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# The Nationalist

India-Denmark 'Greening' its  
Strategic Partnership

**Dr Uttam Kumar Sinha**

मोदी सरकार की नीतियों से देश के ऊर्जा  
क्षेत्र में हो रही क्रांति  
प्रह्लाद सबनानी

The 'Quad' is India's Destiny

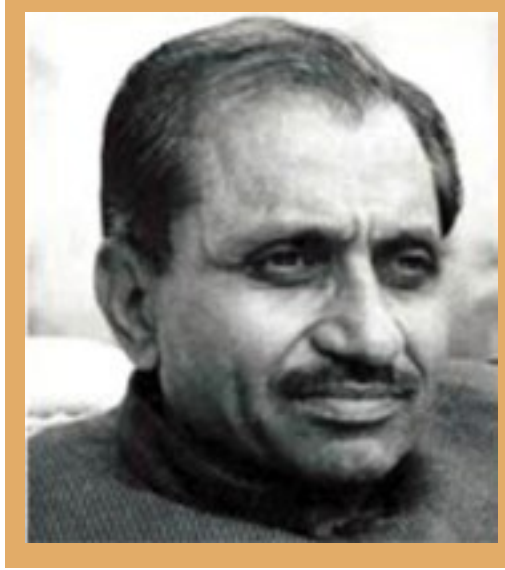
**Prof Sreeram Chaulia**

स्वामित्व योजना :  
बदलेगी गाँव की तस्वीर  
सन्नी कुमार

India & Bangladesh Should  
Foster Basin-Wide Management  
of Trans-Boundary Rivers

**Bipul Chatterjee &  
Prashant Sharma**





“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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**Dr. Anirban Ganguly**

## Addressing the Neglected Fundamentals

MSP value of Rs. 42422 Crores. The procurement is proceeding apace and the overall scenario continues to be robust and full of hope.

The Modi government's energies continue to be directed at laying the foundations of a New India. This New India's foundations can only be firm and long-lasting, eternal and unshakable, when the people who constitute the soul and body of India – the vast marginal majority are brought into the mainstream and are provided with the fundamentals that was promised to them since the early days of independence. PM Modi had promised to ensure the availability of those fundamentals and basics of life for the marginal that had either been promised and not delivered or had been overlooked for decades. In keeping with this commitment PM Modi has launched a people's movement every year and each of these, aimed altering mindsets and conditions of living, have brought about profound changes in our collective living.

**P** rime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Aatmanirbhar Krishi - the vision and resolve to empower India's farmers continues to see greater realization. Despite continuous efforts to spread misinformation by a certain motivated section who have been opposing the passage of the Farm Bills, the procurement of paddy showed an increase of 20.18% over last year. It augurs well to see that about 18.91 lakh paddy farmers have benefitted from the procurement in the ongoing Kharif Marketing Season with

The 'Har Ghar Jal' movement, for instance, is an unprecedented effort which aims at rectifying the historic neglect of

fundamentals. In keeping with his promise of enhancing and ensuring 'ease of living', especially for those living in the rural areas, Prime Minister Modi had initiated this gigantic and transformative outreach-project.

Besides improving the quality of "lives of women of every household" in rural India who have to endure great hardship in trying to ensure that the household is well supplied with water, this mission shall bring a huge relief to this section on whom much depends. Besides enhancing their health indices, it will also bring in a much needed and welcomed leisure in their lives. They had been liberated from the 'smoke trap' through the Ujjwala Yojana movement, they will be further empowered once they are freed from this tedious and tiresome chore of collecting water.

Apart from providing safe water, this special initiative is also creating employment for the local people in the rural areas because "Skilled manpower in every village i.e. plumbing, masonry, electrical, pump operator, etc. are required, for

which training is being imparted." The '100 days' campaign launched under this outreach on October 2nd, by Prime Minister Modi is aimed at making "provision for piped water supply in schools anganwadi centres and ashram shalas" (residential schools in tribal areas) so that children in these schools have access to safe water and better health and immunity.

Strange isn't it that those who constantly berate the Modi government, never spared a thought for these basics, despite being in power for over five decades. Even those who came to power in certain states, in the name of serving the proletariat, often ignored these essentials, they resorted to slogans but hardly ever delivered these.

