a former Ambassador & Secretary, MEA. He is presently, Visiting Professor, International Trade, Sustainable Development & Security Issues, School of Public Policy, University of Maryland, College Park, Washington DC).*

## Digital India Week



Several initiatives have been taken by Modi Government for introduction of Information Technology to empower people. Some of the initiatives have resulted in development of products to extend various services in areas relating to health, education, labour and employment, commerce etc. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had recently launched the Digital India Week and he also urged the people to gain knowledge and to empower themselves through the Digital India Programme of his Government.

Digital India has been envisioned as an ambitious umbrella programme to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. It comprises of various initiatives under a single programme each targeted to prepare India for becoming a knowledge economy and for bringing good governance to citizens through synchronized and

co-ordinated engagement of the entire Government. This programme has been envisaged and coordinated by the Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY) in collaboration with various Central Ministries/Departments and State Governments.

The vision of Digital India programme also aims at inclusive growth in areas of electronic services, products, manufacturing and job opportunities etc. The vision of Digital India is centred on three key areas -

- (i) Digital Infrastructure as a Utility to Every Citizen
- (ii) Governance & Services on Demand and
- (iii) Digital Empowerment of Citizens

With the above vision, the Digital India programme aims to provide Broadband Highways, Universal

Access to Mobile Connectivity, Public Internet Access Programme, E-Governance: Reforming Government through Technology, e-Kranti - Electronic Delivery of Services, Information for All, Electronics Manufacturing: Target Net Zero Imports, IT for Jobs and Early Harvest Programmes. Several projects/products have already been launched as indicated below:

- Digital Locker System aims to minimize the usage of physical documents and enable sharing of e-documents across agencies. The sharing of the e-documents will be done through registered repositories thereby ensuring the authenticity of the documents online.
- MyGov.in has been implemented as a platform for citizen engagement in governance, through a “Discuss”, “Do” and “Disseminate” approach. The mobile App for MyGov would bring these features to users on a mobile phone.
- Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) Mobile app would be used by people and Government organizations for achieving the goals of Swachh Bharat Mission.
- eSign framework would allow citizens to digitally sign a document online using Aadhaar authentication.
- The Online Registration System (ORS) under the eHospital

application has been introduced. This application provides important services such as online registration, payment of fees and appointment, online diagnostic reports, enquiring availability of blood online etc.

- National Scholarships Portal is a one stop solution for end to end scholarship process right from submission of student application, verification, sanction and disbursement to end beneficiary for all the scholarships provided by the Government of India.
- DeitY has undertaken an initiative namely Digitize India Platform (DIP) for large scale digitization of records in the country that would facilitate efficient delivery of services to the citizens.
- The Government of India has undertaken an initiative namely Bharat Net, a high speed digital highway to connect all 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats of country. This would be the world's largest rural broadband connectivity project using optical fibre.
- BSNL has introduced Next Generation Network (NGN), to replace 30 year old exchanges, which is an IP based technology to manage all types of services like voice, data, multimedia/ video and other types of packet switched communication services.
- BSNL has undertaken large scale

deployment of Wi-Fi hotspots throughout the country. The user can latch on the BSNL Wi-Fi network through their mobile devices.

- To deliver citizen services electronically and improve the way citizens and authorities transact with each other, it is imperative to have ubiquitous connectivity. The government also realises this need as reflected by including 'broadband highways' as one of the pillars of Digital India. While connectivity is one criterion, enabling and providing technologies to facilitate delivery of services to citizens forms the other.

Policy initiatives have also been undertaken by DeitY in the e-Governance domain like e-Kranti Framework, Policy on Adoption of Open Source Software for Government of India, Framework for Adoption of Open Source Software in e-Governance Systems, Policy on Open Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) for Government of India, E-mail Policy of Government of India, Policy on Use of IT Resources of Government of India, Policy on Collaborative Application Development by Opening the Source Code of Government Applications, Application Development & Re-Engineering Guidelines for Cloud Ready Applications.

- BPO Policy has been approved to

create BPO centres in different North Eastern states and also in smaller towns of other states.

- Electronics Development Fund (EDF) Policy aims to promote Innovation, R&D, and Product Development and to create a resource pool of IP within the country to create a self-sustaining eco-system of Venture Funds.

- National Centre for Flexible Electronics (NCFlexE) is an initiative of Government of India to promote research and innovation in the emerging area of Flexible Electronics.

- Centre of Excellence on Internet on Things (IoT) is a joint initiative of Department of Electronics & Information Technology (DeitY), ERNET and NASSCOM.

The estimated impact of Digital India by 2019 would be cross cutting, ranging from broadband connectivity in all Panchayats, Wi-fi in schools and universities and Public Wi-Fi hotspots. The programme will generate huge number of IT, Telecom and Electronics jobs, both directly and indirectly. Success of this programme will make India Digitally empowered and the leader in usage of IT in delivery of services related to various domains such as health, education, agriculture, banking, etc.

*SPMRF Desk*

## Digital Locker to store documents and certificates

Digital Locker aims at eliminating the use of physical documents and at enabling sharing of verified government issued or self-uploaded electronic documents across agencies. Digital Locker provides a dedicated personal storage space in the cloud to citizens, linked to citizens' Aadhaar numbers. It will enable various organisations registered on Digital Locker to push certificates of citizens directly in their Digital Locker in electronic format.

## Digital Locker

Citizens can also upload and securely store the scanned copies of legacy documents in Digital Locker. These legacy documents can be electronically signed using e-Sign facility. A citizen can share these electronic certificates online with various departments and agencies registered on Digital Locker while applying for the services provided by them. Thus, Digital Locker brings the citizens, issuers and requestors on one platform.



### Key Benefits of Digital Locker

Digital Locker will provide secure access to documents issued by various agencies. It uses authenticity services provided by Aadhaar. Digital Locker will minimise the use of physical documents by use of the electronic documents. It is easy to validate the authenticity of these documents as they will be issued directly by the registered issuers and thereby provide information from the source of truth. Digital Locker will reduce the administrative overhead of departments and agencies due to reduced or zero paper work. It will also make it easy for the residents to receive services by saving time and effort as their documents will now be available anytime, anywhere and can be shared electronically.

### One system, many benefits

- Storage and sharing of government certified documents possible.
- Will enable paper-free governance.
- Anytime, anywhere access to documents.
- Enables e-signing of documents.
- Dedicated personal space of 1 GB.
- Ensures privacy and authorised access only.



## All Government scholarships on a single website

The National Scholarships Portal is a one-stop solution for implementing the entire scholarship process – applying for different scholarships, application receipt, processing, sanction and disbursement by different central ministries, state governments and other agencies. The portal is an end-to-end solution, right from registration of application by the student to the transfer of money to the bank accounts of students.

This initiative aims at providing a Simplified, Mission-oriented, Accountable, Responsive and Transparent (SMART) System for faster and effective applications, quick disposal of scholarships, and the delivery of funds directly into the beneficiaries' accounts.



## National Scholarships Portal



### One portal, many solutions

The National Scholarships Portal has been developed under an initiative by PMO to remove impediments for expeditious disbursement of scholarships.

- Ensures timely disbursement of scholarships to students.
- Provides a common portal for various scholarship schemes in the centre and the states/UTs.
- Creates a transparent database of scholars.
- Avoids duplication and leakages in processing.
- Provides synergy among different scholarship schemes and norms.
- Facilitates Direct Benefit Transfer of scholarships.

### One platform, many applications

- Common application form for all students with options for Ministry-specific schemes.
- Individual Ministries can administer the schemes.
- One-time registration of students for quick and easy verification.
- Common Management Information System (MIS) to track and monitor the process of selection by individual Ministries.
- A common interface to avoid multiple scholarships to the same student.
- Uploading of supporting documents by students for easy verification and transparency.
- Access to the list of scholarships awardees.
- SMS alerts at various stages of verification.
- Comprehensive monitoring at every stage of scholarships distribution, from student registration to the delivery of funds.

