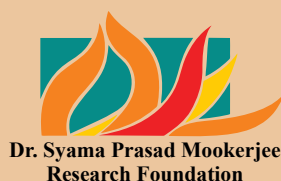


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Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee
Research Foundation

The Nationalist

AatmaNirbhar Bharat
and Internal Security.
- **Prakash Mishra**

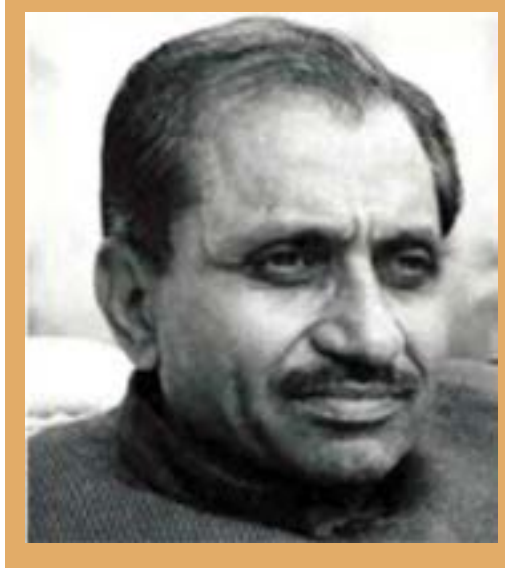
India Needs Sovereignty and
AatmaNirbharta in Technology
- **Pranjal Sharma**

India-EU Come Clean on Water
- **Dr Uttam Kumar Sinha**

आत्मनिर्भर भारत की बुनियाद बनेगी
हर्बल खेती - **हर्ष वर्धन त्रिपाठी**



A New India Building a Strong Border
Infrastructure - **R. K. Pachnanda**



“यह भी आवश्यक है कि हम आर्थिक क्षेत्र में आत्मनिर्भर बनें. यदि हमारे कार्यक्रमों की पूर्ति विदेशी सहायता पर निर्भर रही तो वह अवश्य ही हमारे उपर प्रत्यक्ष- अप्रत्यक्ष रूप से बंधनकारक होगी. हम सहायता देने वाले देशों के आर्थिक प्रभाव में आ जायेंगे. अपनी आर्थिक योजनाओं की सफलपूर्ति में संभव बाधाओं को बचाने की दृष्टि से हमें अनेक स्थानों पर मौन रहना पड़ेगा”

पं दीनदयाल उपाध्याय,
पुस्तक ‘भारतीय अर्थ-नीति विकास की एक दिशा’ से

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EVENT @ SPMRF



Dr. Anirban Ganguly

Steadily, surely and certainly the Narendra Modi Government is advancing towards altering and transforming the “Idea of India” narrative. The achievements and events of the last few months and weeks, have clearly indicated and established that. The aspiration and hope of India’s rise as a civilizational power, as a major power, the hopes of crores of Indians that unsettled episodes of our history, which have sapped our national energies for the last seven decades be solved, have been fulfilled. The successful delivery and arrival of the first batch of the Rafale fighter jets is a major step towards firming up India’s defence capabilities. The successful, transparent

Historic Milestones

and time-bound negotiations of the Rafale delivery by the Modi dispensation displays the Prime Minister’s determination to ensure that India can never be blackmailed or bullied anymore.

The campaign of calumny against the acquisition of the Rafale, unleashed by the Congress party and its former president, the repeated attempts by the Left parties and their inspired media houses to obfuscate the issue, to deliberately misinterpret failed to gain any traction. In the new narrative of the “Idea of India”, it is the people who wish to see India emerge as a great power, conscious of her civilizational moorings, potentials and responsibilities. This support of the people, is a real support, it is a heartfelt and genuine support and not like the support falsely claimed by the communists in trying to further their deconstructive political goals through a “peoples’ revolution”. When PM Modi talks of Jan Bhagidari, when he asserts that people of India are with him and for them he toils and strives on, he means it, and it rings true, both the mandates of 2014 and 2019, have conclusively proved that. The peoples’ support Modi’s appeals received during the difficult period of the lockdown, the peoples’ response that his exhortations elicited during India’s fight against the pandemic are cases in point.

The continuing fortification of our border defence infrastructure, the enhanced speed, the upgraded technology used, the devaluation of more decision making and fiscal powers to the Border Road Organisation (BRO), the determined planning and time-bound execution, the completion of strategic roads and bridges, clearly display PM Modi’s pace, his political will and farsightedness. India’s border defence

and infrastructure long used to being neglected have been receiving renewed push and attention since 2014 and have seen a number of projects completed in the last few years and months. The addition of the Rafale contingent in the Indian arsenal at this point of time is also highly symbolic. It has clearly demonstrated that the system and structure of governance, delivery in India have indeed undergone a visible change.

The first week of August – 5th August – will also be the first anniversary of the abrogation of the discriminatory Article 370 and 35A. A civilizational move, it was, as far as India's unity and integrity was concerned. For the first time, since independence, India was united from the mountains to the seas. While the decision to abrogate 370 and 35A was done and implemented through entirely democratic and constitutional means, receiving support from across the political spectrum, Prime Minister Modi also articulated a new vision for the region. In the last one year that vision has struck roots and resonance among the people Jammu-Kashmir and Ladakh. Grassroots devolution of power, emphasis on connectivity, infrastructure and the laying of lifelines has continued apace. With the passing of the Domicile Act, a brazen discrimination has ended, Union laws and institutions now have jurisdiction over the people benefiting and empowering them. Ladakh is seeing a new wave of development, this was the first winter which saw the people

of Ladakh well supplied with electricity and provisions. From central schemes to job generation, from health-care infrastructure to educational infrastructure, from bridges to roads, from agriculture, horticulture, to industry and tourism, in every field there has been visible and palpable progress in the last one year. The scale of developmental thinking has seen an upward swing both in terms of planning and delivery. Political parties and leaders who had thrived on the politics of blackmail supported by 370, are being compelled to do a rethink. Either they change or they risk becoming increasingly irrelevant and obsolete. True freedom for the people of Ladakh and Jammu-Kashmir has in a sense come now. One of the most transformative aspects of this change of status is that it has practically broken the backbone of terror networks in the region with terrorists, their organisations, masters and sponsors feeling the heat. This has made a huge positive difference to the lives of the ordinary people of the region who yearn to get along with their normal lives and aspire for opportunities.

Another historic milestone is the completion of the path-breaking New Education Policy 2020. An education policy which not only articulates and reflects the New India narrative and its various dimensions but also repositions India's educational ethos and approach to her civilizational quest and experience. The NEP 2020 is indeed a major landmark of Prime Minister Modi's second tenure. Each dimension of

the policy reflects a well-considered and farsighted approach, aiming to revitalise and re-direct Indian education in order to reflect India's aspirations of shaping the 21st century as the Asian century. Be it the focus on enhancing our national research scope and capacities, be it the focus on ensuring that backward districts become central to the push for spreading a comprehensive educational programme, be it the focus on vocational education – a cardinal dimension in today's world – be it the emphasis on the learning and promotion of Bharatiya languages, lessening the burden of education, on making the imparting of education responsive, resonating and free from artificial compartmentalisation, by synergising technology, culture, skills and encouraging the growth of an integral and holistic approach to life and living, the NEP 2020 has encapsulated the entire Indian education discourse and its many aspirations. It lays a framework that reflects future India's needs, it lays a structure that can prepare young minds to lead India into the future basing themselves on a solid foundation of Bharatiya essence and ethos. In fact, it was exactly such an approach that some of our greatest education philosophers and thinkers had advocated in the past – be it Swami Vivekananda, Sri Aurobindo, Gurudev Tagore, Lokmanya Tilak, Mahatma Gandhi, Dr S. Radhakrishnan, Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee, Acharya Satish Chandra Mukherjee, Ananda Coomaraswamy and a host of others who shaped the education discourse during India's struggle for

freedom.

August 5th 2020, will be a golden-lettered day in India's civilizational march and history. The foundation for the construction of the grand temple dedicated to Lord Sri Ram will be finally laid in Ayodhya on that day symbolising the culmination of a civilizational struggle, a struggle that embodied the collective aspirations of the majority of the people of India and defined their faith. It also demonstrates how, through a persistent democratic peoples' movement, a watershed civilizational goal can be achieved. This in itself reflects how India under Modi has graduated to an altogether different democratic dimension. An intellectual, political and juridical movement for decades has finally led to this moment, a moment which is also being seen as a unifying national moment. The naysayers and those who attempted to stall the formulation of a solution to the Ram Janmabhoomi issue, all these decades, and gave false statements, conjured up false historical facts, distorted evidence and attempted to mislead the people of India and international opinion, are those who are most dejected by these developments. All their efforts have been nulled by the steady fruition of these epochal milestones. Indeed, this last one year, from the summer of 2019, can be said to be the phase, when India's civilizational soul, long suppressed, is finding actual utterance. It is only those who are divorced from the essence of India, who grudge this expression.