On the other hand, the Modi government has truly heralded the era of governance, performance and accountability. The common, the ordinary citizen believes that the march towards realizing the vision of a 'New India' has begun with their empowerment and inclusion.



# PM's address at the inauguration of India Energy Forum on 26 October 2020



- » Namaste! Wonderful to see you all at the Fourth edition of India Energy Forum CERA Week. I would like to congratulate Dr. Daniel Yergin, for his contribution to the energy sector. I also congratulate him on his recent book “The New Map”.
- » Friends, The theme this year is relevant. It is- “India’s Energy Future in a world of Change”. I can assure you: India is full of energy! India’s energy future is bright and secure. Let me explain why I feel so.
- » Friends, This year has been challenging for the energy sector. Energy demand fell by almost one third. There has been price instability. Investment decisions have been impacted.
- » Leading global bodies project that there will be a contraction in global energy demand over the next few years also. But, these agencies project India to emerge as a leading energy consumer. India is set to nearly double its energy consumption over the long term.
- » Friends, There are many areas in which we see this vibrancy. For example – take aviation. India is the third largest and the fastest growing aviation market in terms of domestic aviation .
- » Indian carriers are projected to increase their fleet size from 600 to 1200 by 2024.

This is a big jump!

- » Friends, India believes that access to energy must be affordable and reliable. That is when socio-economic transformations can take place.
- » We view the energy sector as one that empowers people and furthers “Ease of Living”. India achieved hundred percent electrification.
- » LPG coverage increased. These changes particularly helped our rural areas, our middle class and the women of India.
- » Friends, India’s Energy Plan aims to ensure energy justice. That too while fully following our global commitments for sustainable growth.
- » This means more energy to improve the lives of Indians. But, with a smaller carbon foot-print. Friends, Our energy sector will be growth centric, industry friendly and environment conscious.
- » That is why, India is among the most active nations in furthering renewable sources of energy. Friends, In the last 6 years, more than 36 crore or 360 million LED bulbs were distributed. The cost of LED bulbs has also reduced 10 fold.
- » In the last 6 years, Over 1.1 crore or 11

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million smart LED street-lights were installed. These have enabled an estimated energy savings of 60 billion units per year.

- » The estimated green-house gas emission reduction with this programme is over 4.5 crore or 45 million tonnes Carbon dioxide annually. Along with all this, we also saved around Rupees 24,000 crore or Rupees 240 billion annually. It is due to such interventions that reports have said that India is the most attractive emerging market for clean energy investment.
- » Friends, As I said, India will always work keeping in mind global good. We are well on track to meet the commitment we made to the global community.
- » We had aimed to increase the renewable energy installed capacity by 175 GW by 2022. We have further extended this goal to 450 GW by 2030.
- » India has one of the lowest carbon emissions than the rest of the industrialized world. Yet, we will continue to make efforts to fight climate change.
- » Friends, India’s reform journey has been on high speed for the last six years. The energy sector has seen many path-breaking reforms.

# **PM's address at the launch of physical distribution of Property Cards under the SVAMITVA Scheme on 11 October 2020**



- » Today, I congratulate those one lakh people who have received and downloaded the SVAMITVA letters or property cards of their homes.
- » Today when you would be sitting with your family, having food in the evening, I am sure, you would be happy like never before. You will be able to tell your children proudly that 'see, now this is your property, you are going to inherit it'.
- » We didn't have papers for what we had inherited from our ancestors, but today we feel a lot empowered after receiving the papers. This evening is of great joy for you, of weaving new dreams and discussing about the new dreams to the children.
- » Therefore, I congratulate all of you for the rights that you have got today.
- » This right is in some way a legal document. Your house belongs to you; you will live in your house. You will decide what to do with your house.
- » Neither the government can interfere nor the people of the neighbourhood. This scheme is going to bring historic changes in the villages of our country. We all are a



**Jayaprakash Babu had called for total revolution. And the voice that had emanated from the land of Bihar; the dreams which Jayaprakash ji had seen, had inspired Nanaji to work for the development of the villages.**

witness to the same.

