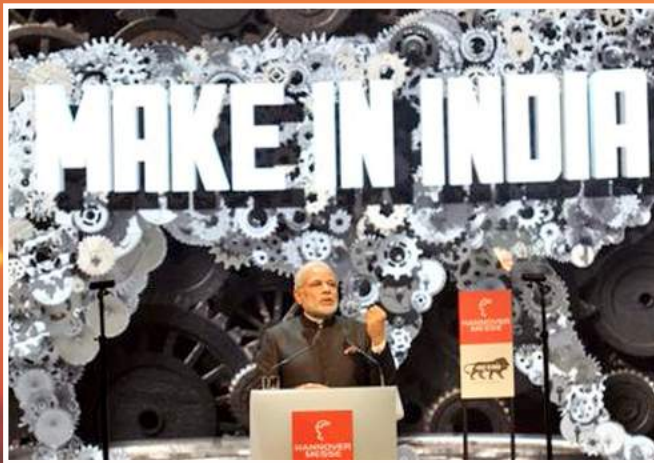




THE NATIONALIST

An Indian perspective

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GST GOODS & SERVICE TAX

Special Article

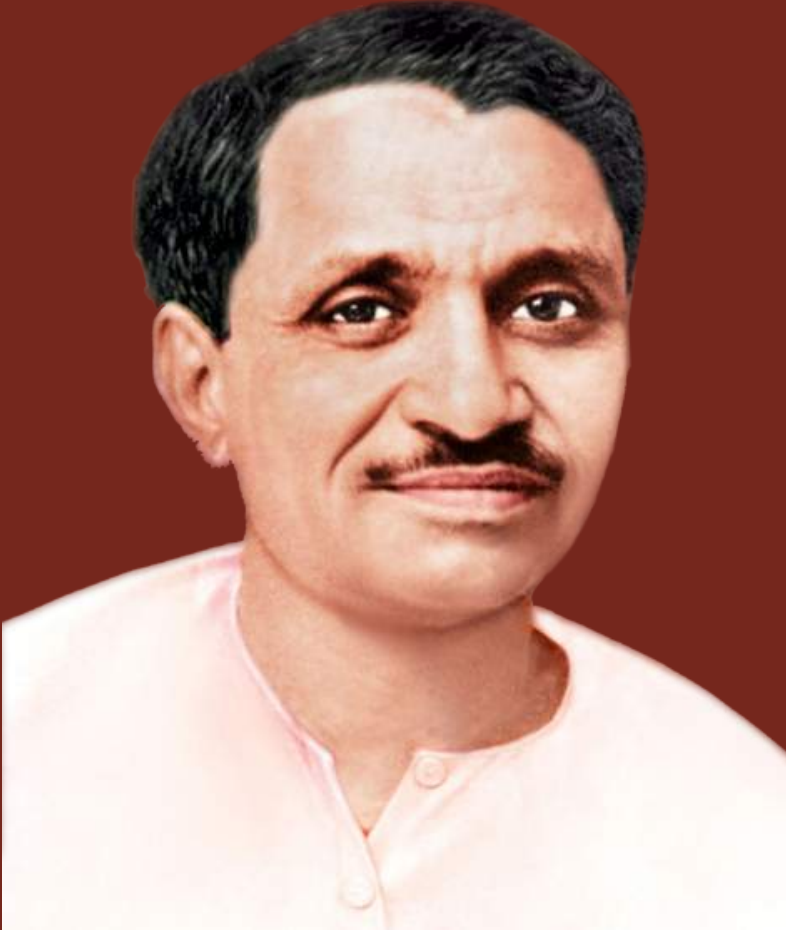
Goods and Services Taxes - time to move on

Land Acquisition Bill:
Trust Modi, his vision
worked in Gujarat

Operation "Maitri"
&
Operation "Rahat"

Dynamic Outreach in
Education under
Modi Sarkar

यह जगत संघर्षात्मक नहीं, सृजनात्मक है



“यदि हम चाहते हैं कि विश्व संहार और विनाश से बचें तो हमें इस स्थिति को बदलना होगा। राष्ट्र को बदलने की आवश्यकता नहीं। वह बदला नहीं जा सकता। हमें तो जीवन का दर्शन बदलना होगा। सृष्टि के विकास की सही विवेचना करनी होगी। पश्चिम के खगोलशास्त्री कोपर्निकस के पूर्व टालेमी के ही सिद्धांत को अकाट्य सत्य मानकर चलते थे। तब तक पृथ्वी के चारों ओर सूर्य घूमता था। बाद में सूर्य के चारों ओर पृथ्वी घूमने लगी। आज पश्चिम को ऐसे किसी क्रांतिकारी दर्शन

की आवश्यकता है। ईश्वर और शैतान के द्वैत के स्थान पर अद्वैत का ज्ञान कराना होगा। यह जगत संघर्षात्मक नहीं, सृजनात्मक है। बीज वृक्षा के रूप में संघर्ष के लिए नहीं तो अपने स्वतः के साक्षात्कार के लिए प्रकट होता है। उसके जीवन का उद्देश्य किसी का विनाश नहीं, किसी के लिए अपने आपको समर्पित कर देना है। सम्पूर्ण सृष्टि एक दूसरे को सहयोग देती हुई चल रही है। इसका आधार संघर्ष नहीं सहयोग है।... यदि हम विकासवादी हैं तो सृष्टि के सृजन का नियम हमें स्वीकार करना चाहिए, विसर्जन या संहार का नहीं। ”

- दीनदयाल उपाध्याय

- (राष्ट्र चिंतन : दीनदयाल उपाध्याय, लोकहित प्रकाशन, लखनऊ : 2007: पृ० 112)

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Editorial Advisors :

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

Dr. Anirban Ganguly
Director, SPMRF

Dr. Shiv Shakti Bakshi
Executive Editor, Kamal Sandesh

Research Team:

Amarjeet Singh

Siddharth Singh

Shubhendu Anand

Ajit Jha

Priya Sharma

Gaurav Jha

Shailendra Kumar Shukla

Nandan Singh Bisht

Published by :

Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee
Research Foundation

11, Ashok Road,

New Delhi - 110001

E-mail : office@spmrf.org,

Telephone : 011 - 48005769

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EDITORIAL

The devastating earthquake which hit Nepal and parts of India last week was heart rending. The swiftness with which Prime Minister Narendra Modi directed relief efforts to the affected people in Nepal and India was inspiring and hope-generating. The energy with which the Forces, MEA, NDRF and other agencies were pressed into action was remarkable as it was reassuring. Demonstrating and expressing India's spirit of true friendship and support Prime Minister said that "for 125 crore Indians, Nepal is their own country and India will make all efforts to wipe the tears of every person in Nepal, hold their hands and stand with them", such genuine utterances of intent and action have gone a long way in cementing ties between countries in the neighbourhood. It also lends credence to Prime Minister Modi's vision of evolving SAARC into a region of shared prosperity and cooperation.

After a long interval an Indian Prime Minister has chosen to focus on Europe and undertook a highly successful visit to that continent. An action packed tour of Europe and Canada yielded great results in

areas such as defence, industry, investment and economic growth. Prime Minister's visit to UNESCO, to the Memorial to Indian soldiers fallen during World War-I, his visit to the memorial of Komagata Maru and to the one dedicated to victims of the Kanishka flight that was bombed by terrorists, offered a healing touch and was a recognition of India's global contributions in the past and of the sacrifice of her soldiers and freedom fighters.

Some political parties – particularly the AAP and the Congress – have been indulging in petty politicking over the farmers' issue in the country. While one party displayed its most inhuman side by goading a farmer to his death, the other – after having presided over the farmers' ruin for years now – is resorting to polemics and cheap publicity stunts. The Prime Minister's word that the country and the Government is resolved to stand by the farmers and to work in alleviating their problems has completely exposed the false tears and attitudes of these parties and their leaders. The LAB as it is being sought to be introduced by the Government, in fact, aims at improving the farmers' condition in

the country and to work out a more prosperous future for them. As Chief Minister of Gujarat, Prime Minister Modi had one of the best and most innovative track-record on the agronomical front and one is certain that it will be no different at the national level as well.

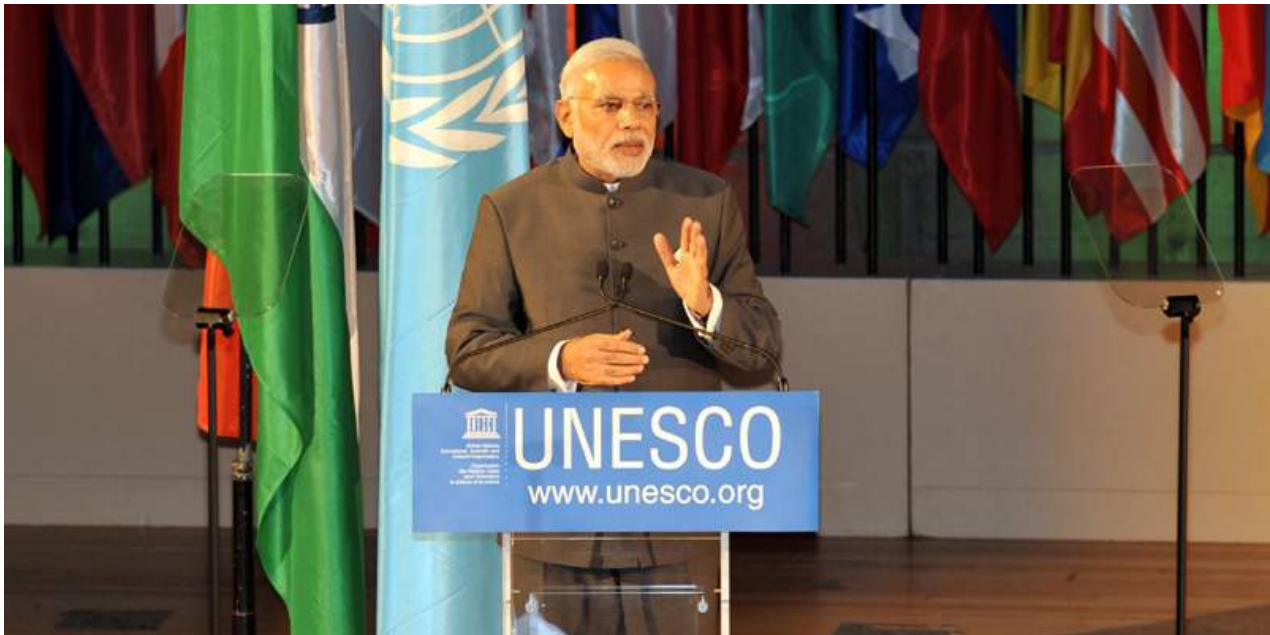
In a deeply significant outreach the national president of the BJP has undertaken a continuous tour of the Northeastern state and has interacted with Party workers and members of the civil society as well. In fact through such an effort the Party has actualized ACT EAST- and has generated a new momentum. Those who argue that BJP's profile is limited or constricted to one geographical part of the country have been proved wrong, the

response that the Party President's tour generated in the region is not only an indication of things to come but also demonstrates the seriousness with which the BJP wishes to work for the progress and prosperity of the Northeastern states.

Those who choose to live with blinkers, or remain confused or prisoners of a past degenerative political habit are the ones who are trying to slow India's progress – they were rejected in the past and shall be rejected in the future as well. Aspirational India will no more be hijacked by negative political agendas.