PM's address at the launch of High Throughput COVID-19 testing facilities at 3 ICMR Labs on 27 July 2020

- » Namaskar!! Crores of Indian citizens are fighting against the Corona pandemic very bravely. The Hi-tech state-of-the-art testing facilities launched today will further strengthen the fight of West Bengal, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh against Corona.
- » Friends, Delhi-NCR, Mumbai and Kolkata are major hubs of economic activity. Lakhs of youngsters come to these cities from various corners of the country for their career and to fulfil their dreams. Now about 10,000 more testing capacity will be added to the current testing capacity in these three places.
- » In future, these labs will also be equipped with facility for testing many other diseases including Hepatitis B and C, HIV and Dengue.
- » Friends, Today India is in a much more stable position than other countries because right decisions were taken at the right time in the country. Today, the number of deaths from corona in our country is much less than in big countries.
- » At the same time, the recovery rate here is much higher than other countries and is improving day by day. Today, the number of people recovered from corona in India is about to reach 10 lakhs.
- » Friends, The rapid setting up of Corona-specific health infrastructure in the country was the most important thing for this massive and long fight against Corona. For this reason, at the very outset, the central government announced a package of 15 thousand crore rupees.
- » Be it isolation centres, Covid special hospitals or a network of testing, tracing and tracking, India expanded its capabilities at a very fast pace. Today India has more than 11 thousand Covid facilities and more than 11 lakh isolation beds.
- » Friends, In January, we had only one centre for the corona test, while today about 1300 labs are working in the whole country for corona testing. Today, more than 5 lakh tests are being conducted in India every day. In the coming weeks, we are trying to upscale it to 10 lakh per day.
- » Friends, During the Corona pandemic, everyone is determined with only one resolution that is, saving every Indian. This resolution has given amazing results to India.
- » What India has done, especially regarding PPE, masks and test kits, is a huge success story. At one point of time, not a single PPE kit was manufactured in India. Today, India is the world's second largest PPE Kit manufacturer.
- » Just 6 months ago there was not a single PPE Kit manufacturer in the country. Today more than 1200 manufacturers are producing more than 5 lakh PPE kits every day. At one point of time, N-95 masks were also imported from abroad to India. Today more than 3 lakh N-95 masks are being manufactured in India every day.
- » There was a time when India was also dependent on other countries for ventilators. Today, the production capacity has been developed to manufacture 3 lakh ventilators in India every year. During this period, the production of medical oxygen cylinders was also greatly increased.

PM's address at India Ideas Summit 2020 on 22 July 2020



- » Namaste! Business leaders, Distinguished guests, I thank the US-India Business Council for inviting me to address the 'India Ideas Summit'. I also congratulate the USIBC on its forty fifth anniversary this year.
- » Over the past decades, the USIBC has brought Indian and American business closer. USIBC's choice of this year's Ideas Summit - 'Building a Better Future' is also very very relevant.
- » Friends, We all agree that the world is in need for a better future. And, it is all of us who have to collectively give shape to the future. I firmly believe that our approach to the future must primarily be a more human-centric one. Our growth agenda must place the poor and vulnerable at the core. 'Ease of Living' is as important as 'Ease of Business'.
- » Friends, Recent experience has taught us that the global economy has been too focused on efficiency and optimization. Efficiency is a good thing. But, on the way, we forgot to focus on something equally important.
- » That is resilience against external shocks. It has taken a global pandemic to remind us how important resilience is.
- » Friends, Global economic resilience can be achieved by stronger domestic economic

capacities. This means improved domestic capacity for manufacturing, restoring the health of the financial system and diversification of international trade.

- » Friends, India is contributing towards a prosperous and resilient world through the clarion call of an 'AatmaNirbhar Bharat'. And, for that, we await your partnership!
- » Friends, Today, there is global optimism towards India. This is because India offers a perfect combination of openness, opportunities and options.
- » Let me elaborate. India celebrates openness in people and in governance. Open minds make open markets. Open markets lead to greater prosperity. These are principles on which both India and the USA agree.
- » Friends, During the last six years, we have made many efforts to make our economy more open and reform oriented. Reforms have ensured increased 'Competitiveness', enhanced 'Transparency', expanded 'Digitization', greater 'Innovation' and more 'Policy stability'.
- » Friends, India is emerging as a land of opportunities. Let me give you one example of the tech sector. Recently, an interesting report came out in India. It said for the first time ever, there are more rural internet users than even urban internet users.
- » Imagine the scale! There are about half a billion active internet users in India now. Half a billion connected people. Does this sound huge to you? Hold your breath. Because, there are over half a billion more people who are being connected.
- » Opportunities in technology also include

opportunities in the frontier technologies of 5G, Big data analytics, Quantum computing, Block-chain and Internet of things.

- » Friends, The options to invest in India are extensive. India invites you to invest in the hard-work of our farmers. India has done historic reforms in the agriculture sector recently.
- » There are investment opportunities in: Agricultural inputs and machinery, Agriculture supply chain management, Ready-to-eat items, Fisheries and Organic produce. India's food processing sector is expected to be worth over half a trillion dollars by 2025.
- » To grow more streams of revenue, the best time to tap investment opportunities in Indian agriculture sector is now! India invites you to invest in healthcare.
- » The Healthcare sector in India is growing faster than 22 percent every year. Our companies are also progressing in production of medical-technology, tele-medicine and diagnostics.
- » India and the US have already built a robust partnership in the Pharma sector. To achieve scale and speed, now is the best time to expand your investment in Indian health-care sector!
- » India invites you to invest in energy. As India evolves into a gas-based economy, there will be big investment opportunities for US companies. There are also big opportunities in the clean energy sector. To generate more power for your investment, this is the best time to enter the Indian power sector!

A New India Building a Strong Border Infrastructure



R. K. Pachnanda

The Prime Minister's visit to Ladakh to motivate the valiant soldiers protecting our motherland was truly the reflection of a great leader and statesman, and will go down in the annals of history. It not only sent a firm and powerful message across but also demonstrated a show of solidarity of a united AatmaNirbhar Bharat – a Swabhiman Bharat, a Shashakta Bharat, a Sanghatith Bharat and Ek Atma Bharat.

While addressing the soldiers in Leh, Prime Minister Modi said that the enemies have seen their “fire and fury” and that the tales of bravery and dedication they had displayed will echo in every home. Earlier, soon after the Galwan episode, Prime Minister Modi had stated that twenty of our jawans were martyred but not before they taught a lesson to those who had dared to raise an eye towards “Bharat Mata” and assured the nation that our forces would spare no effort to protect our body as today we had the capability that no one could eye even an inch of our territory. He said that the infrastructure in the border areas had improved greatly leading to heightened patrolling and close monitoring of movements at the border. The armed forces had been given a free hand to take all necessary steps. PM Modi asserted that India would respond firmly to any

attempts to transgress the Line of Actual Control. At Leh, the Prime Minister sent a strong message to China, that “the age of expansionism is over”.

China has always had, in its DNA, a devious nibbling annexation habit and policy, due to which the areas of differences increased since the Congress meekly turned a blind eye to the nibbling away of our territories by the Chinese through continuous transgressions and border violations. Though we entered into as many as six bilateral agreements in 1988, 1993, 1996, 2005, 2012 and 2013, we did not address the dispute over the Line of Actual Control (LAC). When the Chinese intruded and pitched tents deep inside our territory in Depsang, in 2013, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh mildly mentioned in Parliament about the Chinese having a different perception about the LAC. Protocols, talks and understanding between delegations meant nothing to China which kept violating decisions taken. Confidence Building Measures were being

Work on a link road, part of an infrastructure project of a strategic road in Ladakh, is one of the factors which seemed to have pushed China into their misadventure on 15 June 2020 when they were effectively countered by our valiant soldiers. Another reason which could have irked China is the fact that a strong India rightly did not support the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which was not advisable from our security point of view.

misused by the Chinese to resort to psychological warfare and “salami slicing”. This is because after 1962, non-violence was considered the policy of the then government. Our inglorious defeat in 1962 was due to Pandit Nehru’s policy after China’s invasion and occupation of Tibet in 1950, even though he had been cautioned by Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel. Due to the policy of congress regimes after 1962, the defence forces were neglected and infrastructure was non-existent.

It was only after Sh. Narendra Modi became the Prime Minister, that strengthening infrastructure became a national priority. Today, there has been a great leap in infrastructure development at the Indo-China border on the Indian side which has become a great deterrent for China. Had the infrastructural development started in the Congress regimes, we would have been in a much more dominating position today. It was only thanks to the vision of Prime Minister Modi, that after 2014, we have created a strong road network by the Border Roads Organization and the CPWD. The Border Area Development Programme has been allocated Rs. 784 Crores in the fiscal year 2020-2021. “10% of the total allocated funds will be additionally allocated to the States/UTs abutting Indo China Border [Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Ladakh, Sikkim and Uttarakhand] for taking up works in the districts abutting Indo China Border”. The creation of infrastructure “would help integrate these area with the hinterland, create a positive perception of care by the country and encourage the people to stay or in the border areas leading to safe and secure border” as per the M.H.A. And border infrastructure has developed on all borders through comprehensive Integrated Border Management Systems – be it border out posts, border fencing, mobile towers, use of technology at the border and lighting. On the Indo-Tibet Border, not only has the spread of roads

While addressing the soldiers in Leh, Prime Minister Modi said that the enemies have seen their “fire and fury” and that the tales of bravery and dedication they had displayed will echo in every home. Earlier, soon after the Galwan episode, Prime Minister Modi had stated that twenty of our jawans were martyred but not before they taught a lesson to those who had dared to raise an eye towards “Bharat Mata” and assured the nation that our forces would spare no effort to protect our body as today we had the capability that no one could eye even an inch of our territory. He said that the infrastructure in the border areas had improved greatly leading to heightened patrolling and close monitoring of movements at the border.

increased, but also other infrastructure including helipads, tunnels and bridges. In an interview to Doordarshan (DD News) on 7 July 2020, in an interview, US Military Strategist Edward Luttwak praised Indian’s border development push. US Secretary of State, Mike Pompei stated that India responded best to Chinese aggression.