- » Today in this programme, my cabinet colleague Shri Narendra Singh Tomar ji, Chief Minister of Haryana Shri Manohar Lal ji, Deputy CM Shri Dushyant Chautala ji, Chief Minister of Uttarakhand Shri Trivendra Singh Rawat ji, Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Shri Yogi Adityanath ji, Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan ji, the Ministers of various states and the beneficiaries of the SVAMITVA scheme are also present here with us today.
- » And as Narendra Singh ji was saying, more than 1.25 crore people have got the registry done and have joined us in this programme.
- » This means that the participation of so many villagers in this virtual meeting today is a proof of how attractive is this SVAMITVA scheme, how powerful and important it is!
- » Today, the country has taken another major step in the direction of Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan. The SVAMITVA scheme is going to be of great help in making our brothers and sisters from the villages self-reliant.
- » Today, thousands of families in Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh have been handed over the legal papers of their homes.
- » In the next three-four years, an attempt will be made to give such a property card to every household in every village of the country.
- » And friends, I am very happy that such a great work has been undertaken on today. This day is very significant. This day holds a great significance in the history of India.
- » Today is the birth anniversary of two great sons of the country – One Bharat Ratna Lok Nayak Jayaprakash Narayan and the other Bharat Ratna Nanaji Deshmukh.
- » Not only the birthdays of these two great men fall on the same date, but both these great personalities also shared a similar ideology like fighting against corruption in the country, working for honesty, working for the poor in the country and for the welfare of the villages. Both of them had the same ideals and their efforts too were the same.
- » Jayaprakash Babu had called for total revolution. And the voice that had emanated from the land of Bihar; the dreams which Jayaprakash ji had seen, had inspired Nanaji to work for the development of the villages.
- » Jayaprakash Babu remained the source of inspiration for Nanaji. Now look at the strange coincidence! Raising the voice of the village and the poor had been a shared vision of Jayaprakash Babu and Nanaji.

# PM's address at the inauguration of 'Responsible AI for Social Empowerment 2020' Summit on 05 October 2020



- » Welcome to RAISE Responsible AI for Social Empowerment Summit. This is a great effort to encourage discussion on Artificial Intelligence. You all have rightly highlighted aspects relating to technology and human empowerment.
- » Technology has transformed our work places. It has improved connectivity. Time and again, technology has helped us solve key challenges. I am sure this merge between social responsibility and AI will enrich AI with human touch.
- » Friends, Artificial intelligence is a tribute to human intellectual power. The power to think enabled humans to make tools and technologies.
- » Today, these tools and technologies have also acquired the power to learn and think! In this, one key emerging technology is AI. The teamwork of AI with humans can do wonders for our planet.
- » Friends, At every step of history, India has led the world in knowledge and learning. In today's age of IT as well, India is making outstanding contributions.
- » Some of the brightest tech leaders belong to India. India has also proved to be the powerhouse of the global IT services Industry. We will continue to digitally excel and delight

the world.

- » Friends, In India, we have experienced that technology improves transparency and service delivery. We are home to the world's largest unique identity system- Aadhaar. We also have the world's most innovative digital payments system-UPI.
- » This has enabled providing access to digital services, including financial services, like Direct Cash Transfers to the poor and marginalised. In the pandemic situation, we saw how India's digital readiness was of great help.
- » We reached out to people with help, at the earliest and in the most efficient manner. India is rapidly expanding its optical fibre network. The aim is to provide every village with high speed internet connectivity.
- » Friends, Now, we want India to become a global hub for AI. Many Indians are already working on this. I hope many more do so in the times to come.
- » Our approach to this is powered by core principles of: Teamwork, Trust, Collaboration, Responsibility and Inclusivity.
- » Friends, India has recently adopted the National Education Policy 2020. It focuses on technology-based learning and skilling as a major part of education.
- » E-courses will also be developed in various regional languages and dialects. This whole effort will benefit from Natural Language Processing (NLP) capabilities of AI platforms.
- » We launched Responsible AI for Youth program this year in April, under this



programme, more than 11000 students from schools completed the basic course. They are now building their AI projects.

- » Friends, The National Educational Technology Forum (NETF) is being formed. This will create an e-Education unit to boost the digital infrastructure, digital content and capacity.
- » Virtual labs are being established to provide hands-on experience to learners. We have also launched the Atal Innovation Mission to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship.
- » Through these steps, we aim to keep pace with emerging technologies for people's benefit.