- Dr. Anirban Ganguly
Director, SPMRF

PM Modi's Address to UNESCO



Our goal: Our collective goal is to seek a peaceful and prosperous future for our world, in which every Nation has a voice; all people have an identity; all cultures are flowers in a garden; every human being has a life of dignity; every child a future of opportunity; and our planet the chance to preserve its glory. The seeds of our collective destiny are sown in human minds .It is nurtured by the light of education and the spirit of enquiry. Education always had a special place in our tradition. As our ancient saying goes, “It is the wealth that increases by giving, that wealth is knowledge. And is supreme of all possessions”.

Modern state in an ancient land: We have built a modern state in an ancient land, with a timeless tradition of openness and co-existence; and, a society of extraordinary diversity. The foundation of our Constitution rests on a fundamental principle: the peace and prosperity of all is indivisible from the

welfare of the individual; the strength of the nation is determined by the joined hands of every citizen; and, real progress is measured through empowerment of the weakest. We shall judge our progress not just by the cold statistics of growth, but by the warm glow of belief and hope on human faces.

Importance of girl child education: Our progress will remain a mirage unless women no longer suffer from daily fear, or barriers to opportunity; and, when they are no longer victims of exclusion and prejudice. And, this change must begin with the girl child. So, the programme to educate and support the girl child in India is one that is closest to my heart. We will ensure that they can go to school; and, also, that they can attend it in safety and dignity.

Digital India and role of Science: Today, the digital age has created opportunities beyond imagination; but, digital divide can expand dispari-

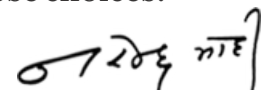
ties. On the other hand, digital connectivity and smart phones have create a revolution of possibilities to educate, deliver services and extend development. Our Digital India will create a participative, transparent and a responsive government, connected to the citizens. For us, science is driven by the larger purpose of human development; and, for a safe, sustainable, prosperous future for India. Science also unites people across borders in a shared purpose. And, when we share its fruits with those who don't have it, we connect lives and make our world a better place.

Culture must connect, not divide, our world: Culture is a sublime expression of a people; and, the foundations of a society. UNESCO's initiatives to preserve the world's cultural heritage, including in India, are inspiring. We see India's rich and diverse cultural heritage as humanity's wealth. And, we will do everything to preserve it for future generations. Culture must connect, not divide, our world. It should be a bridge to greater respect and understanding between people. It should join nations in peace and harmony. We must turn deep into our cultures; traditions; and religions; to overcome the rising tide of extremism, violence, and divisions across the world. Cultures also hold great wealth of traditional knowledge. Societies across the world have evolved them through wisdom gathered over the ages. And, they hold the secrets to economic, efficient, and, environment friendly solutions to many of our

problems.

Role of UNESCO: We see the value of UNESCO to our world with great clarity. In the challenges of our times, we see its purpose with a sense of urgency. The fault lines in our world are shifting from the boundaries of nations into the web of our societies and the streets of our cities. The threats are changing from domination by states to destruction by groups. We fight today not only over what we claim, but also for who we are. And, in many parts of the world, culture remains a source of conflict. We have access to communication at the click of a mouse. We live in a world of information. Yet, we know that familiarity does not always lead to fraternity; or reduce prejudice. UNESCO can play a vital role in addressing them.

Climate change and India's philosophy: Climate change is a pressing global challenge. And, it calls for a collective human action; and, a comprehensive response. We must draw upon our entire wealth of wisdom; the strength of every institution; all possibilities of innovation; and, the power of science. In India, faith and Nature have had a deep link since ancient times. For us, the only path to prosperity is the sustainable one. We make this choice with the natural instincts of our culture and tradition. Too often, our discussion is reduced to an argument about emission cuts. But, we are more likely to succeed if we offer affordable solutions, not simply impose choices.



NARENDRA MODI

Salient Points of PM Modi's Speech at the Inaugural Session of Hannover Messe

Message of Indian Lions: The lions are a symbol of a new India. They roar; but with a message of friendship and promise of partnership. We want to accelerate economic growth and create jobs for our youth. We want to build world class industry and infrastructure. We want to transform our cities and villages; clean up our environment; and improve the quality of life.

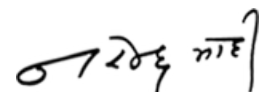
India, a land which is full of opportunities: India is open and ready to embrace the world. As I have travelled around the world, I have seen a new level of interest in building partnerships of trade, investment and innovation in India. It mirrors the surge of hope in our own people and industry; the new tide of expectation in our 800 million youth – for opportunities and progress. And, if we want to fulfill the dreams of our youth, we must turn our industry into a manufacturing hub for the world and an engine for employment at home. And, we must equip our youth with the skills to meet the needs of our nation, and the demands of the globalized world.

Why Make in India? --Whatever we choose to do, from reaching the cutting edge of industry to meeting the most critical social need, we require investment and technology, industry and enterprise. That is why for me, Make in India is not a brand. Nor is it simply a slogan on a smart lion! It is a new national movement. And, it covers the

whole spectrum of our government, society and business. Our scale of transformation is vast; therefore, the opportunities we offer are huge.

Role of Good Governance: Good Governance is essential not just for our citizens, but also for business. With transparency and speed, we have resumed long stalled projects and allocation of resources. This is adding new momentum to our economy. Our task is huge; it won't be completed overnight. But, I am confident that it will. And, we are moving firmly and clearly in that direction. The wind of change is there. And, it is gathering speed.

Dreaming a prosperous future: We want a future in which excellence defines every sector and every industry in our country. It is not just about financial flows, new technology or products. It is also about learning from each other; about seeing possibilities in new ways. The progress of one sixth of humanity will be of great consequence for the world and our beautiful planet. It will be a world of more hope and opportunities; a world more confident of its success. The humanity needs the solidarity and strength of international partnerships more than ever before. India will do its part - as an anchor of economic stability; an engine for growth; and, as a force of peace and stability in the world.



NARENDRA MODI

Salient Points of PM Modi's Speech at the Valedictory Session of Civil Services Day

- हम **Robotic** नहीं हो सकते और इसलिए हम जब भी **Civil Service Day** मनाएं तो कुछ पल अपनों का ख्याल रखने के लिए भी तो रखा जाए।

- हमारी सफलता की सबसे पहली नींव है, हमारे भीतर का इंसान, हमारे भीतर की इंसानियत, अपनापन, अपनों के लिए जीना, जूझना, ये चीजें एक बहुत ताकत देती हैं।

- मंसूरी में आप लोगों के लिए एक **Motto** वहां लिखा हुआ रहता था। 'शीलं परम भूषणम्'। मैं चाहूंगा **civil service** में रहने वाले हर व्यक्ति के लिए ये वाक्य नहीं है, घोष वाक्य नहीं है, ये शब्द संरचना नहीं है, ये **Article of faith** है। ये जीवन जीने का एकमात्र सिद्धांत है, एकमात्र मार्ग है।

- हम विकास का वो रास्ता खोजेंगे कि जिसके कारण गरीब और अमीर का फासला बढ़ता न जाए, हम विकास का वो **model** तैयार करेंगे, जो शहर और गांव के बीच में भेद पैदा करता न हो, एकता, एकीकरण के रास्ते पर हमें ले जाता हो।

- **E-Governance Is Effective Governance, Economical Governance, Easy Governance** और वो दिन दूर नहीं है जब दुनिया **Mobile Governance** पर चलने वाली है। लेकिन हम अपने आपको सजग नहीं करेंगे तो फिर मैं समझता हूं कि हम कितने ही ताकतवर क्यों न हो, दुनिया हमसे जो अपेक्षा कर रही है, उसको पूरा नहीं कर पाएंगे और इसलिए हमारे लिए आवश्यक है कि हम **Reform** को बल दें और **Reform** ही हमारी ताकत है और उसमें **Political Leadership** का कोई **Role** नहीं है।

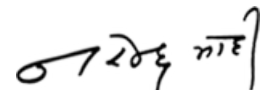
- जब मैं **Effective Governance** की बात करता हूं, **Good Governance** की बात करता हूं। **Then Without Art Good Governance is impossible, Good**

Governance Art के बिना चल नहीं सकती और जब मैं 'ART' कहता हूं। **A for accountability, R for responsibility, T for transparency, ART**, ये art चाहिए, **good governance** के लिए बिना art जीवन भी संभव नहीं होता।

- हमने अपनी **capacity building** पर बल देना पड़ेगा, **Government** में काम करना यह गर्व कैसे बने, यह वातावरण फिर से बनाना होगा। और यह बनाने के लिए मैं मानता हूं हमें इस काम को करना होगा, हमें अपना भी विकास करना होगा। हमने पुराने अपने दायरे, **resource** को बदलना पड़ेगा। नई चीजों को सीखना पड़ेगा, समझना पड़ेगा।

- कोई यह कहे कि मेरे में सब गुण ही गुण भरे हैं, तो उससे बड़ा कोई मूर्ख नहीं हो सकता। हरेक के अंदर गुण और अवगुण होते हैं। हमें तय करना है कि भई इतना बड़ा सामाजिक दायित्व मिला है तो मुझे किस रास्ते पर चलना है।

- कभी-कभार काम करते-करते निराशा आ जाती है। पता नहीं क्यों कैसे ये शब्द हमारे भीतर घुस गए हैं। एक **bureaucratic temperament** और दूसरा **political interference** अब शब्द बाहर से नहीं आए, किसी पत्रकार ने हमारे सिर पर नहीं थोपे हैं। ये हम ही लोगों ने उपयोग किया है। लोकतंत्र में **bureaucratic system** और **politics** का चोली दामन का नाता है, छुटने वाला नहीं है। लोकतंत्र की यही तो विशेषता है। ये आवश्यक है **political interference** नहीं चाहिए लेकिन **political intervention** अनिवार्य रूप से चाहिए, वरना लोकशाही नहीं चल सकती है। **political intervention is needed** वरना जनसामान्य की आवाज को कैसे पहुंचाएंगे। **interference** तबाह कर सकता है, **intervention** अनिवार्य होता है।



NARENDRA MODI

PM Modi's Remarks on 50th Jnanpeeth Award Ceremony



समाज जीवन में तकनीकी विकास कितना ही क्यों न हुआ हो, वैज्ञानिक विकास कितना ही क्यों न हुआ हो लेकिन उसके साथ-साथ मानवीय संवेदनाओं का भी अगर विस्तार नहीं होता है, ऊंचाइयों को छूने का प्रयास नहीं होता है, तो पता नहीं मानव जाति का क्या होगा? और इसलिए विज्ञान और Technology के युग में साहित्यिक साधना मानवीय संवेदनाओं को उजागर करने के लिए, मानवीय संवेदनाओं को संजोने के लिए एक बहुत बड़ी औषधि के रूप में काम करता है और जो साहित्यिक साहित्य रचना करता है। आजकल आप Computer के लिए Software बना दें और Software के अंदर Programming के साथ एक-दो हजार शब्द डाल दें और Computer को कह दें कि भई उसमें से कुछ बनाकर के निकाल दो, तो शायद वो बना देता है। लेकिन वो Production होगा, वो Assemble करेगा, Creation नहीं कर सकता है और ये creativity जो है, वो अनुभूति की अभिव्यक्ति होती है। वह एक दर्शन के रूप में प्रवाहित होती है और तब जाकर के पीढ़ियों तक सामान्य मानव के जीवन को स्पर्श करती रहती है। हमारे यहां परंपरा से निकली हुई कहावतें हैं। सदियों के प्रभाव से, अनुभव से, संजो-संजो करके बनी हुई होती हैं और हमने देखा होगा कि एक कहावत जीवन की कितना दिशा-दर्शक बन जाती है। एक कहावत कितना बड़ी उपदेश दे जाती है। पता तक नहीं है ये कहावत का रचयिता कौन था, नियंता कौन था, किस कालखंड में निर्माण हुआ था, कुछ पता नहीं है। लेकिन