At the same time there has been increased patrolling – be it long range patrols, short range patrols or joint patrols of the Army and ITBP. We have always held our ground in the several face-offs which regularly take place. Our regular patrols also enable us to assess Chinese activities, identify features of tactical importance, dominate infiltration routes, corroborate inputs and assert our presence. Post 2014, our patrols have been actively engaging, confronting and preventing any incursions from the other side. We are

consistently asserting our right and not allowing any construction activity in our territory within the LAC. In Doklam we stalled the construction of a road by the Chinese which would have adversely affected our strategic interests. This was certainly a diplomatic victory for India. It is only after this that China became more wary of India's diplomatic and military might, under Prime Minister Modi.

Work on a link road, part of an infrastructure project of a strategic road in Ladakh, is one of the factors which seemed to have pushed China into their misadventure on 15 June 2020 when they were effectively countered by our valiant soldiers. Another reason which could have irked China is the fact that a strong India rightly did not support the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which was not advisable from our security point of view. The BRI was a project by China to establish their dominance in global trade and this included the China – Pakistan Economic Corridor, which is not acceptable to India and it goes through Pakistan occupied Kashmir. Other factors which could have added salt to China's wounds could have been the friendly relations between India and USA and the formation of the two Union Territories of J & K and Ladakh and abrogation of Article 370, the greatest achievement of the Indian government since independence. This only reflects Chinese vulnerability and the Galwan aggression only reflects the desperate action of a frustrated country.

Due to its predatory designs, global antagonism against China is only rising. USA, Japan, Australia, Canada, other European and nations have criticized China for their unilateralism and expansionist actions in the South China sea, their repression in Hong Kong and bullying behaviour in border disputes. Former US National Security Adviser John Bolton has said that China is an existentialist threat of the 21st century. US

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has stated that China aggression towards its neighbours is being widely perceived as a threat to their sovereignty. Border tensions, aggressive posturing by China is uncalled for, he further stated. A similar view has been expressed by Japan which cancelled President Xi Jinping's visit to Japan. Apart from global resentment, the nations, in the periphery of China, are also wary of its policies. This is not expected of a member of the United Nations Security Council which is, in fact, expected to set an example. The initial resentment, world over, against China, followed in when it was learnt the coronavirus emanated from China.

Prime Minister Modi's front footed, no compromise policy towards China has been a judicious mix of diplomatic, military and economic options. Prime Minister Modi and President Xi Jinping have had as many as 18 summit meetings in the past six years, including two informal meetings at Mamallapuram and Wuhan. Several meetings have been held at different levels. The 15th meeting of the WMCC (Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination), was held on 24 June 2020, where India stressed on respecting the LAC and both sides agreed to expeditiously implement the 6 June understanding on disengagement and de-escalation.

While diplomatic parleys should continue, it is imperative to continue Prime Minister Modi's policy of strengthening both our infrastructural and military consolidation. Though India is a peaceful nation, we shall negotiate only from a position of strength. Prime Minister Modi's stance and the manner in which he has addressed and continues to address the Ladakh episode is indicative of that approach.

(The writer is a retired Director General, ITBP. His views are personal.)

AatmaNirbhar Bharat and Internal Security



Prakash Mishra

The Covid pandemic has affected every country and really changed our lives. Each nation has been doing whatever it can to contain the effects on its population and specifically on the economy. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been leading the nation from the front. As a true democratic leader, he has been taking everyone's opinion and coming up with firm decisions. His call for AatmaNirbhar Bharat, could not have come at a more appropriate time. History has taught us that a nation which is self-reliant, does not get affected by global economic upheavals. With our economy undergoing large scale transformation over the years and being a major player in the world economy, it is now time to again think of self-reliance.

For any economy to thrive and prosper, an environment of peace and security is absolutely essential. In our federal structure, it is the States who have the responsibility to look after maintenance of law and order and investigation of crime. The Central Government has only a supportive role and that too with the concurrence of the concerned State. Each State or region has problems of internal security which are quite different. In this context, the handling of these problems requires a specialized approach. Collection of intelligence is extremely vital for ensuring proper planning and precise execution. In the days of technological advancement, use of high-end technology in the field of real time

intelligence is the key but expensive.

Sadly, many States have not taken policing seriously. Low funding and lack of appreciation of the growing situation has led to a state of apathy where the police forces have to function in the age-old archaic manner. This is a matter of serious concern. It has resulted in excessive dependence on the centre for not only additional forces, but also funding. This kind of an arrangement has not worked well. The State police is always better off in handling local situations as it is an organization which comes from within. It gels well with the society and being a part of it, comes to know about minor incidents in time. It is able to generate quality intelligence wherever required. Moreover, the power of maintenance of law and order being with the States, the responsibility and accountability should also be with them. Power with one and responsibility with another does not seem to be a proper arrangement. It has not worked well, nor is it going to work well.

The challenges in the field of national security can be broadly listed as, cross border terrorism in Kashmir, left wing extremism in eastern and southern India, activities of insurgent and ethnic groups in the north east, and last but not the least the possibilities of terror strikes. Though, ever since 2014, when Prime Minister Modi took up the reins of governance, the days of serial bombings across multiple cities have now receded into the past. We have local problems like the growth of organized crime and extortion mafias. Fortunately, Prime Minister Modi, has taken a lead role in the field of internal security. He has been attending all the DG's Conference, without fail, every year and taking stock of the situation. As a result, the situation has been improving in all the sectors. I am sure, with his continued leadership, most of the problems will

soon be on the way to being addressed and resolved.

When we started dealing with these problems, the States were not in a position to really fight on their own. They had to rely heavily on the central forces. The availability of central forces delayed the process of capacity building by the states. While facing the problem of left-wing extremism, the badly affected states realized that the approach is not giving the desired results. They soon started working to develop their own mechanism. Undivided Andhra Pradesh can be regarded as the pioneer in this approach. They developed their own architecture. A specialised intelligence wing, a specially trained force and above all the acceptance of the problem as their own. This dramatically changed the situation and soon they were on top. Other states, like Odisha and Maharashtra followed their model and achieved success in equal measure. During the last six years, because of the foresight of Prime Minister Modi, other States like Chhattisgarh, which is the worst affected, and Jharkhand, were also encouraged and helped to start the same model. They have also done exceedingly well after they took the problem on them.

The activities of insurgent groups in the north east is on a low ebb. The initial response by the central forces had succeeded in controlling the explosive situation to a large extent. Several peace accords with these groups has been behind the peace which seemingly exists today. However, the militants involved with these groups have taken to extortion, gun running and trans-border smuggling giving a new dimension to the problem. Several anti accord groups have emerged making the task of tracking their activities more complex. Except, Assam, the other six states need to do more to improve their fighting capacity. Being located on the sensitive border with China and Myanmar, it is all the more relevant that this is done on priority.

When we discuss about terrorism, Punjab is the

state which comes to everyone's mind. The intensity of the problem was so severe that it had caused great concern. Initially the centre had to step in and provide all support to contain the problem. Contain was all they could do. It was only after the state police took the ownership of the problem, things started to drastically improve and finally ended. Full credit must be given to Punjab police for this outstanding work. Coming to the problem in Kashmir, since the inception of terrorism in 1989, the issue has all along being handled by the centre. This has perhaps a lot to do with the special status that the state had, till recently. Even now, being a territory administered by the centre the onus is on them to ensure maintenance of law and order. Jammu & Kashmir's own police is now showing some signs of resurgence and there is a need to make the Police Stations as the focal points for having control and watch over the situation. For this, they have to be adequately staffed, modernized with weaponry and communication equipment and a dedicated intelligence desk. It is Kashmir police which should lead. Others should only assist, till they are capable on their own.

All States have to develop and modernize their intelligence set ups to counter the ever-present threat of terror attack from fundamentalist groups. They also need to develop their own tactical units to respond quickly till special forces reach. This may require substantial investment, but it is better than being caught in a hopeless situation.

AatmaNirbhar Bharat would essentially require an AatmaNirbhar system to effectively deal with security challenges that the country is facing. To my mind, we can achieve this by making the State police forces more empowered, modernized, independent and professional. I am sure that Prime Minister Modi, with his personal interest in these matters, would be the driving force behind this.

(The writer is a former DGP, Odisha & Former DG, CRPF. His views are personal.)

India Needs Sovereignty and AatmaNirbharta in Technology



Pranjal Sharma

Over three years ago, in 2017, the government of China launched its plan of National Champions in technology.

These were private companies who would lead China into the world of artificial intelligence. In the first phase four companies were selected by China's Ministry of Science and Technology. These were Baidu, Alibaba Group and Tencent Holdings together known as BAT. And fourth was iFlytek, a voice intelligence specialist company. Each was given government support and funds to focus on different applications of artificial intelligence.

More such companies in various fields have been added since then taking the total to 15 champions. The clear goal is to close the tech gap with the United States by 2030.

These champions get special support in their bids for business abroad and within China. No surprise that companies like BAT and Huawei have taken dominant market shares across the world. China deserves criticism on many matters, but we must recognize their ability to take long term strategic decisions.

It is time now that India builds on its technological foundation for self-reliance. India must accelerate on the path of technological

sovereignty.

What does this mean? We are in a world where technologies like AI, connected devices of 3D printing, automation, Internet of things and drones have become fundamental to all spheres of activity. Together they form the elements of the fourth industrial revolution. Any country that does not use these technologies to create its own platforms and solutions will remain beholden to external powers. **Being AatmaNirbhar in technology is a critical part of protecting our economic security.**

India must rapidly enhance its investments and efforts to create capabilities in several spheres.

The urgent and immediate focus has been on the pharmaceutical sectors. About 60-80% of ingredients for most pharmaceuticals are

The government and regulators are promising to create a protective environment. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology is partnering with non-profit industry body Data Security Council of India to create a National Centre of Excellence for cyber security innovation. This centre will have to focus on educating and strengthening the security ecosystem as hundreds of millions join the digital mainstream in the next few years. All such steps will boost AatmaNirbharta over data and security.

imported from China. This happened over 15 years when we allowed our manufacturing to wither away while imports increased.