For more information, log on to:  
<http://www.scholarships.gov.in>



# Revolutionising Agriculture: An Electronically Unified National Agriculture Market

• *Siddharth Singh*

**T**he Union Cabinet's nod to the setting up of the National Agriculture Market on July 1 is an important milestone in the history of agriculture marketing reforms in India. An electronically unified agriculture market will introduce transparency and reduce intermediation costs.

In the mandi system, farmers get a very low share of the rupee due to a long chain of intermediaries and cartelisation at the physical marketplace, which adds two major costs: the intermediaries' margins

as well as multiple handling costs. Further, there are various limitations under the current framework related to direct marketing legislation, multiple tax levies and licences, logistics and infrastructure. These challenges in the existing system and low returns to farmers prompted the Central government to visualise the creation of a unified National Agriculture Market (NAM). NAM has been proposed to induce transparency in the marketing system, leverage state of the art technology for a well-regulated market, and enable

The infographic features a green background with a wooden-textured banner at the top. In the top right corner, it reads 'Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India' with the national emblem. The main title 'National Agriculture Market' is in a large, bold, black serif font. Below it, a smaller banner says 'Major Impacts'. To the left, four red rectangular boxes with white text list the impacts: 'Promote reform of the agriculture marketing sector', 'Free flow of agri-commodities across the country', 'Better price discovery through competitive marketing', and 'Transparent auction processes'. To the right, a circular collage of images shows various agricultural products including sheep, chickens, corn, and vegetables.

participation and benefits for the entire Agri-value chain, from farmer to consumer.

The proposed NAM framework envisages real-time electronic auctioning of the commodities along with integrated assaying, weighing, storage and payment systems. It proposes to issue a single licence for trading across the country in order to promote increased participation. Assaying, weighing and FIs will be integrated with auctioning in such a manner that the payments will be credited directly to the farmers' accounts. In this context, the Prime Minister's Jan Dhan Yojna can be a great enabler towards payment facilitation for marginal and small farmers.

Well-equipped warehouses will be created in the vicinity of major production clusters. Details will be furnished on the electronic platform. It will provide a dual benefit to producers by averting the need to bring produce to the market physically and enabling them to avail funding against the commodities stored in the warehouses, thus strengthening the price risk management framework for the farmer.

The imposition of GST will further facilitate unification of the isolated markets by rationalising the tax

regime. The framework of NAM shall go a long way in encouraging private sector participation in marketing reforms, both for the physical as well as soft infrastructure.

The respective Agricultural Produce Marketing Committees (APMCs) will need to implement the tenets of the envisaged NAM in a phased manner, including enabling infrastructure for integrating pre- and post-auctioning activities.

An efficient marketing system with high levels of transparency will encourage healthy competition, the active participation of genuine stakeholders, higher returns to the farming community, and a fair deal to consumers. This will help actualise Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikaas in the true spirit.

*(Siddharth Singh is Research Associate at SPMRF)*

# Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)



**M**odi government has given its approval to a new scheme the “Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana” (PMKSY). It will have an outlay of Rs. 50,000 crore over a period of five years (2015-16 to 2019-20). The allocation for the current financial year is Rs. 5300 crore.

The major objective of the PMKSY is to achieve convergence of investments in irrigation at the field level, expand cultivable area under

assured irrigation (Har Khet Ko Pani), improve on-farm water use efficiency to reduce wastage of water, enhance the adoption of precision-irrigation and other water saving technologies (More crop per drop), enhance recharge of aquifers and introduce sustainable water conservation practices by exploring the feasibility of reusing treated municipal based water for semi-urban area agriculture and attract greater private investment in precision irrigation system. The

scheme also aims at bringing concerned Ministries/Departments /Agencies/Research and Financial Institutions engaged in creation/use/recycling/potential recycling of water, brought under a common platform, so that a comprehensive and holistic view of the entire "water cycle" is taken into account and proper water budgeting is done for all sectors namely, household, agriculture and industries.

The programme architecture of PMKSY aims at a 'decentralized State level planning and execution' structure, in order to allow States to draw up a District Irrigation Plan (DIP) and a State Irrigation Plan (SIP). DIP will have holistic developmental perspective of the district outlining medium to long term developmental plans integrating three components namely, water sources, distribution network and water use application of the district to be prepared at two levels - the block and the district.

The programme will be supervised and monitored at the national level by an Inter-Ministerial National Steering Committee (NSC) under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister with Union Ministers of all concerned Ministries. A National Executive Committee (NEC) is to be constituted under the

Chairmanship of the Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog to oversee programme implementation, allocation of resources, inter-ministerial coordination, monitoring and performance assessment, addressing administrative issues etc. At the state level the scheme is to be administered by a State Level Sanctioning Committee (SLSC) to be chaired by the Chief Secretary of the respective States. The committee will have all authority to sanction the project and also monitor the progress of the scheme. At the district level there shall be a district level implementation committee for ensuring last mile coordination at the field level.

It is expected that PMKSY will provide convergence to existing schemes of water management, thus bringing efficiency to the use of water.

*SPMRF Desk*

## PSLV & C28 प्रक्षेपण: इसरो की सबसे बड़ी व्यावसायिक सफलता

• राष्ट्रीय प्रहरी



अरबों डॉलर के अंतरिक्ष कारोबार के क्षेत्र में लंबी छलांग लगाते हुए इसरो ने एक बार फिर इतिहास रचते हुए अपने सबसे वजनी व्यावसायिक मिशन को सफलतापूर्वक अंजाम तक पहुँचाया। इसरो ने आंध्र प्रदेश के श्रीहरिकोटा से पीएसएलवी-सी28 से पांच ब्रिटिश व्यावसायिक उपग्रहों का सफलतापूर्वक प्रक्षेपण किया। उपग्रह वाहन पीएसएलवी-सी28 ने पांचों उपग्रहों को सौर समकालिक कक्षा में स्थापित कर दिया। इसरो का यह अब तक का सबसे बड़ा महत्वपूर्ण व्यावसायिक मिशन था। सात साल के मिशन में ये उपग्रह पृथ्वी की सतह पर रोजाना किसी भी लक्ष्य की तस्वीर ले सकते हैं। इनका मुख्य उपयोग पृथ्वी पर संसाधनों और उसके पर्यावरण का सर्वेक्षण करना, शहरी अवसंरचना का प्रबंधन करना और आपदा प्रबंधन है।

ध्रुवीय उपग्रह प्रक्षेपण यान (पीएसएलवी) का यह 30वां मिशन था। पीएसएलवी की 30वीं उड़ान में तीन एक समान डीएमसी3 ऑप्टिकल पृथ्वी निगरानी उपग्रह थे जिनका निर्माण ब्रिटेन ने किया है। इसके साथ ही दो सहायक उपग्रह भी थे। 447 किलोग्राम वजन वाले तीनों डीएमसी3 उपग्रहों को पीएसएलवी-एक्सएल के आधुनिक संस्करण का उपयोग करते हुए 647 किलोमीटर दूर

सौर-समकालिक कक्षा में स्थापित किया गया। इन तीन डीएमसी3 उपग्रहों के साथ पीएसएलवी-सी28 ब्रिटेन के दो सहायक उपग्रहों सीबीएनटी-1 और डी-ऑर्बिटसेल को भी ले गया है।