आज भी और समाज के अनपढ़ से अनपढ़ व्यक्ति से लेकर के वैश्विक ज्ञान संपादन करने का जिसको अवसर मिला है, उनको भी वो एक ही कहावत जोड़ पाती है। यानि हम कल्पना कर सकते हैं कि कितना सामर्थ्य होगा कि जो नीचे से लेकर आसमान तक की अवस्था को स्पष्ट कर सकता है, जोड़ सकता है। इतना ही नहीं वो बीते हुए युग को, वर्तमान को और आने वाले युग को जोड़ने का सामर्थ्य रखता है। साहित्य की ताकत उससे अनेकों गुना ज्यादा होती है और सर्जक जब करता है, मैं नहीं मानता हूं कि वो वाचक के लिए कुछ लिखता है, मैं नहीं मानता हूं, न ही वो इसलिए लिखता है कि उसे कुछ उपदेश देना है, न ही वो इसलिए लिखता है कि उसको कोई विवाद कर-करके अपना जगह बनानी है। वो इसलिए लिखता है, वो लिखे बिना रह नहीं सकता है। उसके भीतर एक आग होती है, उसके भीतर एक ज्वाला होती है, उसके भीतर एक तड़प होती है और तब जाकर के स्याही के सहारे वो संवेदनाएं शब्द का रूप धारण करके बहने लग जाती हैं, जो पीढ़ियों तक भिड़ोती रहती हैं, पथ-दर्शक बनकर के रहती हैं और तब जाकर के वो साहित्य समाज की एक शक्ति बन जाता है। कोई कल्पना कर सकता है, वेद किसने बनाएं हैं, कब बनाएं हैं, कहां पता है लेकिन आज भी मानव जाति जिन समस्याओं से उलझ रही है, उसके समाधान उसमें से मिल रहे हैं।

NARENDRA MODI

Vision of e-Kranti is “Transforming e-Governance for Transforming Governance

• *Siddharth Singh*

The Union Cabinet recently gave its approval for the Approach and Key Components of e-Kranti: National e-Governance Plan (NeGP) 2.0. This is a follow up to the key decisions taken on the Digital India programme held in November 2014. This programme has been envisaged by the Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY).

The objectives of 'e-Kranti' are as follows:

- 1) To redefine NeGP with transformational and outcome oriented e-Governance initiatives.
- 2) To enhance the portfolio of citizen centric services.
- 3) To ensure optimum usage of core Information & Communication Technology (ICT).
- 4) To promote rapid replication and integration of e-Gov. applications.
- 5) To leverage emerging technologies.
- 6) To make use of more agile implementation models.

The key principles of e-Kranti

are as follows:

- 1) Transformation and not Translation.
- 2) Integrated Services and not Individual Services.
- 3) Government Process Reengineering (GPR) to be mandatory in every MMP.
- 4) ICT Infrastructure on Demand.
- 5) Cloud by Default.
- 6) Mobile First.
- 7) Fast Tracking Approvals.
- 8) Mandating Standards and Protocols.
- 9) Language Localization.
- 10) National GIS (Geo-Spatial





राष्ट्रीय इ-गवर्नेंस योजना National e-Governance Plan

एक कदम आपकी ओर एक कदम आपके लिए

Information System).

11) Security and Electronic Data Preservation.

e-Kranti is an important pillar of the Digital India programme. The Vision of e-Kranti is “Transforming e-Governance for Transforming Governance”. The Mission of e-Kranti is to ensure a Government wide transformation by delivering all Government services electronically to citizens through integrated and inter-operable systems via multiple modes, while ensuring efficiency, transparency and reliability of such services at affordable costs.

The approach and methodology of e-Kranti are fully aligned with the Digital India programme. The programme management structure approved for Digital India programme would be used for monitoring the implementation of e-Kranti and also for providing a forum to ascertain views of all stakeholders, overseeing

implementation, resolving inter-Ministerial issues and ensuring speedy sanction of projects.

The thrust areas of the e-Kranti – electronic delivery of services under the Digital India programme are:-

Technology for Education (e-Education), Health (e-Healthcare), Farmers, Financial Inclusion, Planning, Justice, Security, Planning and Cyber Security.

E-Governance will also be implemented under e-Kranti to reform Government through Technology which is a pivotal pillar of the Digital India programme. It will be done by undertaking and strengthening Government Process, Re-engineering, electronic databases, complete workflow automation and IT based Public Grievance Redressal in all Government Departments.

(Siddharth Singh is Research Associate at SPMRF)

Goods and Services Taxes - Time to Move on

• *Shakti Sinha*

The importance of sound public finance for generating and sustaining economic growth cannot be underestimated. Taxation systems should be transparent and easy to comply with. Equally they must be fair to prevent distortions, which results when taxpayers prefer avoidance since compliance either cannot be enforced or are unenforceable due to process complications, unduly high rates or corruption. In India's case, vagaries in state sales tax rates and defini-

The present Bill provides for the setting up of a GST Council to develop a harmonised national market for goods and services. The Union Finance Minister would chair the GST, whose other members would be the Union Minister of State of Revenue or Finance, and all Finance/Taxation Minister of States.

tions besides high entry barriers like octroi and purchase tax have held back the creation of a national common market. The system of taxation at multiple points from imports and manufacturing to the ultimate consumption of goods and service has led to a cascading effect, with consumers and manufacturers/importers paying a steep price for these distortions. The end-result has been the holding back of economic growth and of state resources necessary for supplying public goods besides the pernicious effects of large-scale corruption.

The Constitutional arrangement very simply allows the Union to collect taxes on manufacture/ production of goods and services. The States have the power to tax the supply of goods. In other words the States do not have the power to levy a tax on supply of services or on imports and the Union does not have the power to levy taxes on the sales of goods. Unfortunately this divided responsibility compounded with in-built gaps has led to a situation where "tax is paid on taxes paid." Till the introduction of CENVAT and State VAT, tax was levied at every stage of the process from manufacture to consumption

as a separate and unrelated transaction. To give a hypothetical example, suppose there is a uniform tax rate of 10%, and a manufacturer has bought inputs for Rs 100/-, of which Rs 10/- would be the tax component. He then converts it into a product which he sells for Rs 150/-, with Rs 15/- being the tax paid on this part of the manufacturing process. In other words, the actual tax collected on a sale of Rs 150/- is Rs 25/-, and the actual taxation rate is 16.66%, not 10%. Since from the point of first sale of any input to the final consumption would often be dozens of intermediate sales, the cascading effect pushed actual taxation levels to unacceptably high levels, facilitating large-scale evasion and corruption.

This situation was partially set-right with the coming into force of CENVAT and State VAT. Very simply in the above case, at the point of sale of Rs 150/-, the actual tax collected, after adjustment of tax paid at the earlier sale, would be Rs 5/-, or 10% of the value added, Rs 50/- (Rs 150 – Rs 100). This normally should have been the end of the story. But the cash-strapped Indian State (Union and States) over the years introduced so many new taxes, additional taxes, cesses etc., that CENVAT/ State VAT could not be comprehensive. Specifically it

did not extend to include the chain of value addition in the distributive trade below the stage of production. It does not also include several Central taxes e.g., Additional Excise Duties, Additional Customs Duty, Surcharges, Luxury Tax, Entertainment Tax etc. Hence manufactures/ dealers could not get the full benefit of comprehensive input tax, service tax etc., which along with the need to integrate goods and service tax meant that comprehensive tax reforms could not wait.

Global experience suggested adopting a comprehensive approach that covered both goods & services, universal set-offs from production/ service provision to actual consumption, and value addition at the distributive level. This is what the Goods & Services Tax (GST) aims to do. It would also cover the burden of Central Sales Tax (CST) on inter-state movement of goods. Essentially, as the Empowered Committee explains, GST “would be collected on value addition at each stage, and the supplier at each stage is permitted to set-off, through a tax credit mechanism, the GST paid on the purchase of goods and services as available for set-off” till the previous stage. Hence, the final consumer will have to bear only the GST

charged by the last dealer in the supply chain, with set-off benefits at all the previous stages.

To give an idea of the scope of reform attempted, the GST would subsume the following Central Taxes: -

- Central Excise Duty
- Additional Excise Duties
- The Excise Duty levied under the Medicinal and Toiletries Preparation Act
- Service tax
- Additional Customs Duty, commonly known as Countervailing Duty (CVD)
- Special Additional Duty on Customs - 4% (SAD)
- Surcharges, and
- Duties

There is an equally long list of State taxes and levies: -

- VAT/ Sales Tax
- Entertainment Tax (unless levied by local bodies)
- Luxury Tax
- Taxes on lottery, betting and gambling
- State Cesses and Surcharges in so far as they relate to supply of goods and services
- Entry Tax not in lieu of Octroi.

The basic idea is that all taxes and

levies in the nature of indirect taxes levied on the supply of goods or services get subsumed into GST. This should result in the free flow of tax credit in intra and inter-state commerce. Taxes and levies not related to the supply of goods and services would remain outside the purview of GST.

Keeping in mind the federal structure of the political system, the GST will have two components, one levied by the Union (Central GST) and the other levied by the States (State GST). Though payable separately, it would have uniform features like “chargeability, definition of taxable items and taxable person, measure of levy including valuation provisions, basis of classification etc.” The coverage would not however be universal since it provides for exempted goods & services, and a lower threshold limit for coverage. Further since the Central GST and State GST are separate categories, input tax credits (ITC) or set-offs would only be allowed within each category; cross-utilisation of ITC is presently not on the cards. The Central government would collect the Integrated GST on inter-state supply and apportion it as legally prescribed. The tax payers would get PAN-linked taxpayer identity number, and would have to submit periodical returns to both the

Central GST authority and concerned State GST authorities. There would be sharing of information between the Central and State GST authorities in the interest of assessment, enforcement, scrutiny and taxpayer convenience. Since the GST scheme is not in consonance with the extant Constitutional provisions, the latter would need to be amended to bring GST into force.

The Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers has been discussing the way forward, meeting with the Union Finance Minister regularly on the way forward. The UPA government had introduced the Constitution (115th Amendment) Bill, 2011, which submitted to introduce the Goods and Services tax and to impose concurrent powers on the Union and the States to do so. This was deliberated upon by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance in a detailed report. As Parliament could not pass the Bill, then pending in the Lok Sabha, it lapsed with the dissolution of the 15th Lok Sabha. The present finance minister introduced the Constitution (122nd Amendment) Bill, 2014 in the Lok Sabha on December 19, 2014, and attempted to initiate discussion on this when Parliament resumed its sitting in third week April (2015) but the Congress and other opposition

The earlier Bill charged Parliament with the responsibility of making a law that would lay down how IGST would be levied and apportioned; in the true spirit of cooperative federalism, the 2014 Bill gives this job to the GST Council. On the GST Council itself, the quorum has increased from one-third to one-half, and its decision making has changed from consensus to voting by a majority of not less than three-fourth of members present and voting, with the Union having one-third weight.

parties wanted to refer the present Bill to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance. It is therefore necessary to look at the key provisions of the present Bill and how it differs from the previous Constitutional Bill introduced in

2011.