# India-Denmark 'Greening' its Strategic Partnership



**Dr Uttam Kumar Sinha**

**O**n September 28, 2020 Mette Frederiksen, Prime Minister of Denmark and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, co-chaired a 'virtual summit'. A number of issues were discussed of mutual interest including climate change and green transition, and reached a common understanding to accelerating sustainable development. Significantly the two 'climate leaders' – exuding confidence and humility; principles and pragmatism – agreed to elevate India-Denmark bilateral relations to a 'Green Strategic Partnership'. Water management and sustainable urban development feature prominently in the new partnership. With an aim to strengthening 'green ties' and 'two-way learning' between cities, Udaipur has been twinned with Aarhus and Tumakuru, a smart city in Karnataka, is to have a sister city Aalborg. The objective is to create more sustainable and smart cities through waterscaping that includes enhanced integrated water management and urban planning.

For the first time in India's diplomatic history environmental agenda has been raised to a strategic partnership. One can observe that India's strategic partnership with a number of countries including Australia, China, Japan,

Russia and the US are broadly associated with defence and security in which other issues like education, health, energy, trade and investment and at times environment find place for engagement. Interestingly with Saudi Arabia a 'Strategic Partnership Council' was agreed upon in 2019 with a two-track cooperation – political, and security on one track and economy and investment on the other track. The Green Strategic Partnership with Denmark acknowledges, emphatically, the universal nature of climate change and global efforts and responsibilities in keeping temperatures below 1.5 degrees Celsius. The principal aim of such 'green partnership' is not only to advance political cooperation but to expand economic relations and green growth. It reinforces India's fight against climate change and its desire to partner with other like-minded countries to implement the ambitious Paris Agreement in 2015 and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In the last six years, India has taken leadership in framing new climate mitigation and adaptation mechanisms. For example, in setting up the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and anchoring the first summit in New Delhi in 2018. The ISA is not only an expression of India's global outreach to fight climate change through cost-effective renewable energy but equally a positioning of its global power status that is benign, rule-based and creates opportunities for wider diplomatic engagement on crucial development issues. Similarly, India has taken a strong lead in



reaffirming its commitment to the cause of Disaster Risk Reduction.

Denmark has a long tradition in setting ambitious climate actions and considers energy and climate policy together when deciding socio-economic objectives. With a history of political stability, consensus-based decisions and a long-term goal to become independent of fossil fuels by 2050, Denmark has been able to bring out tough climate-change mitigation measures by encouraging renewable energy and energy efficiency with an overall aim of meeting half of its energy demand through renewable by 2030.

India's renewable energy path is equally robust. It aims to attain 175 GW by 2022 – 100 GW from solar, 60 GW from wind, 10 GW from biomass and 5GW from hydro. The principal objective is to advance economic development by using sustainable energy and at the same time ensuring access to affordable and reliable energy for its people. Resultantly,

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**India-Denmark Green Strategic Partnership is a new-age diplomacy where climate risks are integrated into foreign policy agendas opening new spaces for convergence and interactions. The partnership is a sincere effort that draws upon partners' knowledge and expertise to promote solution-driven approaches to climate action.**

India has with its policies and attractive foreign investment positioned itself as the foremost country offering favourable renewable energy markets. As part of its commitment to the Paris Climate Agreement, India plans to reduce its carbon emission intensity (emission per unit of GDP) by 33-35 per cent from 2005 levels over the next 15 years. Simultaneously it has set a target of producing 40 per cent of its installed electricity capacity from non-fossil fuels by 2030. The renewable energy targets will play a significant role in the energy transition from coal-based power generation.

Working in close collaboration towards a path of energy transition, green growth and sustainable development the two prime minister in a joint statement "confirmed the close partnership in addressing global challenges and solutions on green energy transition and climate change. The Strategic Sector Cooperation on offshore wind and renewable energy, as well as the India-Denmark Energy Partnership (INDEP) on capacity building, knowledge-sharing and technology transfer on wind energy; energy modeling and integration of renewable energy illustrate the shared commitment to address some of the common global challenges on the path towards global energy transition, green



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growth and sustainable development. The two sides envisage the energy partnership to be further strengthened over the coming years.”