पांच ब्रिटिश उपग्रहों के सफल प्रक्षेपण के साथ ही भारत अब तक 19 देशों के 45 उपग्रहों को अंतरिक्ष भेज चुका है। और भारत इस तरह के व्यावसायिक प्रक्षेपण करने वाला दुनिया का चौथा देश बन गया है। वास्तव में विदेशी उपग्रहों का यह सफल प्रक्षेपण 'भारत की अंतरिक्ष क्षमता की वैश्विक अभिपुष्टि' है। वास्तव में ये सफलता कई मायनों में बहुत खास है क्योंकि एक समय था जब भारत अपने उपग्रहों के प्रक्षेपण के लिए दूसरे देशों पर निर्भर था और आज भारत विदेशी उपग्रहों के प्रक्षेपण से अरबों डॉलर की विदेशी मुद्रा अर्जित कर रहा है। जिससे भारत को वाणिज्यिक फायदा हो रहा है। इसरो के कम प्रक्षेपण लागत की वजह से दूसरे देश भारत की तरफ लगातार आकर्षित हो रहे हैं। इसरो द्वारा 45 विदेशी उपग्रहों के प्रक्षेपण से देश के पास काफी विदेशी मुद्रा आई है। इसके साथ ही अरबों डॉलर के अंतरिक्ष बाजार में भारत एक महत्वपूर्ण देश बनकर उभरा है। चाँद और मंगल अभियान सहित इसरो अपने 100 से ज्यादा अंतरिक्ष अभियान पूरे करके पहले ही इतिहास रच



चुका है।

इसरो द्वारा प्रक्षेपित इन पांचों ब्रिटिश उपग्रहों का कुल वजन करीब 1,440 किलोग्राम था। इसरो और उसकी व्यावसायिक शाखा एन्ट्रिक्स कॉरपोरेशन द्वारा किया गया यह सबसे वजनी व्यावसायिक प्रक्षेपण था। इससे पहले इसरो ने पिछले साल फ्रांस के 712 किलोग्राम के उपग्रह को अंतरिक्ष में छोड़ा था। पहले भारत 5 टन के सैटेलाइट लांचिंग के लिए विदेशी एजेंसियों को 500 करोड़ रुपये देता था, जबकि अब इसरो जीसैट-14, पीएसएलवी सिर्फ 200 करोड़ में लांच कर देता है।

फिलहाल इसरो के कामर्शियल विंग का टर्नओवर 13 अरब रुपये हो गया है। 19 अप्रैल 1975 में स्वदेश निर्मित उपग्रह 'आर्यभट्ट' के प्रक्षेपण के साथ अपने अंतरिक्ष सफर की शुरुआत करने वाले इसरो की यह सफलता भारत की अंतरिक्ष में बढ़ते वर्चस्व की तरफ

इशारा करती है। इससे दूरसंवेदी उपग्रहों के निर्माण व संचालन में वाणिज्यिक रूप से भी फायदा पहुंच रहा है। ये सफलता इसलिए ज्यादा महत्वपूर्ण क्योंकि भारतीय प्रक्षेपण राकेटों की विकास लागत ऐसे ही विदेशी प्रक्षेपण राकेटों की विकास लागत से 30 से 40 प्रतिशत कम है।

यदि इसी तरह भारत अंतरिक्ष क्षेत्र में सफलता प्राप्त करता रहा तो वह दिन दूर नहीं जब हमारे यान अंतरिक्ष यात्रियों को चांद, मंगल या अन्य ग्रहों की सैर करा सकेंगे। भारत अंतरिक्ष विज्ञान में नई सफलताएं हासिल कर विकास को अधिक गति दे सकता है। देश में गरीबी दूर करने और विकसित भारत के सपने को पूरा करने में इसरो की इस तरह अंतरिक्ष में सफलता बहुत जरूरी है।

# Role of Government in Social and Financial Inclusion

• *Sanjay Paswan*

The misplaced narrative being articulated by a section of the media and the intelligentsia on the effectiveness of the BJP led NDA Government in the Centre on the social sector front is indeed worrisome. By all means, the Government of India (GoI) is effectively exploring multiple facets of empowerment for the socially, politically and economically deprived sections of the society. This article makes certain observations about the steps taken by the present regime to achieve the pristine objective of social justice and holistic development of the last man in the village, which is reflective of the eternal commitment to the principles of Antyodaya.

Social Justice is a vital cornerstone of our constitution. Within the dichotomy of development and justice, one should not ignore the core responsibilities of the state. As far as development is solely concerned, non-state actors are sufficiently equipped with the resources and wherewithal to carry out developmental activities. Holistic inclusion can only be realized with the intervention of the state. It is here that there is an imperative need to revisit and rethink the role of the state. It is therefore opined that the State's role is critical and should not be minimized. Disinvestment and abrupt privatization should be

transparently debated and discussed as profit making and revenue generation leads to immense competition and 'survival of the fittest' syndrome. Socially, politically and economically deprived sections of the society may not be able to compete in the extremely demanding circumstances of the corporate world. Hence one of the paramount challenges is to create an amicable atmosphere to enable ease of doing business for these sections of the society.



The idea behind 'Subaltern Entrepreneurship' is to equip the subaltern skill base with the requisite support system comprising of financial and regulatory facilities. Through this article, the author recommends some ideas and suggestions to explore various avenues of empowerment beyond the conventional contours of the Constitution. One is aware of the fact that, government jobs are fast evaporating hence too much reliance on the government machinery might be a dangerous proposition. India has been traditional preservers of various skills such as shoe making, polishing etc. It is in the area of Skill development that one must evolve

ways to match the existing skills sets amongst citizens with the ever increasing needs of the globalized world. It is also an appropriate time to think beyond redundant institutions such as National Scheduled Caste Finance Corporations etc. Policies facilitated by actions must ensure adequate representation of the weaker sections in co-operatives, corporates and civil societies through well-organized interfaces as well as through engagements at both institutional as well as at individual levels.

Financial inclusion or inclusive financing is the delivery of financial services at affordable costs to the economically weaker and the lower-income segments of society. True to this, GoI has taken several initiatives on the social sector front, all of which are potentially game-changers in the realm of social sector policy canvas. Right-based legislations initiated by the erstwhile regime have proved to be a nightmare both in vision and implementation. Hence, instead of lofty ideals, an actionable policy armed with inclusive growth is the need of the hour.

The key initiatives undertaken by the Union Government for social and economic security have been enumerated below:-

- Prime Minister Jan Dhan Yojana. This is a very significant scheme that strives to end Financial Untouchability by ensuring that the economically weaker sections have

access to bank accounts.

- Expansion of Social Security Net. This has been achieved through Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (Accident Insurance), Atal Pension Yojana (Unorganized Sector) and Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Yojana (Life Insurance), which provide social and economic security to the marginalised sections of the society.

- Institutional Support for Subaltern Entrepreneurship. This has been achieved through MUDRA Bank, to provide microfinance to entrepreneurs in rural hinterland of India.

- 'Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Caste Entrepreneurs'. The objective of this Scheme is to promote entrepreneurship among the Scheduled Castes and to provide concessional finance to them. The scheme would be implemented by the Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI) Limited for which Rs. 200 crores has been allotted.

- Credit Enhancement Guarantee Scheme for the Scheduled Castes: The objective of the Scheme is to promote entrepreneurship amongst the scheduled castes and to facilitate concessional finances to them. A budget of Rs. 200 crores has been allocated to IFCI Limited to facilitate the scheme.

- Swachhta Udyami Yojana: As an integral part of 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' launched by the Prime Minister on 2nd October, 2014, the

National Safai Karamcharis Finance & Development Corporation (NSFDC) has launched a new Scheme 'Swachhta Udyami Yojana' on 2nd October, 2014 for financing viable community toilet projects and sanitation related vehicles to collect garbage.

- Green Business Scheme: The scheme has been Started by NSFDC, with the aim of promoting green businesses to support sustainable livelihoods of Scheduled Castes and Safai Karamcharis. Financial assistance would be provided for those economic activities that could address the challenges of climate change, e.g., E-rickshaw, solar pumps and other instruments working on solar energy etc.

- Sanitary Mart Scheme. Launched in 2014-15, under the scheme, loans are provided to up to Rs. 15 Lakhs to Safai Karamcharis for construction of toilets/bio-degradable toilets.