In addition to the points made above about the structure and scope of GST, the present Bill provides for the setting up of a GST Council to develop a harmonised national market for goods and services. The Union Finance Minister would chair the GST, whose other members would be the Union Minister of State of Revenue or Finance, and all Finance/ Taxation Minister of States. The GST Council would make recommendation on taxes, cesses and surcharges levied by the Union, States and local bodies that GST could subsume; goods & services that could be exempted from GST; model GS laws, principles of levy and apportionment of IGST; threshold limits; rates including floor rates of GST; rates of GST to meet with natural calamities; special provision for special category States. The Constitutional restrictions on states on tax on the sale and purchase on goods are amended to similar restriction on the supply of goods and services not sales. The Centre would, as a transitional arrangement, collect an additional tax (not to exceed 1%) on the interstate commerce to compensate 'exporting' states that would 'lose' out on revenue to 'importing' states whose dealers would get the benefit of set-offs. Parliament would make laws to compensate states, for up to

five years, for loss in revenue arising out of the implementation of GST. Alcohol liquor for human consumption is being kept out of GST; for petroleum products (crude, high speed diesel, petrol, natural gas and aviation turbine fuel), the GST Council would decide when to bring them under GST.

The provisions of the current Bill are far superior to that of its previous avatar, starting from its very objective and going on to its many provisions. The objective of the current amendment Bill defines GST as any tax levied on the supply of goods or services, except taxes on supply of alcohol for human consumption. The 2011 Bill included the range of petroleum products, as above, from GST. In other words, it would have required another constitutional amendment were a consensus to develop on subsuming taxes on the supply of petroleum products under GST; currently a decision of the GST Council would be enough. The earlier Bill charged Parliament with the responsibility of making a law that would lay down how IGST would be levied and apportioned; in the true spirit of cooperative federalism, the 2014 Bill gives this job to the GST Council. On the GST Council itself, the quorum has increased from one-third to one-half, and its decision making has changed from consen-

sus to voting by a majority of not less than three-fourth of members present and voting, with the Union having one-third weight.

The functions of the GST Council has been made far more substantial and comprehensive, as detailed above, with an added provision that the parliamentary law on transitory compensation to states from losses arising from the introduction of GST shall be based on the Council's recommendations. The present Bill does not contain the provision of the 2011 Bill to have a GST dispute settlement authority that would in effect sit on judgement on actions of Parliament and State Assemblies, with only the Supreme Court having appellate jurisdiction over the authority's ruling. The existing constitutional judicial arrangements are now sustained. The NDA Bill does not contain the 2011 provision restricting jurisdiction of states in inter-states commerce to laws to be made by Parliament. Lastly, the previous Bill had allowed states to collect entry tax provided it was meant for use or sale within the jurisdiction of any local area. This has been done away with in the current Bill since potentially it could have been the source of major distortions and leakages.

It is clear that the current Bill is superior to the earlier bill and the

NDA government must be complimented for its broad acceptance of the spirit of cooperative federalism, and its reform instinct.

This GST Bill basically reflects the fundamental principles of political economy in a large, diverse and robust democratic state as India, that getting people on board is more important than seeking the ideal solution. However, it is time to go ahead, pass the Constitutional Amendment Bill so that India's investment climate, so necessary to get economic growth going, improves as India becomes a unified market. The implementation of the GST regime would lend itself to course correction, as is India's wont. There are many other pending reforms that need the attention of the governments, at the Centre and the States, and rather than wait for countless studies and discussions, moving on the GST agenda seems the way forward.

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

Operation “MAITRI”

“Operation Maitri” has been started by India for rescuing and providing relief to the victims of the Nepal earthquake within hours of the calamity, when an Indian Air Force aircraft landed in Nepal with relief material and disaster management teams. Since then, aircraft and helicopters have been pressed into service to provide relief material, undertake search missions and bring back Indians stuck in Nepal.

India ramped up its relief operations in quake-ravaged Nepal, with the focus on deploying medical and engineering teams and opening up road links to speed up the relief operations. Heavy lift aircraft, including the C130J Hercules, Il-76 and C-17 Globemaster, several helicopters and hundreds of personnel from the Indian Army and National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) are engaged in Operation Maitri, making this one of the largest relief efforts mounted by India on foreign soil just after the successful Operation Rahat.

The Indian Air Force had airlifted thousands of people despite bad weather and an aftershock that briefly shut the Kathmandu airport for some time. In view of the massive scale of the relief

operations, India sent three top military commanders, led by Major General J S Sandhu, to Nepal to coordinate and fast-track rescue and evacuation efforts. The Indian Army has already sent 10 INMARSAT systems for satellite communications to Nepal because the earthquake had caused widespread damage to communications infrastructure and phone links were disrupted at many places.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is personally overseeing the planning and execution of the relief operations and evacuation of stranded Indians. In his radio address, “Mann ki Baat”, Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke feelingly about the disaster and promised all efforts to save as many lives as possible. “Nepal's pain is India's pain... We will wipe the tears of every Nepali, hold their hand and give every support. The first thing is to beef up rescue operations,” he said. By all accounts, the response of the ministry of external affairs has been swift, with the External Affairs Minister, Sushma Swaraj, leading from the front.

SPMRF Desk

An appeal to countrymen, to donate for Nepal Earthquake Relief Fund

1. Online Contributions / Donations to PMNRF



Prime Minister's National Relief Fund, (PMNRF) accepts voluntary contributions from Individuals, Organizations, Trusts, Companies and Institutions etc. All contributions towards PMNRF are exempt from Income Tax under section 80(G). The PAN number of PMNRF is AACTP4637Q.

Please visit : <https://pmnrf.gov.in/payform.php>

2. Sewa International

Account details:

Sewa International
 Account No.- 10080533304
 Jhandewala Extn Branch(Delhi)
 State Bank of India
 Branch Code - 9371
 Swift Code- SBININBB550
 IFS Code - SBIN0009371



Operation “RAHAT”



India ended its mission for stranded citizens in Yemen after successfully evacuating 4,640 citizens. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) had issued the first of a series of advisories in January 2015 as the security situation in that West Asian country deteriorated. But the evacuation started only after Saudi Arabia and its allies started aerial strikes on Houthi rebels in Yemen.

A no-fly zone enforced in Yemeni airspace by the Saudi-led coalition made it difficult to evacuate Indians by air. But India successfully requested Saudi Arabia to allow civilian aerial sorties to Sanaa on a daily basis. India then created a forward operations base in Djibouti, the tiny African state, from where

Indian Air Force C-17 transporters moved evacuees brought out by Air India from Aden to fly them home.

The ships of the Indian Navy, besides two civilian passenger liners, were also pressed into service to evacuate citizens. For India, which has a significant population living beyond its borders, extricating citizens from zones of conflict or natural disasters has become a recurring challenge. People had a lot of expectations that the Government will act decisively and will do everything possible to bring back Indians from strife-torn areas. It is to the Government's credit that the MEA, Air India, IAF and the Navy worked together cohesively in difficult circumstances to rise to this



challenge in Yemen.

India has also won many friends by evacuating nearly 1,000 nationals of 41 countries from Yemen. Besides Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka, these include citizens of Britain, France and the US. The US Embassy in Sanaa, in fact, had put out an emergency message saying that all its citizens in Yemen should contact the Indian embassy in Sanaa to move out of the warring country. This, significantly, is the first time Western nations, the international community, have asked for and acknowledged India's help in evacuating their citizens.

The Prime Minister deputed former COAS and now MoS External Affairs, Gen. V.K.Singh to oversee the operations and the Minister, in his characteristic style

of leading from the front personally monitored and directed the evacuation from the frontline. It was striking to see Union External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj immediately respond to any appeal for help, or query that was directed to her twitter handle – it not only demonstrated her constant presence to monitor the progress of the operation but also demonstrated the positive power of social media.

In a move that had profound symbolism, Operation Rahat saw the successful evacuation of a six-year old baby – Parvathi – from strife torn Yemen – it signified a new beginning for India and a new life for all those Operation Rahat provided succour.

SPMRF Desk

Land Acquisition Bill: Trust Modi, his Vision Worked in Gujarat

• *Uday Mahurkar*

The suicide of a farmer and the murky debate on the Land Acquisition Bill has shifted the focus from the main question - whether the Narendra Modi government can turn around India's farm sector. An answer to this question can be found in the progress of agronomy in Gujarat in the first decade of the Modi tenure when it clocked nine per cent growth rate at a time when the rest of India was limping at less than four per cent. Modi's critics say he was lucky to have successive good monsoons during his rule, which spurred the growth.

But economists like Bibek Debroy and Arvind Panagariya, both drafted into the Modi government now, always believed that prime minister's innovative way of spurring agriculture and horticulture growth by resorting to dissemination of scientific information, focused agro planning, sharp communication with the farmers using the latest technology to motivate them, creation of water storage, and streamlining power to the farmers through unprecedented power reforms played a very major role in

Gujarat's high agriculture growth between 2003 and 2013 bringing prosperity to the farmers, notwithstanding the good monsoons.

The fulcrum of Gujarat's agriculture growth was the annual Krishi Mahotsav that Modi launched with great gusto in 2005. As many as 226 tractors turned into raths rolled out in 226 tehsils for a period of one month every may, each equipped with a scientist and two other officers and lot of agro literature specific to the farming patterns of the concerned areas. Each rath, also accompanied by agro officials in their vehicles, covered three villages in a day, giving scientific information to the farmers on crop patterns and innovative techniques to change crop patterns and also increase production. This became an annual affair, and when backed by aggressive watershed campaign in the form of a drive to build check dam, deepening of wells and making farm water ponds, it started producing fantastic results from 2007 onwards.

Many switched crop patterns to take up cash-rich BT cotton and while tribal farmers in central

Gujarat took to horticulture in their small holdings which got them very good returns. The crop switch by farmers showing great enterprise following the feel-good atmosphere created by Modi through his communication pegged on creating pride and the slogan "You can do it" encapsulated Gujarat's agro progress during this period. Kutch saw a unique revolution as farmers switched to Kesar mangoes, a fruit which till then was the charm of Saurashtra's Junagadh district alone. Kutch also saw the birth of a mix of horticulture and green house farming and other modern techniques. In Banaskantha, another arid district, many farmers switched over to papaya, a fruit that the arid district had hardly scene before. The area under horticulture more than doubled under Modi rule in Gujarat to more than 15 lakh hectares and the production trebled.

Modi's scientific approach was best reflected in his soil health card scheme under which the state farmers were given soil health cards after examining the health of the soil of their farmland. This enabled the farmers to use the exact fertiliser thus preventing wasteful and often harmful use of fertilisers and also helped them change crop patterns and increase production.