But tech sovereignty means much more. While definitions vary, the objective should be to make India self-reliant on digital infrastructure. This implies that India should have control over most of the hardware and software that is deployed in businesses and governments.

Let us take some areas where the need for sovereign control is urgent. Sovereign control does not mean that the government owns or manages the digital infrastructure. It means that government should be able to regulate for the larger public good.

Data and Cyber Security

India is the world largest open market democracy. The information and data of more than a billion connected citizens should be controlled and regulated by domestic institutions. There has been a vibrant debate about data localization and privacy in the last few years. And this is what a good democracy should have. India must establish clear rules and regulations on use of data. The Data Protection legislation is still being discussed in the Parliament and hopefully a strong and sensible law will be enacted within the year. Linked to this is cyber security. From delivering cash subsidies directly to hundreds of millions to business transactions being done online. Every dimension need protection from cyber-attacks. In today's world, cyber-attack can be more damaging than an attack on the border. While soldiers can repel attacks on our borders, cyber security requires all of us to be vigilant. **The systems that are deployed should be secure and reliable. India must use software developed by Indian or friendly nations to manage cyber security. India should also work with like-minded companies for a joint effort**

in the same manner that we have create anti-terror coalitions.

The government and regulators are promising to create a protective environment. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology is partnering with non-profit industry body Data Security Council of India to create a National Centre of Excellence for cyber security innovation. This centre will have to focus on educating and strengthening the security ecosystem as hundreds of millions join the digital mainstream in the next few years. All such steps will boost AatmaNirbharta over data and security.

Social and communications

A recent report by the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) highlights the digital market in India. There are more than 500 million active internet users, of which more than 50% are in rural areas. About 14% are in the age group of 5-11 years. This means 71 million minors are online using mobiles or home Wi-Fi and many more millions are first times users of internet. All these are also vulnerable category of users.

As more and more Indians join the digital mainstream, minor and adult first-time users will be vulnerable to negative influence. **The ban on Chinese apps by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has protected these millions of users. The ban has not just deprived China of its largest overseas market but has stopped it from infiltrating the minds of Indian citizens. Chinese apps would take their data without permissions while also promoting anti-India ideas through the apps.** Many of these apps also push selective information and news to users directly. As a result, China would have had direct access to hundreds of millions of citizens who are just beginning to navigate the internet.

A deeply positive development since the ban has been the rapid rise of Indian made social video apps like Roposo and Chingari which are offering safe and secure options to TikTok to domestic users.

Digital Infrastructure and manufacturing

From hardware for mobile phone communications to defence manufacturing. From payment gateways to power generation equipment. In each of these sectors, India must improve its AatmaNirbharta. Most of the telecom equipment in India has been coming from China. Now the tide is turning. Indian enterprises are now planning to investment in their own equipment or planning to buy from European companies which are less likely to interfere than China. The banning of Chinese giant Huawei from selling its 5G equipment in India would be an important step in this direction.

India has also moved rapidly to build its capacity in technical infrastructure for financial transactions. The National Payment Corporation of India launched the Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM) app and RuPay card payment to counter the monopolies of global giants like Mastercard and Visa. The creation of Unified Payment Interface (UPI) on which BHIM and RuPay work was an excellent step towards AatmaNirbharta. There were more than 1.34 billion transactions amounting to almost US\$35 billion in June 2020 under UPI.

The Way Ahead

To be significantly AatmaNirbhar in technology, India must reform its policies, enhance investments and investment in relevant education.

The good news is that government is keenly

The budget has also announced investment in the future. It has promised to set up data centre parks and a National Mission on Quantum Technologies and Applications with a fund of Rs 80 billion for a 5-year project. “Quantum technology is opening up new frontiers in computing, communications, cyber security with wide-spread applications. It is expected that lots of commercial applications would emerge from theoretical constructs which are developing in this area,” the Finance Minister announced.

moving ahead on all fronts. The budget announcements made by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in February 2020 indicate that the government is ready to embrace the benefits of technology in diverse roles and sectors. The focus on technology includes agriculture, textiles, urban renewal, ports and healthcare.

Phrases like internet of things and machine learning which were alien to the government are now part of official lexicon. This is an important shift for governments since it must counter the perception that higher use of technology is at the cost of employment and job creation.

“The new economy is based on innovations that disrupt established business models. Artificial intelligence, Internet-of-Things (IoT), 3D printing, drones, DNA data storage, quantum computing, etc., are re-writing the world economic order. India has already embraced new paradigms such as the sharing economy with aggregator platforms displacing conventional businesses. Government has harnessed new

technologies to enable direct benefit transfers and financial inclusion on a scale never imagined before,” the budget document says.

The budget has also announced investment in the future. It has promised to set up data centre parks and a National Mission on Quantum Technologies and Applications with a fund of Rs 80 billion for a 5-year project. “Quantum technology is opening up new frontiers in computing, communications, cyber security with wide-spread applications. It is expected that lots of commercial applications would emerge from theoretical constructs which are developing in this area,” the Finance Minister announced.

The government has also provided a much needed Rs 60 billion boost to provide rural regions with Bharat Net fibre-to-home connectivity.

Realizing the importance of artificial intelligence in managing data, the government is now ready to deploy analytics for official statistics. A new Policy on Official Statistics would use AI

for data collection, integration, assessment and dissemination. Hopefully the archaic, flawed and poor data collections systems would be replaced rapidly with new AI led processes.

All these are welcome steps. However, in the post Covid world where India has committed itself to AatmaNirbharta, this may not be enough. President Xi Jin Ping has announced investments of more than \$1 trillion in technology for China and its institutions till 2025

India needs a strategy to match this. Funds created by government of India together with global investments can be an effective way ahead. We have seen global technology giants like Google commit billions for India. With right policies, domestic and global companies will increase their investments here.

Apart from funds, India must make the most of global coalitions with like-minded countries. Indian companies like Reliance Industries are members of Open RAN Alliance. This is global coalition that is building next generation of communications platforms using open radio access networks (RAN). This alliance has an implicit aim to reduce Chinese dominance in telecom technology by developing cutting edge options. India and other countries have to create their own standards of technology to avoid being trapped in China led rules.

Investing in our technology led future is as important for our economic security as protecting our borders. Today the borders are virtual, where the power of artificial intelligence matters more than firepower of artillery. The fourth industrial revolution technologies are open and egalitarian. India must build on these to create capabilities in technology for in tune with its destiny as a global leader.

(Pranjal Sharma is the author of India Automated. Views expressed are his own.)

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Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyan to AatmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyan: Analysing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's larger objective of Bridging Rural-Urban Divide



Pathikrit Payne

The world is witnessing an unprecedented level of a pandemic related crisis coupled with economic distress. Every country is trying in its own way to deal with it. But perhaps no other country faces the magnitude of challenges that India faces given the enormity of the population that has to be protected and taken care of. And yet, no other country has tried as much, to convert the crisis into an opportunity, to become more resilient through structural reforms, than India has.

The Journey of Last Three Months: Resilience, Restructuring & Recalibration

From that perspective, India's journey over the last three months has been demanding and yet an exemplary one, both in terms of capacity building for treating Covid-19 patients, to striving for self-sufficiency in making different kinds of medical equipment, as well as in making sure that the basic minimum support, in the form of food grain and

money, reaches to that section of populace, with most modest means, for whom it is a perpetual trade-off between saving lives or livelihood.

In the midst of the fight against a dangerously contagious disease, India, unlike many other countries, had to continue its battle against Pakistan sponsored terrorism and confront a shocking attempt of status-quo alteration by China, which left the country with no option but to remain prepared for a full-fledged war if the need be.

For a country with 135 crore population and with such density of people, India has been considerably successful in keeping the infection cases to a little more than a million, as of yet, with more than half a million almost having recovered from Covid-19 infection.

In addition to that, under the leadership of PM Modi, the Central Government initiated an unprecedented exercise of recalibrating and decoupling India's economy that is aimed at making it more resilient. A series of measures have been taken in that realm to strengthen the framework of India's MSME and agriculture sector, to enhance their capacity building architecture as well as empowering them to become competitive enough and strive to be part of the global supply chain in the near future.

The Indian Challenge: More Profound and Complex

It is important here to mention that the challenges that India faced in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic are far more profound than what has been faced by many other countries, be it in Western Europe or US. One of those challenges has been the issue of managing the migrant labour force and taking care of them during this crisis phase.

The Legacy of the Migration Crisis

In fact, one of the most undesirable legacies of India's story since 1947, is that of the creation of the rural-urban divide wherein urban India continued to grow and attract investments while rural India was unfortunately and deliberately kept impoverished through systematic stifling of agriculture and blocking of movement of industrial investments into rural India, which otherwise would have unleashed the rural growth story and prevented mass migrations of the hapless rural workforce into urban India in quest of jobs.

Across the spectrum of many of European countryside, industry and agriculture coexist whereby many critical agricultural produce, and intermediary products or materials, eventually become key ingredients supplied to factories nearby, but not so in India. Here, it has been quite an irony that the city-dwelling left-liberal socialists and vested interests, for long, prevented agricultural reforms, and industrial development, in rural India thereby compelling the village dwelling Indians to shift to cities, and reside in urban slums, in search of jobs in those very factories whose migration to rural India have been prevented routinely.

Nevertheless, as a result of this pandemic, the migrant workforce, in millions, was compelled to return to their native places and it was necessary

to create work avenues for them so that it does not lead to financial emergency en masse.