These schemes clearly highlight that the present government is committed to the cause of upliftment of Dalits and other disadvantaged sections of the population. As outlined, various landmark initiatives have been initiated under the present regime to eliminate poverty and empower the weaker sections of the society. In addition to this, there are several specific pointers which the GoI could keep in mind while formulating policies towards achieving holistic empowerment of the socially, politically and economically weaker

sections of the society in the days to come. Some of them are:

- Democratizing Skill Development. Opening of Industrial Training Institutions (ITI) at block level. Presently, every district in the nation is mandated to have one ITI each for rudimentary skill development like plumbing, electricity, hardware etc.

- Credit Accessibility for ITI trained workforce for encouraging start-ups.

- Market Accessibility for the first generation of ITI trained entrepreneurs by ensuring backward and forward linkages.

- Bharatiya Dalit Bank on the lines of Bharatiya Mahila Bank can be created to ensure hassle-free access to financial services. Funds from Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan can be annually earmarked for the functioning of BDB.

- National University for Dalit Studies (N.U.D.S) – Centre of Excellence can be established for undertaking studies on different dimensions of empowerment.

- National Legislation to prevent the illegal diversion of funds from the Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan like the one in Andhra Pradesh.

*(Dr. Sanjay Paswan is a former Union Minister and member of BJP National Executive Council. The views expressed are his own).*

*Courtesy: India Foundation, New Delhi*

# Message of the Socio-Economic and Caste Census

• *Arun Jaitley*

The release of the Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC) on Friday offers an opportunity to reflect upon the strategy for uplifting the lives of India's poor and vulnerable. While great strides have been made to improve the economic lives of the poor, deprivation of one kind or another is still high: for example, about 30 percent of households encounter at least two out of the SECC's seven measures of deprivation<sup>[1]</sup> and 49 percent of households at least one. Improving this situation is the number one priority of this government.

But how can we achieve our objective most effectively and quickly? A permanent, formal sector, well-paid job is the best anti-poverty measure. The SECC reflects this conclusion: out of the seven measures of deprivation, the one that leads to the greatest amount of deprivation is being a landless household that derives a major part of its income from manual casual labour.

The way to eliminate deprivation is to achieve rapid economic growth of 8-10 percent so that good jobs are created for all Indians quickly. That is why the government is promoting

investment.

There is an ambitious program to increase public investment in roads, railways, rural



infrastructure and connectivity (the SECC shows, for example, that mobile penetration is only about a quarter in rural Chattisgarh).

At the same time, the government is creating the conditions for greater private investment: implementing the GST and creating a common market, reforming the land law, easing the costs of doing business, and unblocking stalled projects are all measures that will improve the conditions for investment.

The latest data suggest that the investment cycle is slowly turning around and stalled projects are being unblocked at a faster pace. Passing the GST and reforming the land law will accelerate this investment turnaround.

To re-inforce the effects of growth on alleviating deprivation, but also to help those that may be left out, we need targeted schemes and policies. The government has been helping

the poor by giving them subsidies. But these are poorly targeted and leaky. If we can realize the government's JAM—Jan Dhan Aadhaar, Mobile—vision we can ensure that money goes directly and more quickly into the pockets of the poor and from the savings we achieve we can put even more money for the poor.

The experience with the DBT scheme in LPG is very encouraging: research by the office of the Chief Economic Adviser shows that about Rs. 12,700 crores (25 percent) will be saved this year from the direct benefit transfer (DBT) scheme. If we can be careful in our design and implementation, we can extend DBT to other commodities, so that the poor get more money to spend for their upliftment.

In addition, we must help the poor by protecting them against risks of various kinds. For farmers, we need to use technology to provide more effective crop insurance to safeguard against weather and other catastrophic risks. For others, especially in the informal sector, we need social insurance against old age, illness and longevity. In the budget a number of social insurance schemes were announced, including the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri JeevanJyoti Yojana, and Atal Pension Yojana. We intend to

strengthen these schemes to encourage further take-up.

Growth or redistribution? Policy reforms or targeted anti-poverty schemes? We believe these are false choices. Both are necessary. Growth and economic reforms help the poor as do targeted schemes. That is the message we draw from the SECC.

*Courtesy: Press release, [www.bjp.org](http://www.bjp.org), 05 July 2015*

## States and ladders: Cooperative federalism and fierce competition between states is the backbone of Make in India

· Vasundhara Raje

**C**ooperative federalism built on strong cooperation between the Central and state governments, and fierce competition between state capitals, offers the best odds for creating an Indian state that will deliver a more prosperous, fair and equal India.

In 1884, John Strachey, an Indian Civil Service officer, told students at Cambridge University that “There is not and never was an India... it is impossible that the men of Bombay, the Punjab, Bengal and Madras will ever feel that they belong to one great nation.” How wrong he was. Of India's three projects at Independence — nation-building, social justice and poverty reduction — the Indian state has accomplished the first, but the other two are still works-in-progress. Nation-building was about inspiring, negotiating, building institutions and creating shared narratives. Social justice and poverty reduction require local execution, innovation, delivery, accountability and massive job creation.

Making India a fertile habitat for manufacturing job creation

depends on many of the subjects in our Constitution's concurrent list: education, skills, health, power, land, and labour, among others. It's commendable that New Delhi has finally abandoned the flawed notion that “strong states lead to a weak nation”, because great nations strike a fine balance between centripetal and centrifugal forces. This new cooperative federalism has manifested itself in many ways over the last year: replacing the Planning Commission with the Niti Aayog, the devolution of finances, using Section 254(2) of the Constitution to allow the state legislatures of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and soon Maharashtra to craft changes to Central laws, and creating committees of chief ministers headed by a chief minister on key national issues.

Labour markets are closely related to social justice and poverty reduction, and one of our failures in 68 years of Independence has been the lack of manufacturing



employment. Our farmers are proudly making India the second-largest producer of food in the world — a far cry from the painful 1960s situation of PL-480 wheat imports. Yet, our low farm productivity means that a large part of our poverty is concentrated in agriculture, which can no longer provide living wages to 50 per cent of our labour force. While services are important, the prime minister's Make in India project represents an overdue realisation that India's manufacturing employment is only 11 per cent of the labour force. Make in India is not about reviving industrial policy but making India a fertile habitat for job creation: smart cities, skilling India, digital India, road connectivity, GST going live, improving the ease of doing business, uninterrupted power, renaissance of the railways, and much else. There is implicit bad timing in talking about the long-term solution of creating manufacturing jobs as a response to farm distress in a painful year for agriculture such as this one. Emergency measures should — and are — being taken for farmer distress. But as the emergency agriculture distress measures have impact, it is important to remember the urgent need to link the wages of more of our population to

manufacturing, rather than monsoons.

Job creation happens and clusters due to a complex combination of land, labour and capital. State governments are important partners for Make in India because each has different strengths and weaknesses. Rajasthan has more land than Germany and more people than France. But many of our youth do not have the skills to take advantage of manufacturing and service job creation, and many employers are small, informal and stuck in low productivity.

Our difficult fiscal situation means that we need to attract domestic and foreign investors, besides seeking the help of the Central government.

Gujarat was the pioneer in actively seeking out investments to accelerate job creation. As I seek out investors for our Resurgent Rajasthan summit in November, I am becoming aware of strong competition for investments from various states. This competition forces me and my government to work harder and focus on our strengths: proximity to Delhi (40 per cent of the Delhi-Mumbai corridor will pass through our state), mineral base (we have 74 minerals and produce 24 per cent of India's crude), solar energy, a strong crafts base, and law and order. At

the same time, investors remind me of our obvious weaknesses in school learning outcomes, higher education capacity, drinking water, and untapped tourism potential (we get fewer tourists than Angkor Wat in Cambodia or the Louvre museum in Paris). Rajasthan also needs to learn about creating an IT hub from Andhra Pradesh, PDS improvements from Chhattisgarh, power distribution from Mumbai, and primary health effectiveness from Madhya Pradesh. Besides that, our legislature hopes to reuse the window created by Delhi to customise some concurrent subject laws to Rajasthan's situation in education, skills and labour. Essentially, the Rajasthan government has three priorities: social justice, governance and job creation.