Salient features of Modi's agro

success in Gujarat:

The Gujarat Green Revolution Company floated by Modi for drip and sprinkler took the state's micro irrigation cover from 1 to 11 lakh hectares in 2003-2013 earning praise from water experts. It now forms more than 12 per cent of the total cultivated area in the state. What's more, micro irrigation schemes in India are known for huge corruption. Lots of claims, little on ground. Gujarat's was the cleanest, according to experts and farmers.

His Krishi Rath experiment, agro officials say, was the first step towards establishing a two-way communication with the farmers at the village level in India's or even world's agro history. Till then the government's Gramsevak was the only outreach of the agriculture department to the farmers in the country in what was a one-way communication that was indirect.

A key feature of Modi's agro vision was creating an enabling culture for the farmers by creating good conditions and infrastructure as against the freebie culture prevailing in India's agro sector so that agriculture became self-sustainable. Communication with farmers to motivate them was one of his strengths in Gujarat in exactly the

way he is using radio to reach out to the common people through his Mann kiBaat.

During the one-month long 2012 Krishi Mahotsav, he spoke to farmers at every tehsil from video for 30 minutes every day for 22 days, speaking on a new agro topic every day, thus motivating them to a new level. He would understand the topic from the agro officials in Gandhinagar, do some study and then deliver the talk, almost like an expert. As farmers watched Modi speak sitting in Tehsil headquarters or on OB vans in select villages they felt encouraged and inspired. During these 22 days he spoke on a wide range like a agro expert: micro irrigation, bio fertilisers, high tech horticulture, good seeding and even agriculture credit. Significantly, Modi always found newer ways of motivating the farmers. In one particular instance he got 500 most progressive farmers of the state as Krishi Rishis (farmer saints) who shared their success stories with fellow farmers by delivering lectures in villages earmarked by agro officials and got Rs 500 as fee for each lecture. Each such Krishi Rishi was made to cover three villages in a day in a government vehicle.

Niche agro research under Modi also took a giant leap as he increased the number of agro universities

from one to four and dedicated each such university to research in the main crop or fruit of the region it was located. On the other hand his government constantly tried to increase the cultivable area. Between 2003 and 2013, the state's cultivable area went up from 83 to 89 lakh hectares. Successive good monsoons also played a role in this. What clearly came was that his approach to agriculture was refreshing in the Indian political and administrative system given to placating farmers by giving subsidies and freebies. His focus was on replacing freebie culture with science-based enabling culture aimed at helping farmers stand on their feet.

His vision focused was on creating a win-win situation for all stakeholders through a multi-dimensional approach that was holistic. Interestingly, in a state where majority farmers are dependent on ground water Modi imaginatively used the energy sector and the water resources sector to complement agriculture. While creating water storage through various approaches he streamlined the energy sector by providing a separate feeder line for agriculture in each of the 18,000 Gujarat villages to separate it from the domestic line. On a third front he restructured the

Gujarat Electricity Board to bring it on track after wiping out losses accumulated losses over the years to the tune of Rs 2,500 crore.

On the fourth platform he told the farmers not to steal power - power stealing by farmers led to massive supply interruptions which prevented water to crop in crucial time - telling them, "Your problem is not power supply but water. Give me some time. I will give you water but won't allow you to steal power." As a result, farmers started getting assured and quality power supply with improvement in power situation, energy department restructuring and a separate feeder line for agriculture backed by a drive to punish power theft by farmers. So he used both carrot and stick to streamline things. One can say Gujarat is not India and also ask how can he do so now as most of these measures are to be taken by the state governments.

But there is no bar on Modi sharing his Gujarat example with the country and inspiring the farmers to create hope and aspiration in them even while doing the same with state governments, of course without playing politics as a responsible leader which is what exactly he did when Gajendra Singh died. Modi's 2013 Vibrant Gujarat National Agriculture Summit that saw 7,000

enterprising farmers participating from across India had created a great atmosphere in the farm sector. On this platform, Modi got the most enterprising farmers of the country to interact with their counterparts in Gujarat and exposed both to the most modern technology through a massive international class exhibition. It led to creation of new ideas amongst farmers and also confidence as there was sharp dissemination of information. Many of the farmers who came to Gujarat to participate in that event still remember it as one of the most important events of their lives.

Modi could do the same at the national level now to create new hope and "We can do it" atmosphere.

Courtesy: www.dailyo.in (26 April 2015)

(Uday Mahurkar is Senior Editor, India Today.)

Dynamic Outreach in Education under Modi Sarkar

• *Siddharth Singh*

At present the Narendra Modi led central Government is working to bring in a new education policy. The MHRD's initiative of a new education policy would be decided by its "2.75 lakh village education councils" and that the view of each council would be mapped by the Ministry. Such a huge effort is symbolic of the democratization of Indian education. In past Congress led governments, a few academic experts, bureaucrats and politicians had decided for the nation "what to study" but now the new policy under the present Government aims to consult people with "rooted experience in the education field". India is a country that is complex and holds such cultural diversity that a one size fits all programme will not work. MHRD has devised 32 themes for education and has put it up on MHRD's website and has invited discussion and suggestion on these – paving the way towards a greater national involvement in our educational direction.

Unfortunately in the last 10 months, the MHRD has been in the news for some supposedly controversial issues but if one were to into the details of these issues then we

will realise that it was only a concerted propaganda to malign the image of the Ministry. For example there was a controversy on the Good Governance day issue over the wrong information that all schools will be open on Christmas day but the reality was that the call was for participation in an online essay competition which was itself a voluntary exercise.

MHRD has, in the short span of a year, taken many initiatives – encompassing a wide educational spectrum – these are in the field of girls' education, for persons with special ability, for enhancing the quality of education, for students from the North East. It would useful to discuss some of these below; it would help in dispelling wrong notions:

EDUCATION FOR GIRLS

1. **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Abhiyan:** The Department of School Education and Literacy



under MHRD has supported the Ministry of Women and Child Development for rolling out the “Beti Bachao Beti Padhao” Abhiyan in 100 districts of the country to enhance the sex ratio and the status of the girl child.

2. Swachh Vidyalaya: The MHRD has shown its firm commitment for providing a functional girl's toilet in every school. A specific “Swachh Vidyalaya” campaign has been rolled out which will ensure that a functional toilet is available in every school before 15th August 2015.

3. Udaan: UDAAN is an initiative which will enable disadvantaged girl students and other students from SC/ST & minorities to transit from school to post-school professional education especially in Science and Math. The first flight of UDAAN is to address the lower enrolment of girls in engineering colleges which is currently about 23% girls as against 77% of boys. It aims to reduce the quality gap between school education and engineering education entrance systems by focussing on the three dimensions curriculum design, transaction and assessment. It will do this by enriching and supplementing teaching and learning of Science and Mathematics at Senior Secondary level. The CBSE will



provide free and online resources to the entire student population with special incentives and support to a thousand selected disadvantaged girls per year.

4. Swami Vivekananda Single Girl Child Scholarship for Research in Social Sciences: UGC has formulated this scheme under which 300 scholars would be provided Junior Research Fellowship @ Rs. 8,000/--10,000/- per month, and it has been implemented from academic year 2014-15.

5. PRAGATI: Providing Assistance for Girls' Advancement in Technical Education Initiative: This scheme envisages selection of one girl per family where the family income is less than 6 lakhs/annum on merit at the qualifying examination to pursue technical education. The scheme is to be implemented by the authorised admission centre of respective State Governments. 4000 girls are expected to benefit of scholarships available per annum. The scholarship amount is Rs.

30,000 or tuition fees or actual whichever is less & Rs. 2000 /month for ten months as contingency allowance.

PERSONS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

- **SAKSHAM:** Scholarship for Differently-abled children: AICTE has decided to award 1000 scholarships per annum to differently abled students to pursue technical education based on merit in the qualifying examination to pursue technical education. The scholarship amount would be Rs. 30000 or tuition fees or actual whichever is less and Rs. 2000/month for ten months as contingency allowance.

INITIATIVES FOR THE NORTHEAST

1. **Ishan Uday:** (Special Scholarship Scheme for students of North East Region): The UGC has launched a special scholarship Scheme for students of North East Region from the academic session 2014-15. The Scheme envisages grant of 10,000 scholarships to students from North East Region whose parental income is below Rs. 4.5 lakh per annum and would be provided scholarship ranging from Rs. 3,500 to 5,000 per month for studying at under graduate level in Colleges/Universities of the coun-

try.

2. **ISHĀN VIKĀS:** Ishān Vikās is a comprehensive plan to bring selected students from the school and college levels from the North-Eastern states into close contact with the IITs, NITs and IISERs during their vacation periods. A typical visit is envisaged for a period of ten days to one of these institutions, in the form of either an exposure or an Internship programme. Each school will send one teacher to accompany a group of about 32 students of class IX and X and 8 teachers. The college students would be organised in two groups in summer and in winter, consisting of 32 students each group. Approximately 2016 college students and 504 teachers from N-E will be visiting premier Institutes, like IIT/NIT/IISERs in an academic year. The Summer Internship for students from the Engineering Colleges (State or Centrally Funded Technological Institutes) with Stipends and Travel will be taken up. From 25 Institutions, about 250 students will be visiting 16 IITs and 6 NITs (to start with six NITs are being considered) per year.

II. Focus on Quality

1. **Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat:** This initiative was launched on 26th August, 2014, to focus on the quality

of foundational learning so that each child attains appropriate learning levels in classes I and II for reading, writing language comprehension and numeracy. Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat is a sub-component of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and is being rolled out by 17 States and UTs.

2. Framework of School Assessment and Evaluation: A Framework for School Assessment and Evaluation is being developed as a self-improvement tool for schools themselves and also to reorient school inspectors, district and block level officers to objective assessment of schools with a view to enhance their effectiveness. The programme in the field has been rolled out from January 2015.

3. SWAYAM (Study Webs of Active –Learning for Young Aspiring Minds) PROGRAMME: Under this programme, Professors of centrally funded institutions like IITs, IIMs, Central universities will offer online courses to citizens of our country. All courses will be made available free of cost for learning. In case the learner requires a Verified Certificate, a small fee will be applicable. In the first phase, IIT Bombay, IIT Chennai, IIT Kanpur, IIT Guwahati, University of Delhi, Jawahar Lal Nehru University, IGNOU, IIM Bangalore, IIM

Calcutta, Banaras Hindu University, alone as well as with the help of faculty from foreign universities will be offering courses in areas of engineering education, social science, energy, management, basic sciences. At least one crore students are expected to benefit in 2 to 3 years through this initiative.

New Institutions in last 10 months:

1. Five IITs: A.P, J&K, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Kerala
2. Six IIMs: H.P, A.P., Punjab, Maharashtra, Bihar, Odisha
3. Four New Central Universities: A.P (1 Central University & 1 Tribal University), M.P (Jai Prakash Narayan National Centre For Excellence In Humanities), Bihar (Mahatma Gandhi Central University)
4. One IISER: A.P.
5. One NIT: A.P.
6. 1 New IIIT: A.P.
7. 1 Tribal University: Telengana

(Siddharth Singh is Research Associate at SPMRF)

Of Ideologues and Historians

• *Dr. Anirban Ganguly*

While speaking on the demands for grants for the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Trinamool Congress MP and – by his own admission – an eminent historian, Professor Sugata Bose misled the House when he spoke of the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR), being packed with “ideologues” and not historians.