The Schemes in Details

While extending the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) by five more months till November, whereby 800 million Indians would be provided with free ration by Central Government at a combined cost of Rs 1.5 Lakh crores, since its initiation in April 2020, PM Modi led NDA Government also initiated the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyan (PMGKRA) aimed at providing sustainable work opportunities to migrant workers who had returned to their native places during the pandemic phase.

The two schemes also have a profound message. Irrespective of what shape the Covid-19 pandemic takes and irrespective of whether India is compelled to get into a conflict with China or not, PM Modi is assuring people of India, especially the distressed sections, that his Government would continue to support them with provisioning of food grain and productive employment during the entire crisis period. This is a powerful message and would only increase faith of the common man on Government.

Spread across 116 districts of six states,

It is also important to mention that PMGKRA is far better than MNREGA since the latter has consistently failed in durable asset, or infrastructure, creation in rural India. Further MNREGA, a brain child of UPA, never gave importance to skill mapping or skill development, and whatever little assets were built under MNREGA always had questionable structural strength or productivity enhancing capability.

consisting of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Odisha and Madhya Pradesh, PMGKRA scheme is meant for around 67 lakh migrant workers. As part of this project, the Central Government is expected to spend Rs 50,000 crore over the next 125 days on a 'Mission Mode' to develop 'Durable Rural Infrastructure' by optimally using the rural migrant workforce and their skill-sets for the same.

Prime Minister Modi in his speech while inaugurating the project also mentioned about 'Skill Mapping' that would be done to make sure that the migrant workforce who had returned from cities due to the pandemic would be engaged in a kind of work that is in sync with their inherent skill-sets. It was also mentioned that, the 'The Program will also prepare for expansion and development of livelihoods over a longer term'.

Explained: The Nuances of PMGKRA

In fact, Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyan (PMGKRA) is a critical part of PM Modi's AatmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, which strives for productively employing the migrant workforce in creation of durable assets in rural India in areas like construction of houses for rural poor, plantations, development of provisions for drinking water, Panchayat Bhavans, community toilets, rural mandis, rural roads, cattle sheds and Anganwadi Bhavans, poultry farming, laying of fibre optics and cleaning of river Ganga to name a few. As per reports, PMGKRA has already created 59.8 million workdays in rural during in the last three weeks since its inception across 25 major schemes

Why PMGKRA is Better than MNREGA

It is also important to mention that PMGKRA is far better than MNREGA since the latter has consistently failed in durable asset, or infrastructure, creation in rural India. Further MNREGA, a brain child of UPA, never gave

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importance to skill mapping or skill development, and whatever little assets were built under MNREGA always had questionable structural strength or productivity enhancing capability. Even UPA ministers like Jairam Ramesh had acknowledged in 2013 about the failure of NREGA in creating assets

Ideally, Pradhan Mantra Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyan (PMGKRA) should eventually replace MNREGA since it is equally important to create durable assets as much as rural employment. If the former is not created to sustain the latter, then any such scheme ends up becoming a disguised unemployment generation scheme. That has been the consistent legacy of MNREGA.

The Road Ahead: From PMGKRA To AatmaNirbhar Rural India

On a larger frame, what the Modi Government has attempted to do in terms of managing the pandemic related crisis for mitigating the challenges of rural people and migrant work force, is a combination of short term measures to deal with the immediate issues of provisioning of food items and employment scopes for taking care of the short term requirements, while also seizing the moment of crisis to convert it into an opportune time for implementing some of the much needed structural reforms that are aimed at rooting out the systemic flaws that for long inhibited the growth and development of rural

Interestingly almost 80% of the rural based micro food enterprises are household enterprises. If they eventually expand with the help of the institutional support mechanism being proposed by Union Government, such as, 'handholding support for farm level upgradation plan, Detailed Project Report (DPR) preparation, Skill training, obtaining bank credit, FSSAI/ local body license, Udyog Aadhaar', as well as 'brand building, linkage of clusters with lead buyers, technology upgradation, entrepreneurship development, development of new products and processes' to name a few, then it is expected that they would eventually expand resulting in rural job creation which if it happens in large scale would prevent migrations.

India. In short, the larger strategy is to make sure that in future people don't need to desperately migrate from rural India to seek jobs in urban clusters.

The Policy Measures for Making Rural India AatmaNirbhar

It is expected that many of the rural economy related structural reforms such as amendments to Essential Commodities Act approved by Union Cabinet, creation of Rs 1 Lakh crore Agri-Infrastructure Fund for development of agriculture infrastructure projects, allocation of Rs 15,000 crore for Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund for facilitating investments in dairy industry and cattle feed infrastructure, proposed legislation to create a new legal framework in the realm of agricultural produce marketing to give freedom to the farmer to sell his produce at remunerative price

to anyone of his preference through a creation of a barrier-free inter-state trading architecture, proposed creation of a new e-trading framework for agriculture produce, proposed creation of an enabling framework to make farmers transparently and seamlessly engage with retailers, aggregators and exporters, move to give FSSAI certification to around 2 Lakh micro food enterprises, to name a few, are collectively expected to unleash a new wave of rural growth and job creation.

The MSME Push and its Impact on Rural India

It is also important to mention the specific schemes announced for the Medium, Small and Micro Enterprises (MSME) sector and how it would benefit rural India. Changes in the definition of the MSME has been aimed at giving entities more lateral space to grow and become competitive by producing in large quantity to leverage economies of scale. This apart, provisions for collateral free debt, corpus for equity investments in MSME as well as restricting all government procurement tenders up till Rs 200 crore for domestic companies only, would have a major impact, in a chain reaction, on not just urban based MSMEs but also rural based MSMEs.

It has to be remembered that almost 66 % of all the Micro Food Processing Enterprises are based in rural India while surprisingly more than 50% of India's net value addition in manufacturing sector comes from rural India. Yet, it is for lack of institutional support mechanism, lack of capital investments, which could have helped them to grow, that they could never expand, remained small in size, and thus have often fallen short of creating the requisite job opportunities on a continuous basis that would have prevented systemic migration of rural work force to urban clusters. It has to be remembered that India has

more than 63 million MSME units, a considerable proportion of which are in rural area.

Now with the creation of the above mentioned schemes, it is expected that in the medium term, a considerable number of jobs would be created in rural India that would make sure that rural workforce are not needed anymore to desperately shift to urban India in search of either permanent or seasonal jobs.

Take for example the 'PM Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises'. This scheme which is expected to eventually generate investments to the tune of Rs 35,000 crore has the potential to create nine lakh skilled and semi-skilled jobs through benefits that would accrue to around 8 lakh food processing units through access to 'information, training, better exposure and formalisation'.

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It is also expected that agriculture reforms, mentioned earlier, would similarly make agriculture more remunerative in the coming

years resulting in more disposable income for the rural lot and which in turn would make sure that migration does not happen to that extent in urban clusters in future as has happened till now.

India's Resurgence: Like a Phoenix Amidst a Crisis

No one can deny that the world, and not just India, is going through some extremely rough patches due to Covid-19 pandemic related economic crisis. While no doubt that this phase, in spite of its torment, has also pushed the Indian economy to become more resilient and vindicated its structural salience, it was important that the Government made sure that the poor are assured of the bare minimum necessities, through provision of food and work, to tide through the phase.

PM Modi led NDA Government, after empowering rural India through Jan Dhan Yojana, Direct Benefit Transfer, PM Kisan and Ujjwala Scheme, has once again assured the marginalised sections of unflinching support from the Government through these rough times.

An Ideal Step Forward: Replace MNREGA with PMGKRA

While there is no doubt that in the next few years, rural economy would become thriving enough to create jobs in large scale and unleash a new generation of entrepreneurship, it would nevertheless be a great idea to eventually replace MNREGA with PMGKRA since the latter is far more dynamic and holistic in its approach and is aimed at not just creation of productive man-hours but also durable assets for rural India that are so very needed for creation of Gram Swaraj in its truest sense.

(Pathikrit Payne is a New Delhi based Policy Analyst & Television Panellist. Views expressed are his own.)

आत्मनिर्भर भारत की बुनियाद बनेगी हर्बल खेती



हर्ष वर्धन त्रिपाठी

दे श के कई शहरों में चाइनीज वायरस की वजह से फिर से लॉकडाउन करना पड़ा है। औद्योगिक क्षेत्रों में मजदूरों की वापसी की समस्या अभी भी बनी हुई है और उद्योगों में सुधार की रफ्तार भी अभी अपेक्षाकृत नहीं है, लेकिन भारत के बड़े क्षेत्र और उस पर निर्भर भारतीयों ने इस वायरस के दौर में भी बेहतरी की कहानी लिखनी शुरू कर दी है और वह क्षेत्र है कृषि और उससे जुड़े क्षेत्र। भारत के सन्दर्भ में खेती की बात होते ही हम सबके ध्यान में, भारत एक कृषि प्रधान देश है, वाक्य जरूर आ जाता है और यह सच भी है क्योंकि अभी भी देश की 60 प्रतिशत के आसपास जनसंख्या कृषि और उससे क्षेत्रों पर ही निर्भर है और सबसे बड़ी बात यह भी है कि इस क्षेत्र में किसी दूसरे देश तो छोड़िए ज्यादातर जगह किसी दूसरे क्षेत्र पर बहुत ज्यादा निर्भरता नहीं है। यह बात मैं इसलिए लिख रहा हूं कि प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने जब चाइनीज वायरस के प्रकोप से पीड़ित भारतीयों के लिए करीब 21 लाख करोड़ रुपये के आर्थिक पैकेज का एलान किया तो उसका नाम आत्मनिर्भर भारत विशेष आर्थिक पैकेज अभियान दिया। इसके साथ ही लगातार प्रधानमंत्री वोकल फॉर लोकल, यानी स्थानीय उत्पादों को बढ़ावा देने की बात करते रहे हैं और चीन के साथ सीमा विवाद के बाद भारतीयों के मन में आत्मनिर्भर होने और स्थानीय उत्पादों को बढ़ावा देना अच्छे से स्थापित हो गया है। और, जब हम आत्मनिर्भर भारत या फिर स्थानीय उत्पादों को बढ़ावा देने की बात करते हैं तो खेती और उससे जुड़े क्षेत्रों को मजबूत करने पर ध्यान सबसे पहले जाता है। खेती में भी अगर जैविक और हर्बल खेती की तरफ बढ़ते हैं तो बिना किसी विशेष प्रयास के आत्मनिर्भरता और स्थानीय उत्पादों का महत्व स्पष्टता से समझ आ जाता है।