In 1949, Babasaheb Ambedkar said in his speech to the closing session of the Constituent Assembly that “The basic principle of federalism is that the legislative and executive authority is portioned between the Centre and states, not by any law to be made by the Centre but by the Constitution itself. The states are in no way dependent upon the Centre for their authority under our Constitution; the Centre and states are co-equal in this matter.” In the years after Independence, this

relationship became distorted and the two were not “co-equal”. But a new era has begun and the prime minister's dream of Team India will live up to Babasaheb's dream articulated in the same speech that “our political democracy (one man one vote) will one day be complemented by social democracy (one man one value) and economic democracy (one man one opportunity)”.

Unlike some economists and businesspeople who approach reforms with mathematical certainty, most elected politicians know that getting political, social and economic reforms done is like playing a confusing boardgame in which elements of chess are mixed up with snakes and ladders. But cooperative federalism built on strong cooperation between the Central and state governments, and fierce competition between state capitals, offers the best odds for creating an Indian state that will deliver a more prosperous, fair and equal India. The biggest gainers in this “race to the top” will be India's youth.

*(The writer is Chief Minister of Rajasthan)*

*Courtesy: Indian Express, July 7, 2015*

## Why Syama Prasad Mookerjee Is Relevant Today

•Anirban Ganguly



One of the starkest manifestations of the Nehruvian consensus has been the marginalisation, in our national discourse, of non-Nehruvian or non-Congress leaders, both of thought and of politics. These were the leaders who challenged Nehru's political methods and direction; the ones who dared to evolve an alternative framework for national regeneration by drawing inspiration from the deeper civilisational fountains of Indian experience.

There was a peculiar character trait of the Nehruvian system or state. Those who spoke of a different route of national progress, or those who advocated the need to derive

direction and inspiration from our essential civilisational and cultural self, were hardest hit or most severely attacked by the system; their legacies or contributions in independent India largely ignored or shrouded in a mist of obfuscation.

Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, whose 114th birth anniversary falls on this 6th July, was one such stalwart whose legacy would have long been erased had it not been for the determined struggle waged by the political party he founded in independent India.

Rarely does one come across such versatility and such a multifarious action packed life as Syama Prasad Mookerjee's. And that too a life, that all but spanned fifty-two years, only

the last fourteen of which were spent in active politics. Whether it was imparting a new direction to Indian education within the confines of the still-prevailing colonial system; or reaching out to the wider world and inviting its educational institutions to engage with India; or encouraging Indian scholars to undertake excavations and promote the study of Indian history from a liberated Indian perspective; or the setting up of a museum within the University or encouraging the growth of Bharatiya languages, as the youngest Vice-Chancellor of the University of Calcutta, Syama Prasad, in his tenure, succeeded in giving an altogether refreshing and bold educational path.

While Syama Prasad's father, Asutosh Mookerjee— himself a legendary educationist and juridical icon— going against convention, bestowed on Rabindranath Tagore a doctorate, Syama Prasad invited Tagore in 1937 to deliver the University convocation address in Bengali – the first such invitation in the annals of the University. It was a move that repositioned to some centrality the importance of Indian languages in the cultural and political regeneration of India. A deeply moved Tagore, in his address, referred to how Syama Prasad's father had “carved a

channel...through which the Bengali language could flow into” the precincts of the university and how now his ‘worthy son and successor” had widened that channel for which he deserved the “blessings of his motherland.” In fact, it was such unconventionality, and non-conformism that always characterised Syama Prasad's public action, be it in the field of politics, education or administration.

The sanctions of a colonial system, the stranglehold of the colonial education machinery could never deter him from speaking his mind out on the degradation of India under foreign yoke. Addressing the students of the University of Patna, for example, on their Convocation day sometime in 1937, Syama Prasad, unequivocally described the detrimental effects of foreign rule on our educational direction and priorities. “We must boldly take stock”, he reminded his young audience, “of the things that we have lost and yearn for. We find a general decay of the creative Indian arts which once triumphantly flourished in this land, and produced the frescoes of Ajanta and the Taj of Agra, Indian music, Indian art and architecture, and Indian literature...We witness the decline and disappearance of the indigenous industries of India

which mainly thrived in her own towns and villages. Such cottage industries, if they are to be revived, developed and saved from foreign competition require the unstinted support of the state. We find also deplorable neglect of the health and welfare of the villages of India which are today but shadows of their former affluence and happiness. Indeed much of India's poverty and distress is traced to systematic pursuit of an economic and industrial policy which has not been prompted and administered in the sole interest of India and her inhabitants."

His concern for evolving a wide base of research on civilisational subjects that would aid in articulating the Indian narrative saw forceful reiteration years later in independent India.

Addressing the students and faculty of Delhi University in 1952, perhaps his last educational address, Syama Prasad broached an agenda which would remain largely unfulfilled or adversely addressed in the decades that followed. In this articulation of his comes his essential self and world-view, that of an educationist eager to blend India's civilisational acquisitions and repositories with the exigencies of the present and at the same time eager to disseminate these to a

world eagerly looking towards India for light and knowledge.

Syama Prasad consistently argued for the need to encourage research "on subjects which have a special relation to the Indian problems of today or the basic conception of Indian culture and civilisation. Indian History, Indian Thought and Philosophy, Indian Art, Architecture, Music and Indian Sociology afford field for laborious work by hundreds of scholars. The fruits of their study and investigation are bound to produce new light which will help us in remodeling the structure of our society and the pattern of our lives in a worthy manner. Information on these subjects is widely sought for today by people coming from distant lands...To unearth the hidden wisdom of our country is not to seek benefit for ourselves alone, enabling us to appreciate our heritage, but also to share it with the rest of the world."

His presence, his commitment to the causes he championed inspired confidence not only among Syama Prasad's adherents and among those who once politically opposed him but also among some of the leading minds of his era. It is little known or discussed that it was Sardar Patel who pushed for Syama Prasad's entry in the first cabinet of

independent India. When as a disciplined political soldier and worker, Syama Prasad is said to have asked Savarkar on the course he should adopt over Patel's proposal, Savarkar, displaying his essential statesmanship and vision, advised Syama Prasad to accept the offer as it would give an opportunity to directly work for India's regeneration. Such aspects or actions of these leaders have been conveniently consigned to the dungeons of oblivion lest they upset the carefully crafted and politically potent false image that has served a certain political line.

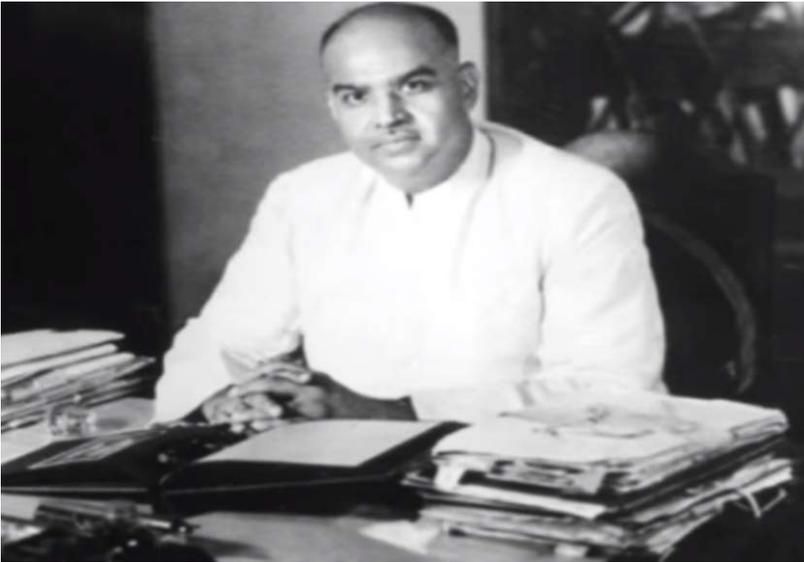
It is little known, for example, that when the son of the iconic revolutionary-nationalist Bagha Jatin (Jatindranath Mukherjee) asked Sri Aurobindo as to what their course of political action must be in Muslim League dominated Bengal, the Sage of Pondicherry is said to have instructed them to join Syama Prasad and to strengthen his work for the Hindus of Bengal. Even in his acceptance to join the Fazlul Haq government in Bengal as Finance Minister Syama Prasad displayed an astute political sense by ensuring, at least for a while, the sidelining of the Muslim League and exposing the colonial Bengal administration, especially its Governor's designs to up the ante on

the communal front and keep the state on a perennial state of uncertainty and conflict.