On this count, Prof. Bose, a grand-nephew of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, was being plain untruthful with the truth. The MHRD under Modi Government has in fact displayed a remarkable esprit juste by selecting some very eminent names in the field of historiography solely judging them by their academic credentials and performance. It will be quite evident to all those who choose to see the issue dispassionately that most of the

names on the ICHR council are historians of standing and substance.

Prof. Bose himself chose to behave like an “ideologue” when he cast aspersions on fellow historians who, while choosing to stay on in India, have greatly and against great odds contributed to the study of India. It would suffice to name a few to drive home the point. Professor Purabi Roy, newly appointed member of ICHR has, for example, done path-breaking work on the history of India-Russia relations; her researches on



Prof. Sugata Bose



Prof. Purabi Roy

the I.N.A and Netaji have been widely acknowledged the world over. It is also known how a section of historians – or shall we say ideologues – have repeatedly tried to stymie Professor Roy's work just because she arrived at a different conclusion on the life and legacy of Netaji – a conclusion that has not been ratified by

Prof. Dilip K. Chakrabarti



self-styled high-priests of history in India.

Similarly Professor Dilip K. Chakrabarti, a leading name in Asian archeology has also been brought as a member of the reconstituted Council. By equating Professor Chakrabarti's stature to that of an ideologue, Prof. Bose has only chosen to discard his academic ethics and has stooped to taking recourse to polemics –an impermissible proposition in the field of history. The present ICHR council is a well calibrated body which has representation from across India and from across societal sections and has given space to those voices which have perforce remained marginal to articulating the idea of India just because they refused to toe a certain dominant line.

Ironically it was in the past, when Prof. Bose's ideological mentors where helm, that ICHR was dominated by ideologues. Professor Nurul Hassan, Indira Gandhi's education

minister and the one who imagined these research institutions, was himself a first rate Marxist ideologue. His eminence, Prof. Irfan Habib, by his own admission, was and perhaps still remains, a member of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and there were many others like them – all ideologues – who functioned under the cover of being historians and monopolised the historical discourse in India.

Prof. Irfan Habib



As Prof. Bose was reminded by Irani, in her reply, “eminence per se is not a certificate to mislead the House” – on the “ideologue”- 'historian” issue Sugata Bose was off the mark – he betrayed an unhistorical spirit that based itself on hearsay.

Courtesy: www.focusnews.com

(28th April 2015)

For a Meaningful Re-launch Rahul Gandhi Needs Some Basic Lessons in Economics and Congress History

It takes exceptional gall for a leader of the Congress to call the Modi Government a "suit-bootsarkar". The Congress Party which for last 10 years ran the most corrupt government in India's history, in collaboration with crony capitalists and pseudo-Marxists, would like the country to forget contemporary history and look at the Modi government instead as a party for businessmen. Rahul Gandhi also forgets that the biggest land grab in India's history was operated by "suited-booted" people during his own government's rule, under the garb and false promise of creating special economic zones.

Mr Gandhi also seems to forget Congress history. It was Indira Gandhi who amended the law to declare that farmers whose land was taken forcibly by the government could not get "compensation" from the government but only an "amount" because all landowners were exploitative kulaks and, therefore, did not deserve proper compensation. Now those kulaks have become the builders of India for whom Rahul Gandhi's heart bleeds.

Going further back in history, it was Jawaharlal Nehru who put land acquisition beyond the pale of judicial review. Indeed Nehru told those who were being displaced to make way for the Hirakud dam that "if you are to suffer, you should suffer in the interest of the country". So when Rahul Gandhi stands up to re-launch his political career with a bleeding heart, it is time to ask the question that Robert Vadra posed to a reporter:

"Are you serious?"

There are other questions that Rahul Gandhi must answer. Rahul Gandhi also claims credit for the faster growth of agriculture during the Manmohan Singh years but he should be reminded of the fact that among the states that have recorded the fastest growth in agricultural output over the past decade are Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh both ruled by the Bharatiya Janata Party.

The great disservice that Mr Gandhi has done is by casting the debate on forcible land acquisition interms that suggest that the country does not need businessmen, that it does not need manufacturing, that it does not need physical infrastructure. Indeed he fails to understand that the reason why farming is uneconomical is because average land holdings have shrunk over the decades. That, in turn, is because this country has not created enough non-agricultural jobs, to take pressure off the land. Half the workforce is employed in the fields to generate one-seventh of gross domestic product (GDP). Naturally, incomes from farming will be low and often not enough to keep body and soul together. There is no shortage of people who think that Rahul Gandhi needs some basic lessons in politics. On the evidence provided by his third (or fourth or fifth ...) major intervention in Parliament in 11 years, he also needs some lessons in elementary economics and in Congress history. Will someone impart those to him?

SPMRF Desk

किसानों के हित में भूमि बिल

• कलराज मिश्र

भूमि अधिग्रहण बिल-2015 एक लंबे संघर्ष का परिणाम है। यद्यपि कुछ स्वार्थी लोगों द्वारा इसे किसान विरोधी कहा जा रहा है जो असत्य है। इसके वास्तविक स्वरूप और उद्देश्य को जानने के लिए भूमि अधिग्रहण के 125 साल के इतिहास को जानना आवश्यक है। वर्ष 1894 में अंग्रेजों ने एक विधान बनाया। इसके तहत सार्वजनिक हित के नाम पर सरकार द्वारा कोई भी जमीन कभी भी अधिकृत की जा सकती थी। देश के आजाद होने के पश्चात भी यह व्यवस्था चलती रही। प्रारंभ में अधिग्रहीत भूमि के बदले मुआवजे की कोई निश्चित राशि तय नहीं की गई थी। बाद में अधिग्रहीत भूमि के बदले किसानों को मुआवजे का प्रावधान कर तो दिया गया, लेकिन मुआवजे की राशि कितनी हो इसका कोई सिद्धांत तय नहीं था। इसी कारण भाखड़ा नागल बांध और टिहरी बांध जैसी बड़ी परियोजनाओं के मामले न्यायालय में गए तो विभिन्न न्यायालयों द्वारा अलग-अलग फैसले आए। कानून में भूमि अधिग्रहण के लिए किसानों से सहमति लेने की कोई व्यवस्था नहीं थी क्योंकि यह अधिग्रहण लोकहित या जनकल्याण के नाम पर होता था, परंतु समस्या यह थी कि लोकहित की कोई परिभाषा तय नहीं की गई थी। इसी कारण अस्पताल, नहर, सड़क, स्कूल, बांध आदि को लोकहित का काम माना था, परंतु औद्योगिक विकास को लोकहित नहीं माना जाता था। 1991 में आर्थिक सुधार के पश्चात इसमें परिवर्तन हुआ। उदाहरण स्वरूप राजस्थान के सूरतगढ़ में 10,000 एकड़ भूमि में सेना के लिए छावनी क्षेत्र घोषित किया गया और सामाजिक दृष्टि से इसे लोकहित का माना गया। 2013 से पहले का अधिग्रहण अधिनियम खासा विवादास्पद रहा क्योंकि उसके तहत किसानों से भूमि जबरन ली जाती थी। आजादी के बाद से लगभग छह करोड़ से ज्यादा लोगों को अपने घरों और गांवों से

कांग्रेस सरकार में 1947 से 2013 तक भूमि अधिग्रहण कानून को एक दमनकारी कानून के रूप में इस्तेमाल किया और नए कानून को किसान हितैषी दिखाने के लिए इतना जटिल कर दिया कि विकास की किसी योजना के लिए भूमि का अधिग्रहण असंभव हो गया।

विस्थापित होना पड़ा और इसके बाद उन्हें मामूली मुआवजा मिला। औपनिवेशिक दौर में ब्रिटिश हुक्मरानों ने अपने फायदे के लिए भूमि, वन, खनिज आदि संसाधनों का दोहन करने के लिए भूमि अधिग्रहण कानून का दुरुपयोग किया। 1990 के बाद विकास के एजेंडे को मूर्त रूप देने में सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के साथ-साथ निजी क्षेत्र का दायित्व भी काफी महत्वपूर्ण हो गया, परंतु इस नव उदारवादी दौर में निजी क्षेत्र के हितों के लिए 1894 के अधिग्रहण कानून के तहत विशेष आर्थिक क्षेत्र की स्थापना के लिए बड़े पैमाने पर भूमि का अधिग्रहण किया गया। किसानों के विस्थापन की समस्या को देखते हुए भूमि अधिग्रहण कानून में परिवर्तन का पहला मसौदा 1999 में अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी की सरकार द्वारा तैयार किया गया, परंतु सहयोगियों ने किसानों की सहमति के मुद्दे पर इसका विरोध किया। उन्हें आशंका थी कि किसानों की सहमति के चक्कर में विकास की परियोजनाएं पूरी नहीं हो पाएंगी, अतः मसौदे पर वाजपेयी सरकार को पीछे हटना पड़ा।

वर्ष 2013 का नया भूमि अधिग्रहण कानून वर्षों

सरकार के वर्ष 2022 के विजन में पूरे देश में आवास, शौचालय, विद्यालय, तकनीकी शिक्षा केंद्र खोलने की योजना है। इस अधिनियम के द्वारा सरकार विजन-2022 को पूरा करने के लिए जमीन उपलब्ध करा सकेगी।

की जद्दोजहद के बाद तैयार हुआ, इसमें अधिग्रहीत की जाने वाली भूमि के 80 प्रतिशत भू-स्वामियों की सहमति का कानून बनाया गया। इससे भू-स्वामियों को अच्छा खासा मुआवजा देने का प्रावधान किया गया। यह सही है कि मुख्य विपक्षी के रूप में भाजपा ने इसके निर्माण में पूरा सहयोग दिया। अब प्रश्न यह उठता है कि राजग सरकार बनने पर 2013 के कानून में परिवर्तन क्यों करने पड़े? कांग्रेस सरकार में 1947 से 2013 तक भूमि अधिग्रहण कानून को एक दमनकारी कानून के रूप में इस्तेमाल किया और नए कानून को किसान हितैषी दिखाने के लिए इतना जटिल कर दिया कि विकास की किसी योजना के लिए भूमि का अधिग्रहण असंभव हो गया। संप्रग सरकार में वाणिज्य मंत्री आनंद शर्मा ने डॉ. मनमोहन सिंह को 25 मई, 2012 को लिखे पत्र में कहा कि प्रस्तावित बिल का औद्योगीकरण तथा देश के शहरीकरण में दीर्घावधि में विपरीत असर पड़ेगा। इसमें जमीन की कीमत बहुत महंगी हो जाएगी और भूमि अधिग्रहण लगभग असंभव हो जाएगा। इसके अतिरिक्त कांग्रेस शासित प्रदेश सरकारों सहित अधिकांश राज्यों में वर्ष 2013 के कानून में बदलाव की मांग की, फिर इसका विरोध क्यों? वास्तव में इस विरोध के पीछे झूठ और पाखंड ज्यादा है। इसमें किसानों के हित के बजाय राजनीतिक प्रतिशोध अधिक है। आज के आर्थिक परिवेश में