आत्मनिर्भर भारत अभियान विशेष पैकेज में केंद्र सरकार ने कृषि और उससे जुड़े क्षेत्रों के लिए कई बड़ी घोषणाएं की हैं, लेकिन एक

बेहद महत्वपूर्ण प्रयास इस पैकेज में दिखता है, जिसे सरकार और किसान ठीक से जमीन पर उतार पाए तो आत्मनिर्भर भारत की पक्की बुनियाद में हर्बल खेती विशेष स्थान बना सकती है। जैविक और हर्बल खेती दोनों पूरी तरह से अलग हैं, लेकिन इन दोनों में बहुत समानता है। समझने के लिए यह जान लें कि हर्बल खेती रसायनिक खादों से भी हो सकती है और जैविक खेती का मतलब पूरी तरह रसायनिक इस्तेमाल से मुक्त। हर्बल खेती में ऐसे पोधे की खेती जिससे किसी तरह से दवा बनाई जा सकती है या फिर उसका इस्तेमाल शरीर की रोग प्रतिरोधक क्षमता बढ़ाने के लिए किया जा सकता है। अभी चाइनीज वायरस के दौर में हर्बल खेती का महत्व ज्यादा बढ़ गया है। इस समय भारतीय हर्बल उत्पादों की मांग दुनिया भर में है और इसकी सबसे बड़ी वजह यही है कि अभी तक चाइनीज वायरस की कोई दवा न होने से शरीर की रोग प्रतिरोधक क्षमता बढ़ाने वाली जड़ी, मसालों का लोग सेवन कर रहे हैं। भारतीय हल्दी की मांग दुनिया भर में बढ़ गई है। जर्मनी और ब्रिटेन से भारतीय कच्ची हल्दी की मांग कई गुना बढ़ गई है। यह तो भारतीय मसालों की बात है, लेकिन भारतीय हर्बल उत्पादों के बारे में हम भारतीयों की जानकारी भी बहुत कम थी। अश्वगंधा, गिलोय, ब्राह्मी जैसे हर्बल उत्पादों को हम सिर्फ रोगी होने पर ही उपयोग करने की सोचते थे, लेकिन चाइनीज वायरस ने स्वस्थ व्यक्ति में भी रोग प्रतिरोधक क्षमता निरंतर बढ़ाने की जरूरत की

सरकार ने हर्बल खेती को बढ़ावा देने के लिए 4 हजार करोड़ रुपये का प्रावधान किया है और अगले 2 वर्षों में 10 लाख हेक्टेयर जमीन पर हर्बल खेती का लक्ष्य रखा है। यह लक्ष्य पूरा कर लिया गया तो किसानों की आमदनी तेजी से बढ़ाने के लिए लक्ष्य को प्राप्त करने में आसानी होगी। सामान्य कृषि उपज की तुलना में हर्बल कृषि उत्पादों की कीमत कई गुना ज्यादा होती है और भारतीय किसानों की एक सबसे बड़ी समस्या जोतों का घटता हुआ आकार है और छोटी जोत में हर्बल खेती करके भारतीय किसान ज्यादा कमाई करके आत्मनिर्भर हो सकते हैं।



Credit: <https://www.agrifarming.in>

ओर सबका ध्यान आकर्षित किया है। भारत में करीब 8000 हर्बल जड़ी-बूटी, मसाले हैं, जिनका इस्तेमाल स्थानीय स्तर पर ही होता है, लेकिन बमुश्किल 1000 तरह की हर्बल जड़ी-बूटी और मसालों का ही इस्तेमाल दवा और सौंदर्य प्रसाधन बनाने वाली कंपनियां करती हैं। अब हर्बल खेती पर सरकार का जोर इस हर्बल जड़ी-बूटी, मसालों की खेती की ओर लोगों को आकर्षित कर रहा है।

ऐसे में आत्मनिर्भर भारत पैकेज में हर्बल खेती को बढ़ावा देने की सरकार की मंशा भरोसा जगाती है। सरकार ने हर्बल खेती को बढ़ावा देने के लिए 4 हजार करोड़ रुपये का प्रावधान किया है और अगले 2 वर्षों में 10 लाख हेक्टेयर जमीन पर हर्बल खेती का लक्ष्य रखा है। यह लक्ष्य पूरा कर लिया गया तो किसानों की आमदनी तेजी से बढ़ाने के लिए लक्ष्य को प्राप्त करने में आसानी होगी। सामान्य कृषि उपज की तुलना में हर्बल कृषि उत्पादों की कीमत कई गुना ज्यादा होती है और भारतीय किसानों की एक सबसे बड़ी समस्या जोतों का घटता हुआ आकार है और छोटी जोत में हर्बल खेती करके भारतीय किसान ज्यादा कमाई करके आत्मनिर्भर हो सकते हैं। हर्बल खेती से हर तरह की दवाएं बनती हैं, लेकिन हर्बल उत्पादों का बाजार तैयार होने से भारतीय आयुर्वेदिक चिकित्सा पद्धति को भी बढ़ावा मिल सकता है। अभी भी आयुर्वेदिक दवाओं के लिए जरूरी हर्बल उत्पाद भी आसानी से नहीं मिल पाते हैं। अब आत्मनिर्भर भारत

अभियान के तहत अगले 2 वर्षों में 10 लाख हेक्टेयर पर हर्बल खेती से आयुर्वेदिक दवाओं के लिए जरूर हर्बल उत्पाद आसानी से मिल सकेंगे। योग और आयुर्वेद की तरफ लोगों का आकर्षण बढ़ने की वजह से भी हर्बल उत्पादों की ओर लोगों का ध्यान गया है। 2016 में लोकसभा में एक प्रश्न के उत्तर में आयुष मंत्री श्रीपाद नाइक ने बताया था कि दुनिया के हर्बल उत्पादों में भारत का हिस्सा बमुश्किल आधा प्रतिशत ही है। दुनिया भर में 70 बिलियन डॉलर का हर्बल दवाओं का बाजार है और भारत की हिस्सेदारी इसमें सिर्फ 358 मिलियन डॉलर की है। भारतीय हर्बल खेती की ओर ज्यादा किसानों के आकर्षित न होने के पीछे सबसे बड़ी वजह यही रही कि हर्बल उत्पादों का बाजार तैयार करने पर संगठित तरीके से कोई काम ही नहीं हुआ। अब आयुष मंत्रालय के जोर देने और योग के प्रति लोगों का आकर्षण बढ़ने से भारतीय हर्बल उत्पादों के प्रति किसानों और बाजार का भी ध्यान गया है। ऐसे में भारत सरकार की तरफ से अगले 2 वर्षों में 10 लाख हेक्टेयर पर हर्बल खेती का महत्वाकांक्षी लक्ष्य किसानों को आत्मनिर्भर बनाने के साथ स्वास्थ्य के क्षेत्र में भारत की आत्मनिर्भरता के लिए बेहद महत्वपूर्ण पड़ाव साबित हो सकता है।

(लेखक वरिष्ठ स्तंभकार एवं डॉ. श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी रिसर्च फाउंडेशन में सीनियर फेलो हैं। लेख में व्यक्त उनके विचार निजी हैं।)

India-EU Come Clean on Water



Dr Uttam Kumar Sinha

Water is one of the great challenges of the 21st century with almost half of the global population expected to live in water-stressed or water-scarce countries by 2025. India will be no exception and its search for a stable supply of water will largely determine its political-socio-economic stability. While looking domestically to solve and resolve water issues in terms of sustainability, efficiency and distribution is necessary, furthering international cooperation on water research, technological development and innovative solutions are equally crucial to achieve both the well-being of its people and the economic growth that brings livelihood.

In the light of this, the recent 'EU-India Strategic Partnership: A Roadmap to 2025' is welcome. The document with an emphasis on bolstering water cooperation through "the Joint Working Group on Water and the EU-India Water Forum, as well as in the context of the India-EU Water Partnership (IEWP)" could not be timelier. It brings the two geographies closer in understanding the priority areas, which are existential, while ensuring continuous support for good governance and coordination with new tools of engagement. Collaboration, coordination and joint actions are the new mantras in the water sector. The recent water cooperation statement comes at the back of a carefully selected water projects, seven of them, under the EU-India Joint

Call on Research and Innovation signed in 2019. The projects emphasise on 'affordable solutions' for Indian conditions covering both the rural and the urban areas. With an investment of Euro 40 million or Rs. 323 crores the projects, with a timeline of 4-years, will focus on 'drinking water, waste water management and real-time monitoring and control system'. The projects will involve the participation of several universities, research labs and both the private sector and the municipalities and will be greatly supported by the transfer of European technologies to India but only after it is tested and customised to Indian needs. The government's Ganga Rejuvenation plan will also be covered in the innovation cooperation.