In a letter to the then Bengal Governor, Syama Prasad wrote, that:

*“for the first time in the history of British India, whatever democratic constitution has been handed over to us, in spite of its manifold defects, was sought to be worked in Bengal by Hindu and Muslims representatives who wielded considerable influence over their own community. The success of this experiment naturally would give a lie direct to the plea of communal disharmony standing in the way of India's political advancement.”*

While the Governor and his secretariat, “particularly the British and pro-Muslim League personnel,” did “everything possible to discredit the ministry, by putting hindrances in the way of its smooth sailing and encouraging the Muslim League opposition to kick up communal trouble”, Syama Prasad performed as one of the best Finance Ministers. It was also a period when after a long interval, the Hindus of Bengal began feeling completely safe and assured. The rabid Islamist elements, the Leaguers and colonial cronies were for the first time sidelined in Bengal politics.



In his personal life and political conviction Syama Prasad Mookerjee's pragmatism, fearless commitment to the democratic spirit and polity of India and especially to her integrity is what defined and set him apart and above many of his peers. While Nehru spoke of crushing dissent and opposition, Syama Prasad spoke of annihilating and crushing that mentality itself. It was largely due to his dexterous statesmanship and vision that an opposition block could evolve and survive the Congress's steam-rolling tendencies. In his short years in Parliament, he not only strengthened the fledgling republic's democratic ethos but also displayed a remarkable appreciation of the federal spirit. Perhaps he was cautioning against a growing Nehruvian tendency when he once observed, that the function of a leader is "to try and bring out the

best among his people and not to hesitate to correct their weaknesses – for every nation and every community has its weaknesses: [and] if instead leaders of the people try to follow the easier course – to appeal to weaknesses or to encourage tendencies that they know to be adverse to sound development – then the result will be not be progress but decline and disaster.”

In the end, as he once observed with great prescience, “Nations live or die according to the character of the people. Wealth, arms, munitions, disciplined armies and navies and air forces are of splendid service but the character of the people, the character in to which the youth is growing, determines the life or death of the nation.”

It augurs well that in the changed political atmosphere of the last one year, Syama Prasad Mookerjee's vision of civilisational India, and the evolution of her present and future have greater scope for fulfillment and fruition. That would eventually mean the complete dissolution of the Nehruvian narrative and its debilitating expressions and effects.

*Courtesy: swarajyamag.com*

## Gujarat's Akodara Becomes India's First 'Digital Village'

**A** kodara, a small village situated in Sabarkantha district in the state of Gujarat, around 100 km from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's

hometown Vadnagar, has emerged as India's first 'Digital Village'. All transactions above Rs. 10 are being done online here. And it is all set to become India's first paperless

# DIGITAL VILLAGE



Recreating Rural India

## VILLAGE: AKODARA



EASY TRANSACTIONS: "Activities such as selling agri-produce at the local mandi or milk at the co-operative society have been made cashless." Picture shows an ATM in the village. Photo: Bhadresh Gajjar, Source: *The Hindu*, July 14, 2015

village contributing to making Modi's 'Digital India' dream come true.

The villagers have RuPay debit card, which they use for various transactions in the village. For purchasing groceries, villagers don't need to carry cash with them. They can make payment through mobile banking. The mobile banking platform uses Gujarati as the medium of communication, which is user-friendly for the villagers.

The village, having WiFi connectivity, is situated at a distance of 90 km from Ahmedabad and comprises around 200 households with a total population of 1,100. Everyone above 18 years of age has a bank account. A digital display has been installed at a crossroads in which real-time prices of agro commodities of all major Gujarat mandies (agriculture produce markets) are displayed. Before selling their products,

farmers of this tiny village make it a point to confirm prices of various mandies.

The village has also its website — akodara-digital village.in.

Everybody in the village uses smart phone having Internet connectivity. They have been taught to use mobile banking application. It has made the life of villagers easy. Villagers are paying their electricity, mobile and other bills online.

Not only 'Digital India', the Akodara village has also taken lead in PM Modi's cleanliness drive. One can see neat and clean streets and well-planned system for the disposal of solid waste. Here India's first animal hostel has been initiated. People keep their cattle at the hostel unlike other traditional villages where domestic animals are kept in the backyard of home. Due to the animal hostel, villagers are also able to keep their village clean because they are not roaming around in the streets. At the same time experts take care of cattle at the animal hostel which results increase of in the milk production too.

## Swachh Bharat Mission Picks Up Momentum in Urban Areas

**I**mplementation of Swachh Bharat Mission in urban areas of the country has picked up momentum during the first three months of current financial year. Applications have been received from the States and Union Territories for construction of 30,41,097 individual household toilets as against the target of construction of one crore such toilets by the year 2019 out of which

the Ministry of Urban Development has sanctioned 13,64,814 toilets. Regarding construction of over 5 lakh community and public toilet seats, the Ministry has sanctioned 82,438.

Under the Swachh Bharat Mission in urban areas, 17,411 community and public toilet seats have been built during April-June, 2015. During the said period, 1,13,000 individual household toilets have





been constructed. Since the launch of Swachh Bharat Mission in October last year, a total of 3.83 lakh individual household toilets and 17,411 community and public toilets have been constructed. In respect of Solid Waste Management, 28,908 wards out of the total of 78,003 wards in all the States/UTs have reported 100% door to door collection of solid waste.

Regarding construction of individual household toilets, Gujarat is way ahead of others having built 2,64,331 followed by

Madhya Pradesh with 99,151. These two states together account for 94% of the total toilets built till the end of June, 2015. Tamil Nadu is way ahead of others in Solid Waste Management with 9,935 wards out of the total of 13,667 wards reporting 100% door to door collection of waste.

*SPMRF Desk*

# PM Modi's Trip to Central Asia, As Well As Russia, Have Boosted India's Multi-Directional Strategy

• *Sreeram Chaulia*

**M**odi's energetic diplomacy last week demonstrated that India can be the fourth seeker of influence there.

Speaking at Nazarbayev University in Kazakhstan, he enjoined governments and peoples in the region to remember that "as Central Asia links to the East and the West, it must also connect to the South, for that is how it always was." His pointed reference to the 'South' is to India and the subcontinent, which offer a way out of the dilemma that Central Asians confront after becoming sandwiched between Russia and China.

The palpitation that countries like Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan have been undergoing under the looming Chinese shadow over their energy sectors has generated an opening that Modi is trying to exploit.

His push for India to be admitted into the Uzbekistan-Turkmenistan-Oman-Iran transport

corridor for natural gas was welcomed by the nations concerned which realise how valuable the Indian market is at a time when energy prices have touched bottom.

The setback to ONGC Videsh in 2013 in Kazakhstan, which blocked Indian acquisition of a prized oil well, has been made up via a new oil concession in the north Caspian Sea where our energy major holds minority stakes. Modi has also



extracted commitments from Kazakhstan for "additional mature blocks for Indian investment", besides fresh contracts for uranium supply.

### **Need for Diversification**

The reason why Central Asians are eagerly letting India in is because of their widely perceived need for diversification away from the big two — China and Russia. India would like to project that it is not replaying the harmful 'Great Game' but providing greater freedom to Central Asia, which treasures its independence.

As a relatively declining power in Central Asia vis-a-vis ascendant China, Russia deems a growing Indian footprint there as desirable.