विकास के कार्यक्रमों को पीछे ले जाना असंभव है।

सरकार ने लोकसभा में सदस्यों की भावनाओं को समाहित करने के लिए विधेयक में नौ संशोधन किए। इनके अनुसार, भू-अधिग्रहण से प्रभावित परिवारों और कृषि श्रमिकों के एक परिजन का नौकरी दी जाएगी। औद्योगिक कोरिडोर के लिए सड़क या रेल मार्ग के दोनों ओर एक किलोमीटर की भूमि का अधिग्रहण होगा, वह भी किसी न किसी सरकारी एजेंसी के द्वारा। सामाजिक ढांचागत परियोजनाओं के लिए सरकार भूमि का अधिग्रहण नहीं करेगी। निजी स्कूलों और अस्पतालों के लिए भी भूमि अधिग्रहण नहीं होगा। सिर्फ सरकारी संस्थानों, निगमों के लिए जमीन का अधिग्रहण किया जाएगा। मुआवजा एक निर्धारित खाते में ही जमा कराना होगा। नए कानून के तहत दोषी अफसरों पर अदालती कार्यवाही हो सकेगी। किसानों को अपने जिले में शिकायत या अपील का अधिकार होगा। परियोजनाओं के लिए बंजर जमीन का अधिग्रहण होगा। मोदी सरकार ने वर्ष 2013 के भू-अधिग्रहण अधिनियम में परिवर्तन किए हैं। ये परिवर्तन मुख्यमंत्रियों की भावनाओं का सम्मान करते हुए और देश में विकास के लिए ढांचा उपलब्ध कराने के उद्देश्य से किए गए हैं। असल में यह विकास की दिशा में सकारात्मक कदम है। सरकार के वर्ष 2022 के विजन में पूरे देश में आवास, शौचालय, विद्यालय, तकनीकी शिक्षा केंद्र खोलने की योजना है। इस अधिनियम के द्वारा सरकार विजन-2022 को पूरा करने के लिए जमीन उपलब्ध करा सकेगी। इस समय 'मेक इन इंडिया' की पहल के तहत अनेक औद्योगिक समूह भारत में विनिवेश में रुचि ले रहे हैं। बस आवश्यकता है उनको भूमि सहित अन्य मूलभूत सुविधाएं उपलब्ध कराने और सकारात्मक वातावरण बनाने की। तभी हम विकसित भारत के सपने को मूर्त रूप दे सकेंगे।

(लेखक भारत सरकार में केन्द्रीय मंत्री हैं)

साभार : दैनिक जागरण, 22 अप्रैल 2015

Modi Visit a Fillip to India's Ties with Tech Powers

• *Satish Chandra*

The media coverage in India of Modi's visit to France, Germany and Canada from April 9 to 17 has been patchy. While it was naturally less than that for his US visit it seems to have been even lower than for his forays to Australia or to the countries in the region. This is unfortunate, as these are important countries and Modi's visit has greatly enhanced our relationship with each one of them.

All three countries are in G7, are leading industrialised democracies, and are technological powerhouses. They are no strangers to India but the full potential of the relationship is yet to be realised. Modi's visit was skilfully crafted to give a fillip to ties with each country with a view to leveraging them to strengthen India particularly in the economic domain.

While the programme in each country was inevitably a function of local circumstances, interests and opportunities, one can discern a common and well-defined pattern in its structuring as well as in the engagements and interactions developed. Thus whether in France, Germany, or Canada, the programmes chalked out provided

Modi's interaction with the Indian diaspora in Paris, Berlin and the Ricoh Coliseum in Toronto constitutes part of his standard operating procedure designed to harness it in promoting India's influence and development.

for ample bonding time between Modi and his principal host, in-depth and extensive interaction with the captains of industry, and a meaningful outreach to the Indian diaspora.

Apart from the delegation-level talks and banquets organised by the principal hosts in honour of Modi which in themselves provided much time for interaction amongst them, it is notable that several other opportunities for the same were also generated. In this context, one need only mention the president Hollande-Modi cruise on the Seine, the Chancellor Merkel-Modi visit to the Hannover Messe, and the Prime

On the one hand it promotes the Indian community's feel-good factor and on the other, it encourages Indians abroad to invest in India. Perhaps, even more importantly, it transforms NRIs to become fervent supporters of India and its best ambassadors.

Minister Harper-Modi joint visits to Toronto and Vancouver. Such quality time spent Modi and his hosts together would undoubtedly have helped establish an excellent rapport and chemistry which is in mutual interest and can only redound to India's benefit.

The logic of Modi's meetings with the business community rests on his obvious effort to use the same to promote India's economic development. Such meetings are all the more necessary in industrialised democracies where the business community is fairly autonomous in its decision making. Thus in France, Modi had two back-to-back meetings with leading CEOs—one in the area of infrastructure and the second dealing with defence, space and nuclear energy. In Germany, he

participated, along with Merkel, in the inauguration of the Hannover Messe 2015, the world's largest industrial fair, where India had been selected as the partner country—a rare honour, enjoyed by Russia in 2013 and slated for the US in 2016. As many as 350 Indian firms along with scores of Indian businessmen participated in the fair. As in France he also had meetings with leading German CEOs. Modi made a strong and convincing pitch with the leaders of industry to participate in the Make in India, Digital India and Clean India campaigns underlining the huge opportunities which would be available to them in view of the government's moves to provide a stable and business-friendly environment in the country.

Modi's interaction with the Indian diaspora in Paris, Berlin and the Ricoh Coliseum in Toronto constitutes part of his standard operating procedure designed to harness it in promoting India's influence and development.

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While the joint statements issued at the end of the French and Canadian legs of the visit were meaty and cover many areas from defence to climate change and terrorism to foreign policy, that issued at the end of the Germany visit is short and essentially limited to identifying areas of India-German collaboration such as manufacturing, skill development, urban development, environment, railways, cleaning of rivers, renewable energy, etc. It, however, mentions that the two countries will expand their dialogue on foreign policy and security issues and exchanges at the level of defence and foreign ministers are envisaged prior to the inter-governmental consultations scheduled in India this October.

Media attention during the visit was, however, in the main focussed on the Rafale jet deal with France and the uranium deal with Canada as the major outcomes. The former entails, at Modi's request, quick supply of 36 Rafale jets, in fly-away condition through an intergovernmental agreement on terms better than those demanded by Dassault "as part of a separate process underway". It may be recalled that negotiations have been underway for years between India and Dassault for supply of 126 Rafale jets—18 in flyaway condition and the balance to be made in India under licence....

Apart from the Rafale deal, Indo-French cooperation in the nuclear field also received a fillip with the signing of an MoU between Areva and L&T to manufacture reactor equipment in India so as to reduce costs that would make the 6x1650MW nuclear power plants to be set up by the former in Jaitapur financially more viable.

As regards the uranium deal with Canada its significance lies in that it marks the beginning of civil nuclear cooperation between the two nations after its termination following Pokharan I. A civil nuclear cooperation agreement was signed between the two countries in 2010 but supply of uranium from Canada did not take place on account of differences on inspection-related issues. With Canada agreeing to accept IAEA inspections on uranium supplied by it to India these differences stand resolved. Accordingly, during the visit Canadian company Cameco agreed to supply India over 3000MT of uranium concentrate over five years at a cost of about \$300 million. This will substantially ease the fuel supply problems that our nuclear reactors have faced from time to time.

Courtesy: The New Indian Express, 22nd April 2015

(The writer is a Former Deputy National Security Advisor, Government of India.)

Recognising the Civilisational Dimension in External Dealings – a profound change brought in by Modi Dispensation

• *Dr. Anirban Ganguly*

When India's “Parrot Lady” of 12th century vintage accompanied the PM back from his state visit to Canada, it was deeply symbolic of a civilisational state reclaiming her cultural-civilisational footprints and space. It was profoundly symbolic of India— after centuries of cultural marginalisation—finally stirring to recognise her civilisational-self and to reclaim its contours and expressions. Similarly when the visiting Australian PM, in September 2014, handed the 11th century Shiva and Ardhanariswara to his Indian counterpart, it was a symbolic recognition of the aspirations of a rising civilisational state which actively seeks to reconfigure her rightful cultural symbols and space.

When PM Narendra Modi visited the battle-field memorial at Neuve-Chappelle in France, becoming the first Indian PM to pay homage and recognise, on behalf of an entire nation, the valour and sacrifice of Indian soldiers —who, even while fighting another's battle, showed exemplary valiance—fallen on a foreign land and saluted them for their “loyalty, courage and sacri-

It was perhaps for the first time that a foreign policy resolution of a political party talked of seriously developing and of having begun the process of evolving “cultural and civilisational linkages—Sanskriti evam Sabhyata”, this active aspiration to reinvent and re-state these cultural and civilisational linkages have been increasingly visible of late.

rice”, it was symbolic of that civilisational reclaiming as was his visit to the Komagata Maru museum in Vancouver.

During his Mauritius trip in March, Modi visited the 'Apravasi Ghat' and paid tribute to the brave “Apravasis who left India's shores nearly two centuries ago”. His visit symbolised the recognition of India beyond India's physical borders—it was a reaching out to and re-

creating of a civilisational India. Such a pro-active infusing of the civilisational dimension in foreign policy has been visible ever since the PM's first major bilateral foray to Japan where he visited two of the most sacred Buddhist temples—Toji and Kinkakuji—and meditated to re-ignite a civilisational link between the two ancient lands and people.

Paying homage, displaying an active recognition of the sacrifices made by one's citizens in the past, especially in foreign lands, actively seeking to retrieve the physical symbols of our high cultural achievements, pro-actively bonding with the diaspora and infusing and reactivating in them the sense of a civilisational connect have been the hallmarks of a restated foreign policy under the new dispensation in the last one year. Apart from a dynamic emphasis on the commercial and technical, the new and fresh emphasis on the cultural-civilisational can never be missed.

Interestingly, it was perhaps for the first time that a foreign policy resolution of a political party talked of seriously developing and of having begun the process of evolving “cultural and civilisational linkages—Sanskriti evam Sabhyata”, this active aspiration to re-invent and re-state these cultural and civilisational linkages have been

increasingly visible of late. Even the hard action of boldly and successfully evacuating distressed Indian citizens from the war zones of Yemen and Iraq, of wading deep into conflict zones on the strength of our civilisational moorings and conviction, is reflective of the first yearnings to play an increasingly active role on the world stage.

When Modi visited the headquarters of the UNESCO in Paris and spoke at length there on India's contribution to humanity's cultural preservation and evolution, it was again symbolic of India's aspiration for playing a greater role in the cultural arena of the world. When he bowed down before the statue of Sri Aurobindo in UNESCO and referring to his epochal contribution to human evolution spoke of the need to preserve “national freedom, diversity of civilisations and autonomy of culture”, he was essentially reiterating India's timeless civilisational message as articulated through the sage's own life and works.

India's recognition of the civilisational dimension in her external dealings has been one of the most profound shifts in recent times, accelerating the rise of a civilisational state.

(Courtesy: The Sunday Standard, 25th April, 2015. The title has been added.)

PM Modi's France visit

- PM Modi's "Make in India" initiative gained further momentum. Airbus announced to increase its Indian outsourcing from \$400 million to \$2 billion in next five years.
- By keeping in mind the critical operational necessity of Fighter Air Crafts, India will purchase 36 Rafael Jets in Flyaway Condition through the agreement between both the governments.
- MoU between L&T and AREVA signed which is aimed at cost reduction by increasing localization, to improve the financial viability of Jaitapur project. It will also enable transfer of technology and development of indigenous nuclear energy industry in India. It will be an excellent example of 'Make in India' and India will find a new place in the field of Advanced Technology.