Science and technology are now important drivers to India-EU strategic partnership. Both have had great scientific traditions and in recent times there has been a political impetus to reinforce scientific cooperation with an aim to bring high quality and mutually beneficial projects. The India-EU Water Partnership (IEWP) forum with the twin objective of facilitating EU businesses in India's water sector and providing a platform for exchange of knowledge that would further involve the EU businesses is a *pièce de résistance* of the EU-India Strategic Partnership.

The IEWP is rooted in four critical contexts that determine water challenges in India: water as a dwindling resource or the scarcity and its challenges on the agriculture sector; the quality of water and increasing level of pollution; the impact of climate change in particular floods and droughts; and the issues of water governance that requires cooperation and coordination between the centre and the states. These four broad contexts offer opportunities for cooperation in priority



areas such as clean drinking water, ground water utilisation, water efficiency, sanitation, Ganga rejuvenation, inland waterways and hydro-powers.

Many of these priority areas are common to India and the EU and their shared experiences can boost both knowledge and management capacities to deal with water challenges. The European experience tells us that water protection and an environmentally sound water infrastructure is not a privilege, but rather a precondition for wealth and prosperity. In the European history of water pollution control, its interconnection with the management of its rivers is well evidenced. The current COVID-19 pandemic is as much a reminder of fewer miracles and more trust on science as it is on the state of cleanliness and clean living. Nothing can be more significant than keeping water sources/bodies free from waterborne diseases. In Europe such diseases rose in several epidemics in the past leading to severe economic downturn. Health services encountered tremendous pressure and treatment was beyond the means of the large population as health costs

soared. Calculations showed that sewers as a measure of hygiene together with safe drinking water supply were of less financial burden than the cost of treatment of the sick. This led to a strong political determination and attention on cleaning rivers of its filth and providing clean water to all thereby giving dignity and quality of life to the people. It became a strong pillar of the 'social contract' that helped maintain social cohesion. Today, in the midst of the global pandemic and its dire consequences the 'social contract' with its re-distributional values still remains the guiding principle of the EU as it seeks to balance austerity and budget discipline with growth and job creation.

In India, over the last half and more decade, possibly one of the most modernising policy approaches of the Modi government has been to raise the profile of rivers. Water is indispensable to governance and development plans, livelihood and healthy life, expressed as *sujalam sufalam* (water for prosperity) and *Swachh Bharat Abhiyan*. It is also a key instrument of regional prosperity and integration. It is not surprising

The recent ‘EU-India Strategic Partnership: A Roadmap to 2025’ is welcome. The document with an emphasis on bolstering water cooperation through “the Joint Working Group on Water and the EU-India Water Forum, as well as in the context of the India-EU Water Partnership (IEWP)” could not be timelier. It brings the two geographies closer in understanding the priority areas, which are existential, while ensuring continuous support for good governance and coordination with new tools of engagement. Collaboration, coordination and joint actions are the new mantras in the water sector. The recent water cooperation statement comes at the back of a carefully selected water projects, seven of them, under the EU-India Joint Call on Research and Innovation signed in 2019.

that many of the Modi government’s big-ticket programmes like Swachh Bharat Mission, Swachh Bharat Urban, Swachh Bharat Gramin, Namami Gange Programme, Smart Cities Mission and Inland Navigation are centred on the indispensability of water.

India and Europe are both committed to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and UN-Water. The 17 SDGs guide countries as they aim to eradicate extreme poverty, reduce inequalities and effectively deal with climate change by 2030. Many of the goals (SDG2, SDG3, SDG7, SDG13, SDG15, SDG16 and SDG17) are centred around water, sanitation and hygiene proving yet again the centrality of water. One of the objective of SDG6, in particular, is to ‘expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water and sanitation

related activities and programmes.’ Likewise, the UN-Water coordinates UN agencies and programmes dealing with water-related issues, including sanitation and natural disasters. Through this platform, the UN members not only address the cross-cutting nature of water but also ‘maximize system-wide coordinated action and coherence’.

Having achieved common understanding on water challenges it is critical for EU-India to move forward on the following front:

- Factor entire water resources including rivers, underground water, lakes, and glaciers
- Determine river basins as units for development planning
- Improve ‘first and last mile connectivity’ or operational policies
- Emphasise the food-energy-water nexus
- Enhance institutional coordination in the water sector
- Develop and integrate road, rail and river transport

Throughout history water has been crucial to human settlement and economic activities. Ironically the impact of such activities has undermined the linkages between ecology and water. Water fundamentally is a shared resource whether it is between states or within states. International cooperation offers great opportunity to correct some of the past planning and practices and with new knowledge and technological breakthrough develop a robust water management based on two abiding principles – sustainability and equitability.

(The writer is a leading expert on water and rivers, and is also a Senior Fellow at NMML. Views expressed are his own.)

कोरोना संकट: मप्र में पूरे पराक्रम से जंग जीतता एक अनथक योद्धा



डॉ अजय खेमरिया

मप्र के मुख्यमंत्री शिवराज सिंह चौहान के सबन्ध में कहा जाता है कि वे अभूतपूर्व व्यक्ति हैं। सार्वजनिक जीवन में उनके जैसी उपलब्धि बहुत कम लोगों के पास होती है, वे मप्र जैसे बड़े सूबे के चौथी बार सीएम बनने वाले अकेले नेता हैं। मप्र में अकेले ऐसे नेता भी हैं जिनका हर विधानसभा क्षेत्र में अपना निजी वोटबैंक भी है, यह वोट बैंक समाज के सबसे कमजोर तबके की पूंजी से बनाया गया है और इस पूंजी की खासियत है महिलाएं। मप्र के वे अकेले ऐसे नेता भी हैं जिनकी अपील महिला वोटर्स पर सीधा असर रखती है। वे जब खुले मंच से खुद को “मामा” कहते हैं तो प्रदेश की न केवल बेटियों से भांजी का मजबूत नाता खड़ा करते हैं, बल्कि बेटियों की माँओं से भी भाई-बहन के रिश्तों को याद दिलाते रहते हैं। उनकी सबसे बड़ी खासियत है, लो प्रोफाइल सीएम बनकर काम करना। उनका संभाषण हर आम, गरीब को उसी की भाषा शैली में सीएम से जोड़ता है। वह देश भर में संभवतः पहले सीएम हैं जो महीने में औसतन 20 दिन प्रदेश के मैदानी इलाकों में घूमते रहते हैं। इसलिए उनकी प्रादेशिक अपील के आगे कोई भी दूसरा नेता टिक नहीं पाता है।

कोरोना संक्रमण के बीच सीएम की चौथी बार कुर्सी संभालने वाले शिवराज सिंह चौहान के सामने चुनौती पहाड़ जैसी थी। उन्होंने अपने सुदीर्घ प्रशासनिक अनुभव के बल पर मप्र में कोरोना महामारी और इससे सह संबंधित समस्याओं को जिस दृढ़ता और सुझबुझ के साथ संभाला, उसने मप्र को इस वैश्विक महामारी से निपटने में निर्णायक योगदान दिया।

पदभार संभालते ही उन्होंने सबसे पहले सर्वाधिक संक्रमित इंदौर, उज्जैन, भोपाल शहरों को सर्वोपरि प्राथमिकता पर लेकर अलग से एक्शन प्लान बनाए। इन शहरों की कमान बेहतर समझने वाले अफसरों को दी गई। हर 24 घण्टे में मॉनिटरिंग के मैकेनिज्म को

विकसित कर जरूरी कदम उठाये गए। मुख्यमंत्री ने खुद प्रदेश के लगभग सभी जिलों में वीडियो कॉन्फ्रेंसिंग के जरिये हालातों का जायजा लिया। भोपाल की सड़कों पर उतरकर उन्होंने लॉकडाउन की सख्ती का अवलोकन किया।

इस बीच प्रदेश के स्वास्थ्य एवं चिकित्सा विभाग को 24 घण्टे आपातकालीन मोड़ पर काम करने के लिए लगाया गया। प्रदेश के सर्वाधिक काबिल अफसरों को इन महकमों की कमान दी गई। कोरोना टेस्टिंग की रफ्तार को युद्धस्तर पर बढ़ाया गया। आज मप्र में 9 हजार टेस्टिंग प्रतिदिन हो रही है, वहीं सभी सरकारी मेडिकल कॉलेज में भी टेस्टिंग सुविधाओं के बहाल होते ही यह क्षमता 16 हजार प्रतिदिन पर आ जायेगी। ध्यान देने योग्य तथ्य यह है कि 23 मार्च तक यह संख्या प्रदेश में 2 हजार के लगभग ही थी। मप्र में इन पंक्तियों को लिखे जाने तक कोरोना की ग्रोथ रेट 1.43 है जो राष्ट्रीय औसत से काफी कम है। प्रदेश में कुल चिन्हित 19 हजार कोरोना पोजेटिव मरीजों की रिकवरी दर 76.9 है जबकि देश में यह 58.01 फीसदी है। स्पष्ट है कि मुख्यमंत्री शिवराज सिंह चौहान ने अपनी अनुभवी प्रशासनिक पकड़ के साथ इस वैश्विक महामारी से प्रदेश के नागरिकों को बचाने में अपना पूरा पराक्रम झोंक दिया है। मुख्यमंत्री ने अफसरों को आईआईटीटी पर युद्धस्तरीय काम करने के निर्देश दिए। इसका आशय आइडेंटिफिकेशन, आइसोलेशन, टेस्टिंग, ट्रीटमेंट था। एक जुलाई से 15 जुलाई तक “किल कोरोना” अभियान पूरे मप्र में चलाया गया, जिसके तहत लगभग 3 लाख लोगों की घर-घर जाकर जांच की गई है। प्रति दस लाख आबादी पर चार हजार कोरोना टेस्टिंग के लक्ष्य पर भी महत्वपूर्ण काम किया गया। जाहिर है प्रदेश में स्वास्थ्य ढांचे को पूरी तरह से मुख्यमंत्री ने कोरोना के बचाव के लिए प्रमाणिकता से समर्पित कर नागरिकों के लिए एक बेहतर और भयमुक्त माहौल बनाने में कोई कमी नहीं छोड़ी।