Modi specially thanked Russian president Vladimir Putin for facilitating India's admission into the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), a security-focussed group that includes four Central Asian states, China and Russia. If not for Russia's persuasion, the Chinese could have stymied our access to SCO out of fear that New Delhi may compete with Beijing in Central Asia.

Pakistan's full membership of SCO is a Chinese ploy to 'balance' the reshuffled makeup of this important multilateral body. But ironically, the fact that both Pakistan and India are

now going to be SCO members raises possibilities of improved bilateral relations between the two South Asian neighbours, igniting hopes of a regional solution to the war in Afghanistan.

During this marathon six-nation tour, Modi invoked India's heritage of moderate Islam and its complementarity with the Sovietised Islam of Central Asia. The real challenge for Indian diplomacy after the PM has done the spade work is to ensure that the SCO and BRICS, whose members issue communiques denouncing religious extremism, walk the talk.

China's repeated siding with Pakistan on the issue of letting internationally proscribed jihadists like Zakiur Rehman Lakhvi, the mastermind of the Mumbai terror attacks, off the hook is an indicator of the obstacles that lie ahead. The only satisfaction is that as a full member, India can rally SCO for action against all shades of terrorism, thereby exposing countries which practise double standards. Modi's Northern voyage has equipped India with several agenda-shaping levers in the 'heartland'.

*(The author is Professor of International Relations at JSIA)*

*Courtesy: The Economic Times, 12 Jul, 2015*

# Narendra Modi, BRICS & the Alternate Pole

• *Anirban Ganguly*

**E**xactly a year ago when Prime Minister Modi undertook the long trip to Fortaleza to attend his first BRICS summit, many pundits of diplomacy, doubted the wisdom to undertake such a distant visit. One year down the line that visit has been amply justified and a process initiated then, has come a full circle with PM Modi's participation at BRICS in Ufa along with his crucial Central Asian sojourn. In a sense, these along with India's assumption of the presidency of the BRICS Bank, completes the first round in shaping and consolidating an alternate world structure or framework.

It is interesting that such a formation gathers momentum in a year when the UN celebrates its 70th anniversary. India's articulation, especially through PM Modi, in favour of restructuring the UNSC is a proposition that is bound to gather momentum as India pro-actively engages with countries and people within her civilisational space. In fact, the call to restructure the UNSC, a call which PM Modi has reiterated in various forums over the last one year, is a sign that the shaping of an alternate global pole also announces the re-balancing and re-drawing of a world order which has essentially been Western in its construct and reflects a mindset spawned by the last global conflagration of the 1940s.

The UN as a body, which is essentially the creation of a world order that was shaped seven decades back, can hardly aspire to articulate or symbolise the hopes and yearnings of world that is vastly

different in terms of dynamism, variety and ambition. That the Ufa declaration takes note of the need to restructure the UN and of “the need for a comprehensive reform of the United Nations, including its Security Council with a view to making it more representative and efficient so that it could better respond to global challenges” reflects the forceful and articulation of the aspirations of another pole.

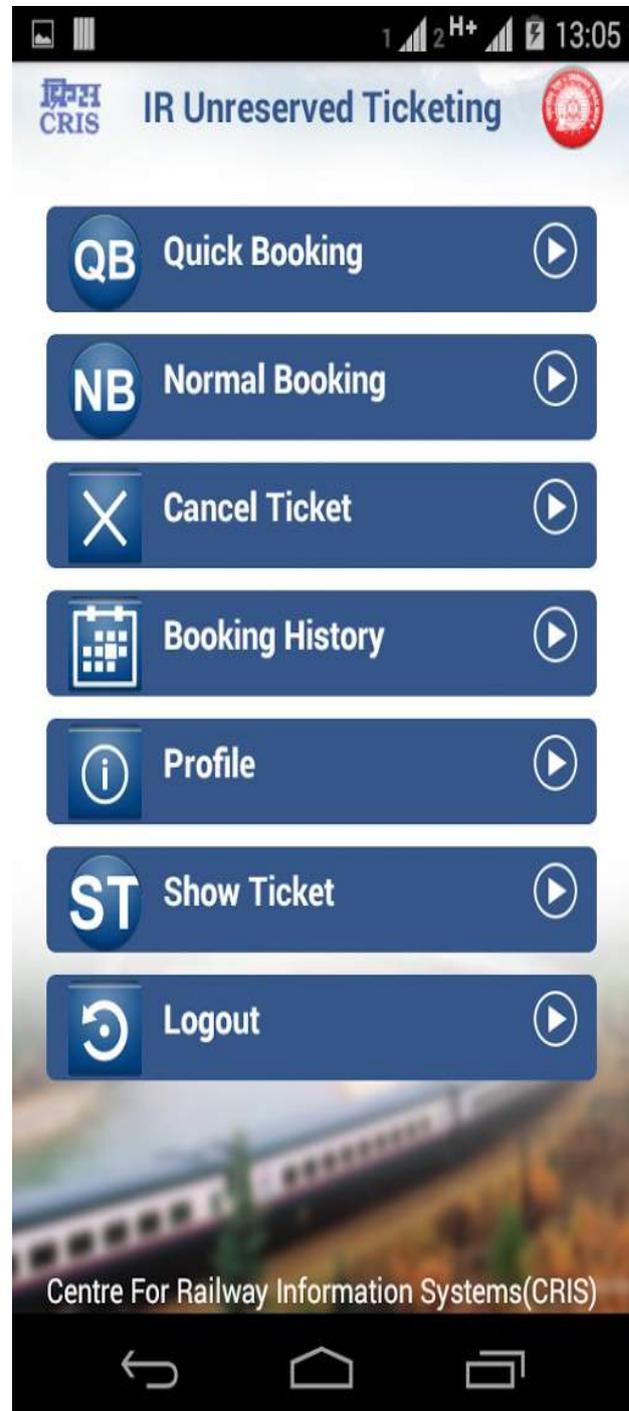
The Ufa declaration, in no uncertain terms, sets the agenda for the alteration of the global order in the next two decades. The fact that the BRICS stakeholders see the forum as a “powerful factor of global development” signifies its seriousness in urging the creation of an alternate web of multilateralism beyond and away from the control of the dominant and existing multilateral structures. The fact that the BRICS members confirm their intention to “further enhance the collective role of our countries in international affairs”, is in itself indicative of the progress of the effort and is in line with India's new foreign policy objectives.

PM Modi's hands on approach to the creation of an alternate multilateral structure, his dynamic effort in the cementing ties and ironing differences, his proactive initiatives in pushing India's agenda and world-view in this process has propelled India to the centre of any such effort for alternative order creation. A new dexterity in managing global contradictions and in maneuvering complexities has informed India's effort in this regard in the last year. It is a shift that was long awaited.

## Ministry of Railways Mobile App for Paperless Unreserved Tickets

In an effort to save the Mumbaikars' trouble of waiting in long queues to purchase tickets, Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu recently launched a Mobile App for paperless unreserved tickets for 35 lakh commuters using the Western Railway's suburban section in the metropolis. Undertaken under the Centre's 'Digital India' programme, the Mobile App for Paperless Unreserved Tickets on Mumbai Suburban section has been made available for 35 lakh commuters using the Western Railway's suburban system between Churchgate and Dahanu Road.

The mobile phone has been developed as part of the 'Operation Five Minutes' initiative announced by Prabhu in his Railway budget for 2015-16 presented early this year. The initiative, under which the unreserved tickets can be booked using smart phones, has been brought out to improve access and availability of unreserved tickets. Introduced by the Railways, the new mobile phone App is aimed at implementing the concept of Paperless Unreserved Ticketing through mobile phones, in a big way. The application not only



eliminates the inconvenience for commuters of having to wait in queues to purchase tickets, but also reduces the use of paper for printing tickets.