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PM Modi's Germany visit

At Hannover Messe, it's all about 'Make in India'

- The 'Make in India' lions are a symbol of a new India. They roar; but with a message of friendship and promise of partnership, from 1.25 billion people of India.
- **Why Make in India?** --Whatever we choose to do, from reaching the cutting edge of industry to meeting the most critical social need, we require investment and technology, industry and enterprise. That is why for me, Make in India is not a brand. Nor is it simply a slogan on a smart lion! It is a new national movement. And, it covers the whole spectrum of our government, society and business. Our scale of transformation is vast; therefore, the opportunities we offer are huge.
- Addressing Indian professionals working in Berlin, the PM Modi said they should show "enthusiasm" and "become a bridge between India and Germany to help realise our objective of making India a manufacturing hub. It will be a win-win situation for both the countries."



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PM Modi's Canada visit



- Canada will supply 3000MT Uranium for India's Nuclear reactors for next 5yrs at a cost of about \$300 million. This will substantially ease the fuel supply problems that our nuclear reactors have faced from time to time. It will also help in resolving India's Power problems.
- 13 MoUs were signed between the National Skill Development Council of India and 13 Canadian colleges, institutes, and Sector Skills Councils in fields such as agriculture, automotive, aviation, construction, healthcare, hydrocarbons and IT.
- To support greater engagement and people-to-people contact, India has liberalised its visa policy for Canada.
- PM Modi said "The threat of terrorism is growing; its shadow extends over cities and lives across the world. We will deepen our cooperation with Canada to combat terrorism and extremism. We will also promote a comprehensive global strategy, and consistent policy and action against all sources of terrorism and its support".

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Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment PM Modi Lays the Foundation Stone of Dr. Ambedkar International Centre



Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of Dr. Ambedkar International Centre. Paying homage to Bharat Ratna Babasaheb Ambedkar, the Prime Minister said that Babasaheb Ambedkar stood for all of humanity, and was, in particular, a ray of hope for the marginalized and downtrodden sections of society. He further added that Babasaheb had created great Constitutional institutions such as the Election Commission and Finance Commission, in which the entire nation had immense faith and confidence even today. Noting that this project had been conceived in 1992 – more than 20 years ago – the Prime Minister also emphasized that his Government had resolved to complete the work within 20 months. The contribution of Dr. Ambedkar in social, political and economic sectors is enormous as he is one of the key

founders of Modern India.

This Centre would spread awareness about the life and teachings of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and the Government has decided to develop all important places related to Dr. Ambedkar's life. The four storied Centre would be built on an area of 3.25 acres and would have a Public Library, Research & Extension Centre, Media-cum-Interpretation Centre, Convention Centre, two auditoriums and an exhibition on the Life of Dr. Ambedkar. The life and teachings of Dr. Ambedkar form the pivotal point around which the conceptual base for the 'Centre' is developed. The building's form and design uses transparency, inclusiveness and symbolism to express the essences of democracy and equality through architecture. Special emphasis has been laid down for the incorporation of the persona of Dr. Ambedkar in the structure.

Ministry of Communication and IT

Digital Locker

The Department of Electronics and Information Technology (IT), Ministry of Communication and IT, has launched a beta version of a digital locker, called Digi-Locker. With the help of this new digital system everyone can save important documents electronically. Citizens can access Digi-Locker at www.digitallocker.gov.in. It will be linked to the Aadhaar number. Digi-Locker has data storage space of up to 10MB. This is likely to be increased to 1GB when the next version is released. The locker also provides links of government departments or agency which issue e-documents. Anyone uploading documents in the electronic format will be able to share the e-

documents online with any registered agency or department. Anyone can upload e-documents in a standard XML format in the digital locker repository. It will also provide an e-Sign, which is an online service that allows individuals to digitally sign a document. To sign up for Digi-Locker, a person needs to have an Aadhaar number and a mobile phone number registered with Aadhaar. After launching the beta version, the Government is now looking for feedback from users. The intention of this digital locker is to minimize the use of physical documents. Since the Government will authenticate the e-documents, so chances of fraud are likely to be reduced.

Ministry of Railways

'Operation Five Minutes' - Now Unreserved Ticketing on Mobile Phone of Citizens

Fulfilling yet another commitment of the Railway Budget 2015-16, the Minister of Railways Shri Suresh Prabhu recently launched Mobile Application for Paperless Unreserved Ticketing. This is a pilot project covering 15 stations in Southern Railway and will be extended to entire country in phases. The Railway Minister said that for the passenger, the Indian

Railways is committed to 'Operation Five Minutes' – that is, purchase of an unreserved ticket within five minutes and the Paperless Unreserved Mobile Ticket is the first step in this area. It will allow the passenger to buy a ticket on the move and allow him or her to board the train with the ticket secured on his or her mobile phone, without any need for printing it.

Ministry of Defence

Indian Navy's New Stealth Destroyer, INS Visakhapatnam

Indian Navy's new stealth destroyer, Visakhapatnam, designed indigenously and fitted with advanced features, was launched in Mumbai recently which will boost the maritime force's fire-power capability. The first of P15-B stealth destroyers, was launched at Mazagaon Docks Ltd (MDL). The 163-metre-long vessel will be propelled by four gas turbines, and is designed to achieve a speed of over 30 knots at a displacement of approximately 7,300 tons. The indigenously designed stealth destroyer will have state-of-the-art weapons, sensors, an advance Action Information System, in Integrated Platform Management system, sophisticated Power Distribution System and a host of other advanced features. It is fitted with supersonic surface-to-surface missile system. The system enables the ship to engage shore-based and naval surface targets at long range, making it a lethal platform for strike against enemy targets. The ship's air defence capability, designed to counter the threat of enemy aircraft and anti-ship cruise missiles, will revolve around the vertical launch and long range surface to air missile system. Four 30mm rapid-fire guns will provide the ship with close-in-defence capability, while an MR gun will enable her to provide effective



naval gunfire support. Indigenously developed twin tube torpedo launchers and rocket launchers will add punch to the ship's anti-submarine capability. The vessel is follow-on of P15A Kolkata-class destroyers with enhanced features. The vessel is expected to be commissioned in the Navy in 2018. The indigenization content in P15-B class destroyers is a notch above her illustrious predecessors in line with the 'Make in India policy' of the Government. The P15-B stealth destroyers have been designed by the force's in-house unit - Directorate of Naval Design. The design of Project 15B destroyers is testimony of the Navy's firm commitment towards achieving indigenisation by using high-end technology in the field of weapons/sensors/machinery and stealth.

असम का अगला चुनाव बांग्लादेशी घुसपैठियों से मुक्त होने का चुनाव है : अमित शाह



भारतीय जनता पार्टी के राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष श्री अमित शाह ने गुवाहटी के खानपाड़ा में वेटनरी कालेज ग्राउंड पर एक विशाल जन सभा को संबोधित किया और इस अवसर पर श्री शाह ने कहा कि भाजपा असम को बांग्लादेशी घुसपैठियों से मुक्त कराएगी। श्री शाह ने कहा कि भारतीय जनता पार्टी बांग्लादेश से धार्मिक प्रताड़ना के चलते निकाले जा रहे हिन्दू शरणार्थियों को नागरिकता देने के पक्ष में है। उन्होंने कहा कि असम की जनता राज्य की भ्रष्ट कांग्रेस सरकार को हटाने का मन बना चुकी है और यहां अगली सरकार भाजपा की बनेगी। असम के युवा के विकास तथा यहां के लोगों के विकास का फल बांग्लादेशी घुसपैठिए खा गए हैं। राज्य में सत्ताधारी कांग्रेस पार्टी में दम नहीं कि वह असम

से बांग्लादेशी घुसपैठियों को निकाले। भारतीय जनता पार्टी असम को बांग्लादेशी घुसपैठियों से मुक्त कराएगी। भाजपा की केंद्र सरकार ने असम की सरकार को 980 करोड़ रुपये सिटीजन रजिस्टर बनाने के लिए दिए। सिटीजन रजिस्टर बनेगा तो असम से बांग्लादेशी घुसपैठिए डिपोर्ट (बाहर निकलेंगे) होंगे। लेकिन राज्य की कांग्रेस सरकार यह रजिस्टर नहीं बनाएगी क्योंकि इन्हें घुसपैठियों के वोट मिलते हैं। लेकिन अब ऐसा नहीं चलेगा। इस बार असम की जनता तय कर ले कि आगामी चुनाव में आर-पार की लड़ाई होगी और असम को बांग्लादेशी घुसपैठियों से मुक्ति दिलाने के लिए भाजपा की सरकार बनानी होगी। श्री शाह ने कहा कि एक भ्रांति फैलाई जाती है कि बांग्लादेश से धार्मिक प्रताड़ना के चलते यहां आए हिन्दू शरणार्थियों का क्या होगा। किसी को इसकी चिंता करने की जरूरत नहीं है। भारतीय जनता पार्टी की केंद्र सरकार बांग्लादेश से धार्मिक प्रताड़ना के चलते यहां आ रहे हिन्दुओं को धार्मिक शरणार्थी के तौर पर नागरिकता देने के पक्ष में है। जो धार्मिक प्रताड़ना के चलते यहां शरणार्थी आए हैं, उन्हें बसाने की जिम्मेदारी सिर्फ असम की नहीं पूरे भारत की है। इसलिए भारतीय जनता पार्टी उनका पूरा ख्याल रखेगी। श्री शाह ने कहा कि अगला चुनाव इन्हीं मुद्दों पर होने वाला है। असम का अगला चुनाव बांग्लादेशी घुसपैठियों से मुक्त होने का चुनाव है। यह असम के विकास का चुनाव है। अगला चुनाव असम के माध्यम से पूर्वोत्तर के राज्यों के विकास का चुनाव है। उन्होंने कहा कि मोदी जी पूरे पूर्वोत्तर को विकसित करना चाहते हैं। वह पूर्वोत्तर को टूरिज्म का हब बनाना चाहते हैं और यहां के युवाओं को रोजगार देना चाहते हैं। असम के युवाओं को रोजगार चाहिए, महिलाओं को सुरक्षा चाहिए और पूर्वोत्तर के राज्यों का विकास होना चाहिए। असम पूर्वोत्तर का प्रवेश द्वार है इसलिए असम को कांग्रेस मुक्त कर दीजिए ये सब काम भाजपा की सरकार कर देगी। श्री अमित शाह ने असमवासियों को नववर्ष (बीहू) की शुभकामनाएँ देते हुए असम को कांग्रेसमुक्त बनाने का आह्वान किया।

'World's Largest Political Party' BJP Crosses 10-Crore Membership Mark

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Congrats to BJP leaders & Karyakartas on the Party membership drive crossing 10 crore figure.



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1,062

FAVORITES
1,845



6:37 PM - 19 Apr 2015

"If we are to live and grow as a university [Calcutta], one of whose paramount tasks is to produce not only leaders of thought and action but also workers dedicated to the service of the nation, we cannot sit idle with philosophic concern and let things drift as they may. So far as we are concerned, it is for us to set our house in order. It is for us, and specially the younger generation, Hindus, Moslems and Christians alike, to combine and resolutely stand for the permanent wellbeing of our province ..."

- Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee

*(Excerpts from the speech delivered at Calcutta University Convocation on
2nd March 1935)*



Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation

11, Ashok Road, New Delhi - 110001

Tel.: 011-48005769, Email: office@spmrf.org, director@spmrf.org

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