दूसरी तरफ कोरोना के सामाजिक आर्थिक दुष्प्रभावों से भी प्रदेश को बचाने के लिए शिवराज सरकार ने ऐतिहासिक कदम तत्परता के साथ उठाये हैं। प्रवासी मजदूरों को सुरक्षित घर वापसी के लिए जो एक्शन प्लान बनाया गया वह देश भर में नजीर साबित हुआ। प्रदेश के हर जिले से जाने वाले मजदूरों की वापसी के लिए बनाए गए प्लान में एक आईएएस अफसर को जिले का प्रभारी बनाया गया। उस जिले के कलेक्टर और स्थानीय जनप्रतिनिधियों के माध्यम से प्रवासी मजदूरों

की सूची बनाई गई. साथ ही परिवार जनों से बैंक खाते संकलित कर एक-एक हजार रुपए ट्रांसफर किये गए. दूसरे प्रदेशों से ट्रेन एवं बसों के जरिये गांवों तक सुरक्षित घर वापसी बगैर व्यवधान सुनिश्चित की गई. गांवों में लौटकर आये इन मजदूरों का कौशल आधारित सर्वेक्षण कर लेबर बजट 20.50 करोड़ मानव दिवस को बढ़ाकर 34.03 करोड़ किया. मुख्यमंत्री ने इन मजदूरों के प्रति संवेदनशीलता दिखाते हुए “मुख्यमंत्री प्रवासी मजदूर सहायता योजना 2020” आरम्भ की और



तत्काल डेढ़ लाख प्रवासी मजदूरों के लिए 15 करोड़ की राशि ट्रांसफर की. कोविड-19 के संक्रमण के दौरान ही किसानों की फसल के उपार्जन जैसा चुनौतीपूर्ण कार्य भी शिवराज सरकार ने बेहतरीन ढंग से पूरा किया. उपार्जन केंद्रों की संख्या दोगुनी से ज्यादा कर सबसे छोटे किसानों को प्राथमिकता पर लेकर उनके गेहूं की खरीदी की गई. करीब 16 लाख किसानों का 24 हजार करोड़ का गेहूं इस अवधि में खरीदकर सरकार ने एक रिकॉर्ड निर्मित किया. इसी तरह 2 लाख किसानों से 1500 करोड़ में चना, सरसों, मसूर की खरीदी भी की गई. यह राशि सीधे किसानों के खातों में भेजी गई. 32 लाख बीड़ी पत्ता तोड़ने वाले मजदूरों के खाते में तत्काल 407 करोड़ की राशि ट्रांसफर की गई. निर्माण श्रमिकों को लोकडाउन में दैनिक खर्च के लिए 177 करोड़ सीधे खातों में पहुँचाया गया. सामाजिक सुरक्षा योजनाओं के तहत दिव्यांग, विधवा, बुजुर्गों के खातों में एडवांस सहायता के तौर पर 670 करोड़ की राशि भी मुख्यमंत्री ने तत्काल पदभार ग्रहण करते ही जारी कर कोरोना संकट में सरकार के खड़े होने का बखूबी अहसास कराया. ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में मजदूरों के लिए श्रम सिद्धि अभियान के तहत 25 लाख श्रमिकों के लिए 1600 करोड़ के प्रावधान से एक मजबूत आर्थिक सुरक्षा कवर स्थानीय स्तर पर ही उपलब्ध कराकर मुख्यमंत्री ने अपनी जनसेवक की प्रतिबद्धता को प्रमाणित करने का काम किया है. इनके अलावा भी महिला बाल विकास, खाद्य नागरिक आपूर्ति, नगरीय विकास अध्यात्म, स्कूल शिक्षा जैसे महकमों से संबद्ध लाखों श्रम जीवियों एवं गरीब हितग्राहियों को सीधी नकदी मदद इस अवधि में उपलब्ध कराकर शिवराज सिंह लोगों को के लिए इस संकट की घड़ी में मजबूत संबल साबित हुए. प्रदेश के करीब 60 लाख परिवारों को तीन माह का अग्रिम राशन इस अवधि में निःशुल्क देने के साथ उन 10 लाख हितग्राहियों को भी खाद्य सुरक्षा दायरे में लाकर राशन मुहैया कराया गया है जो पात्रता श्रेणी में नहीं थे.

सरकार ने आर्थिक पहिया जाम न हो इसके लिए श्रम कानूनों में भी क्रांतिकारी सुधार सुनिश्चित किये. औद्योगिक, कारखाना, ठेका कानूनों में भी बुनियादी पहल करने वाले मुख्यमंत्री ने समाज के हर वर्ग के पीछे खड़े होकर मजबूत संबल देने में कोई कसर नहीं छोड़ी है.

मप्र में कोरोना से निबटने के तार्किक और प्रभावी उपायों की सुनिश्चितता के लिए स्थानीय स्तर पर कलेक्टर और जनप्रतिनिधियों को आवश्यकतानुसार निर्णय लेने की छूट दी गई है. हर जिले में क्राइसिस मैनेजमेंट टीम बनाई है जो लगातार इस आशय के निर्णय ले रही है.

मुख्यमंत्री खुद अनलॉक के बाद लगातार प्रदेश के हर जिले में जाकर मामलों की समीक्षा कर रहे हैं. कैबिनेट गठन के बाद शिवराज सिंह ने अपने सभी मंत्रियों को निर्देश दे दिए हैं कि वे युद्धस्तरीय कौशल और समर्पण के साथ अपने अपने जिलों में जनता की सेवा और प्रशासनिक व्यवस्था में जुट जाएं.

मुख्यमंत्री ने कोविड 19 के वैश्विक संकट से मप्र को बचाने के लिए हर मोर्चे पर ऐतिहासिक प्रभाव के साथ काम किया है. एक मुख्यमंत्री के रूप में उन्हें मप्र की जनता ने जो व्यापक अधिमान्यता दी है उसे उन्होंने इस संकट की घड़ी में दोगुनी ताकत से प्रमाणित करने का काम किया है.

शिवराज सिंह चौहान अक्सर अपने कार्यकर्ताओं को एक मन्त्र देते हैं “पांव में चक्कर, मुँह में शक्कर, सीने में आग, सिर पर बर्फ “लेकर चलना चाहिये.

24 घण्टे 365 दिन काम करने वाले शिवराज खुद भी इस मन्त्र को आत्मसात करके जीने वाले बिरले नेता है.

(लेखक लोकनीति विश्लेषक हैं. लेख में व्यक्त उनके विचार निजी हैं.)

28 July 2020



20 July 2020



14 July 2020



11 July 2020



09 July 2020



07 July 2020



26 June 2020



25 June 2020



20 June 2020



16 June 2020



15 June 2020



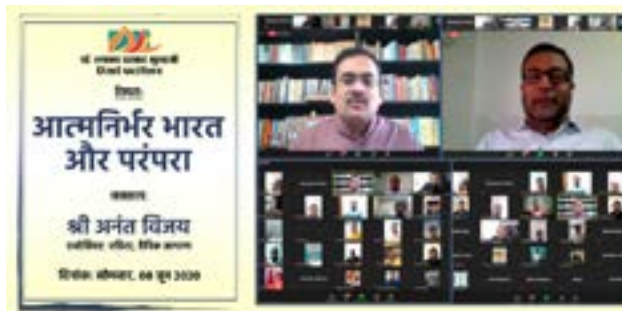
13 June 2020



11 June 2020



08 June 2020



06 June 2020



04 June 2020

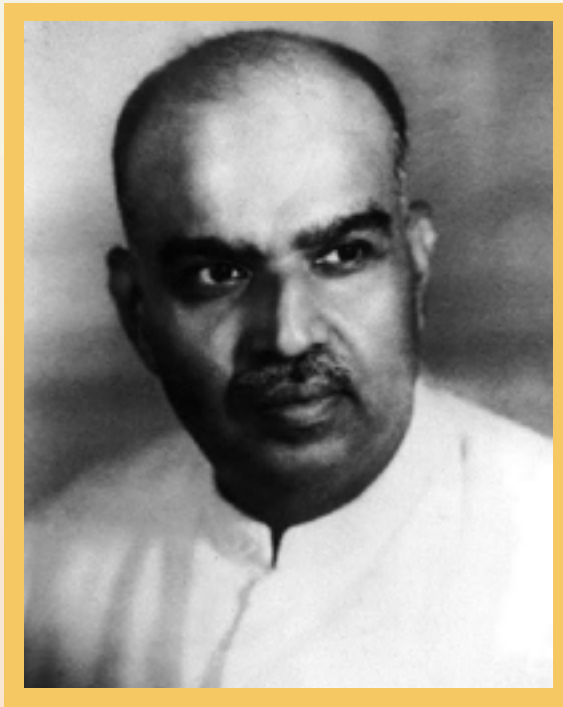


03 June 2020



31 May 2020





“Let us not forget that the Hindus of East Bengal are entitled to the protection of India, not on humanitarian consideration alone, but by virtue of their sufferings and sacrifices, made cheerfully for generations, not for advancing their own parochial interests, but for laying the foundations of India’s political freedom and intellectual progress. It is the united voice of the leaders that are dead and of the youth that smilingly walked up to the gallows for India’s cause that calls for justice and fairplay at the hands of Free India of today.”

-Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee
in Parliament on his resignation as Minister of Industry and Supply,
19th April, 1950

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