## Ministry of HRD Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan (RAA) Launched by MHRD Seeks to Develop Scientific Temper Among School Children

**R**ashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan (RAA) is a unique concept developed by the Ministry of Human Resource Development that aims to inculcate a spirit of inquiry, creativity and love for Science and Mathematics in school children.

RAA is an initiative by Ministry of HRD to encourage students to learn sciences beyond the classrooms. It is an effort to take forward the Prime Minister's vision of Digital India, 'Make in India' and 'Teach in India'. While launching the initiative, Smriti Irani, the Union Minister, also emphasised the fact that more and more women should be encouraged to participate in the field of science and technologies. She talked of efforts made by INTEL for nurturing scientific temper among girl students. She also mentioned Google India's initiative of Code to Learn Contest which will

enable students to learn in the Google campus and announced that Phase II of RAA will be launched in January, 2016 for higher education under which model science labs will be established in all districts of the North Eastern States.

Under Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan, government schools will be mentored by Institutes like IITs/ IIMs/ IISERs and other Central Universities and reputed organisations through innovative programmes, student exchanges, demonstrations, student visits etc to develop a natural sense of passion towards learning of Science and Maths.





# PILLARS OF DIGITAL INDIA

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting  
Government of India



## e-Kranti - Electronic delivery of services



Transformation and not Translation

Integrated Services and not Individual Services

ICT Infrastructure on Demand

Cloud by Default

Mobile First

Fast Tracking Approvals

Mandating Standards & Protocols

Language Localization

National GIS  
(Geo-Spatial Information System)

Security and Electronic Data Preservation

Government Process Reengineering (GPR)  
to be mandatory in every MMP

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## Early Harvest Programmes

**1** IT Platform for Messages

**2** Government Greetings to be e-Greetings

**3** Biometric Attendance

**4** Wi-Fi in All Universities

**5** Secure Email within Government

**6** Standardize Government Email Design

**7** Public Wi-Fi Hotspots

**10** National Portal for Lost & Found Children

**9** SMS Based Weather Information, Disaster Alerts

**8** School Books to be e-Books

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भारतीय जनता पार्टी के राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष श्री अमित शाह जी का रंगशारदा में आयोजित  
महा-सम्पर्क अभियान के तीसरे क्षेत्रीय बैठक में उद्बोधन  
**भाजपा कार्यकर्ता चुनाव में जय-पराजय के लिये नहीं बल्कि सिद्धांत और  
विचारधारा के लिये अनवरत कार्य करते हैं : अमित शाह**



भाजपा के राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष श्री अमित शाह ने कार्यकर्ताओं का आह्वान करते हुये कहा कि भाजपा कार्यकर्ता चुनाव में जय-पराजय के लिये नहीं बल्कि सिद्धांत और विचारधारा के लिये अनवरत कार्य करते हैं जिनका लक्ष्य भारत माता को विश्व गुरु बनाने के लिए समर्पित है। विचार, कार्यक्रम एवं सिद्धांत – इस त्रिसूत्री आधार पर कार्य करने के कारण ही भाजपा कठिन से कठिन परिस्थितियों का सामना करने के पश्चात भी ना कभी टूटी, ना कभी बिखरी, बल्कि दिन-पे-दिन मजबूत होती गई और आज भारतीय जनता पार्टी पूर्ण बहुमत के साथ सत्ता में है। यही नहीं विश्व-पटल पर भाजपा को सबसे बड़ा राजनीतिक दल होने का गौरव प्राप्त हुआ है।

उन्होंने कहा कि आज भारतीय जनता पार्टी के 11 करोड़ से अधिक सदस्य हैं। हमारा मकसद इस संख्याबल से चुनाव जीतने वाली राजकीय ताकत बनाना नहीं है वरन हम संवेदनशील कार्यकर्ताओं का तेज पुंज समूह लेकर एक सशक्त भारत का

निर्माण करने का प्रयत्न करेंगे। वे रंगशारदा में आयोजित भाजपा के महा-सम्पर्क अभियान के तीसरे क्षेत्रीय बैठक को संबोधित कर रहे थे। इस बैठक में भाजपा के पांच पश्चिमी राज्य महाराष्ट्र, गोवा, गुजरात, दादर नगर हवेली एवं दमन दीव के कार्यकर्ता सम्मिलित थे।

श्री शाह ने कहा कि हमारा आगामी कार्यक्रम राज्य स्तर पर 15 लाख कार्यकर्ताओं को तीन महीने में प्रशिक्षित करने का है। इस प्रकार का प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम विश्व में इस तरह की पहली अभूतपूर्व घटना होगी। उन्होंने कहा कि आज पूरे देश में लगभग 1600 राजनीतिक पार्टियां हैं परन्तु बहुत कम पार्टियाँ ऐसी हैं जो आंतरिक लोकतंत्र के सिद्धांत पर कार्य करती हैं। भारतीय जनता पार्टी एकमात्र ऐसी पार्टी है जहाँ आंतरिक लोकतंत्र प्रभावी रूप से लागू है और इसका मुझे अभिमान है। पद प्राप्त करने के लिए यहाँ किसी विशिष्ट घर में जन्म लेने की आवश्यकता नहीं है। इस पार्टी में समर्पण



भाव से काम करनेवाला कोई भी कार्यकर्ता पार्टी का अध्यक्ष एवं देश का प्रधानमंत्री बन सकता है। उन्होंने कहा कि अब हम केंद्र में एक सत्ताधारी दल हैं, अतः कार्यकर्ताओं की भूमिका और दायित्व और भी बढ़ जाती है। उन्होंने कहा कि आनेवाले समय में लंबे समय तक हम पंचायत से लेकर लोकसभा तक सत्ता में रहनेवाले हैं। आज प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी जी ने दुनिया में भारत का मान व सम्मान बढ़ाया है और राष्ट्र को गौरवान्वित किया है। यही नहीं आज मोदी जी को विश्व स्तर पर सर्वाधिक लोकप्रिय नेता के रूप में स्वीकार किया जा रहा है।

भाजपा के राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष श्री अमित शाह ने कहा कि केंद्र में श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी जी की सरकार ने अत्यंत ही कार्यसक्षम एवं प्रभावी रूप से काम करते हुये कई अच्छे कार्यों के क्रियान्वयन की योजना बनाई है और उसके लिए उचित निर्णय लिया है। एक वर्ष में 24 नई लोक – कल्याणकारी योजनाएँ शुरू की गई है जो इस प्रकार हैं: जन-धन योजना, श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी ररबन मिशन, दीनदयाल उपाध्याय ग्राम

ज्योति योजना, अटल पेंशन योजना, नमामि गंगे, प्रधानमंत्री सुरक्षा बीमा योजना, प्रधानमंत्री जीवन ज्योति बीमा योजना, मुद्रा, अमृत, बेटी बचाओ बेटी पढ़ाओ, स्वच्छ भारत, मेक इन इंडिया, स्किल्ड इंडिया, डिजिटल इंडिया, सांसद आदर्श ग्राम योजना, सुकन्या समृद्धि योजना, गरीब कल्याण योजना, प्रधानमंत्री आवास योजना, दीनदयाल पुनर्वास योजना, मृदा स्वस्थ्य कार्ड, प्रधानमंत्री कृषि सिंचाई योजना, सागरमल, स्मार्ट सिटी योजना और पंडित दीनदयाल उपाध्याय श्रमेव जयते कार्यक्रम। इन सारे कार्यों को हमें जन-जन तक पहुँचाना है। लोगों तक योजनाओं को ले जाते हुए हमें आम लोगों की अपेक्षाओं और आकाँक्षाओं को सरकार तक भी पहुंचानी है। श्री शाह ने विश्वास व्यक्त करते हुए कहा कि इस तरह से लोगों के बहुत से प्रश्न संगठन के माध्यम से हल होंगे और भाजपा के प्रति जहाँ जनमानस में विश्वास बढ़ेगा वहीं भाजपा का जनाधार भी बढ़ेगा।

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

- Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee

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