The Denmark-India partnership, what prime minister described as ‘Denmark has the skills and India the scale’, comes at a time when the Scandinavian country has proposed investing 10 billion Danish crowns (USD 1.58 billion) in new technologies until 2025. In an important statement while addressing the Danish Parliament in October 2020, Mette Frederiksen said, “Denmark must be a showcase for the world. But no one will follow us if our path is expensive, unmanageable and socially unjust.” Figures suggest that there are over 140 Danish companies in India employing almost one lakh workers and contributing to designing infrastructure projects. Indians equally have a noticeable footprint in Denmark’s IT sector. Other outcomes of the Green Partnership relate to

promoting science, technology and innovation through a strong public-private partnership in efforts to search for green solutions in areas of energy, water and bio-resources. Such bilateral green partnership also has the potential to bolster the Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM), in which both Denmark and India are members, and collectively forge climate cooperation and green transformation.

An important feature of the partnership is the cooperation on Arctic. India of late has been advancing its interest in polar science as well as sustainable use of energy resources in the Arctic region through bilateral relations with Arctic countries like Norway, Finland, Sweden and Russia. India is among few countries that have a permanent research station (Himadri) in the Svalbard archipelago where polar research is conducted by scientist from around the globe. It became an observer member in the Arctic Council in 2013 and was re-elected in 2019. Being a developing country with high levels of vulnerability to the impact of climate change, India is committed to understanding the scientific processes behind climate events. Moreover, polar research can also be crucial to India’s management of the Himalayas which requires a comprehensive study of glaciology and atmospheric science.

India-Denmark Green Strategic Partnership is a new-age diplomacy where climate risks are integrated into foreign policy agendas opening new spaces for convergence and interactions. The partnership is a sincere effort that draws upon partners’ knowledge and expertise to promote solution-driven approaches to climate action.

*(The writer is a senior climate and environment expert and Fellow at IDSA. The views expressed are his own.)*

# मोदी सरकार की नीतियों से देश के ऊर्जा क्षेत्र में हो रही क्रांति



## प्रह्लाद सबनानी

**अ**भी हाल ही में देश में ऊर्जा के उत्पादन से संबंधित जारी किए गए आँकड़ों से यह तथ्य उभर कर आया है कि भारत में ऊर्जा के कुल उत्पादन में स्वच्छ ऊर्जा का योगदान वित्तीय वर्ष 2020-21 के अगस्त माह तक 30 प्रतिशत हो गया है जो वित्तीय वर्ष 2019-20 के अंत में 24.9 प्रतिशत था।

केंद्र सरकार द्वारा लागू की गई नीतियों को चलते देश के ऊर्जा उत्पादन में पारम्परिक ऊर्जा का योगदान लगातार कम होता जा रहा है। पारम्परिक ऊर्जा को जीवाश्म ऊर्जा भी कहते हैं एवं इसके निर्माण में तेल, गैस और कोयला आदि का उपयोग होता है। वहीं स्वच्छ ऊर्जा में सौर ऊर्जा एवं पवन ऊर्जा भी शामिल है।

दूसरी, एक अन्य महत्वपूर्ण जानकारी के अनुसार भारत अब ऊर्जा क्षेत्र में इस दृष्टि से आत्मनिर्भर हो चुका है कि देश में ऊर्जा की कुल आवश्यकता के 99.6 प्रतिशत भाग की उपलब्धता होने लगी है, जो वर्ष 2012-13 में 91.3 प्रतिशत ही हो पाती थी। वर्ष 2013-14 से प्रतिवर्ष ऊर्जा की कुल आवश्यकता एवं ऊर्जा की उपलब्धता के बीच का अंतर लगातार कम होता चला गया है, जो वर्ष 2012-13 के 8.7 प्रतिशत से घटकर वर्ष 2020-21 (अप्रैल-अगस्त) में 0.4 प्रतिशत रह गया है।

तीसरी, एक और अच्छी जानकारी यह उभर कर आई है कि माह सितम्बर 2020 में देश में ऊर्जा की माँग माह सितम्बर 2019 की तुलना में 3 प्रतिशत बढ़ गई है। इससे भी यह झलकता है कि न केवल ऊर्जा की माँग में वृद्धि दृष्टिगोचर हो रही है बल्कि ऊर्जा की उपलब्धता में भी सुधार दिख रहा है।

अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय ऊर्जा संस्थान द्वारा भी अपने एक समीक्षा प्रतिवेदन में बताया गया है कि भारत में 95 प्रतिशत लोगों के घरों में बिजली मुहैया कराई जा चुकी है और 98 प्रतिशत परिवारों की, खाना पकाने

के लिए, स्वच्छ ईंधन तक पहुँच बन गई है। साथ ही, उक्त समीक्षा प्रतिवेदन में यह भी बताया गया है कि ऊर्जा के क्षेत्र में निजी निवेश की मात्रा भी बढ़ी है, जिससे भारत में ऊर्जा के क्षेत्र की दक्षता में सुधार हुआ है। उसकी वजह से ऊर्जा की क्रीमतों में प्रतिस्पर्धा बढ़ी है एवं ऊर्जा की क्रीमतें सस्ती हुई हैं। सामान्य लोगों की ऊर्जा तक पहुँच बढ़ी है।

ऊर्जा की दक्षता बढ़ने के चलते ऊर्जा की माँग में 15 प्रतिशत की कमी आई है। ऊर्जा की माँग में कमी का मतलब 30 करोड़ कार्बन के उत्सर्जन को टाला जा सका है। अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय ऊर्जा संस्थान द्वारा किया गया उक्त मूल्यांकन एक स्वतंत्र मूल्यांकन है, अतः इस समीक्षा प्रतिवेदन का अपने आप में बहुत बड़ा महत्व है।

भारत सरकार ने ऊर्जा के क्षेत्र के भविष्य को सुरक्षित, सस्ता और व्यावहारिक बनाने के उद्देश्य से कई नीतिगत निर्णय लिए हैं। साथ ही, देश के परिवहन क्षेत्र में इलेक्ट्रिक वाहनों को उतारने की जो पहल की जा रही है, उससे स्वच्छ परिवहन की शुरुआत होगी। हाल ही के समय में भारत सरकार ने ऊर्जा भंडारण निदान, स्वच्छ ईंधन और विपणन क्षेत्र को उदार बनाने की दिशा में ज्यादा ध्यान दिया है।

“भारत 2020 ऊर्जा नीति समीक्षा रिपोर्ट” के अनुसार, प्रधानमंत्री उज्ज्वला योजना और शहरी गैस वितरण नेटवर्क के जरिये रसोई घरों तक पाइप से सीधे गैस पहुंचाने जैसे कदमों से भारत में 28 करोड़ परिवार इसके दायरे में आ गये हैं।

भारत ऊर्जा के क्षेत्र में बदलाव की दिशा में काफी मेहनत से काम कर रहा है। केंद्र सरकार ने बिजली और खाना पकाने के स्वच्छ ईंधन

केंद्र सरकार द्वारा लागू की गई नीतियों को चलते देश के ऊर्जा उत्पादन में पारम्परिक ऊर्जा का योगदान लगातार कम होता जा रहा है। पारम्परिक ऊर्जा को जीवाश्म ऊर्जा भी कहते हैं एवं इसके निर्माण में तेल, गैस और कोयला आदि का उपयोग होता है। वहीं स्वच्छ ऊर्जा में सौर ऊर्जा एवं पवन ऊर्जा भी शामिल है।



Credit: Punjabkeshri

तक पहुंच सुनिश्चित करने को अपनी शीर्ष प्राथमिकता में रखा हुआ है और उसके इस दिशा में लगातार प्रयासों से इस क्षेत्र में उल्लेखनीय प्रगति दिख भी रही है।

देश में नरेंद्र मोदी की सरकार के सत्ता में आने के बाद से दो बड़ी क्रांतियाँ ऊर्जा के क्षेत्र में हुई हैं। पहले तो LED सम्बंधी क्रांति भारत में हुई है। दुनिया के कई देश आज भारत आकर देख रहे हैं और यह समझने का प्रयास कर रहे हैं कि भारत ने किस प्रकार इतना बड़ा कार्य आसानी से कर लिया है। दूसरी क्रांति LPG सम्बंधी हुई है। भारत ने LPG को गाँव गाँव एवं घर घर तक पहुँचा दिया है। अब भारत के गावों में गृहणीयाँ गैस के चूल्हे पर खाना पकाती हैं, लकड़ी नहीं जलाती।

अन्य विकसित देशों की तुलना में भारत में प्रति व्यक्ति ऊर्जा की खपत बहुत कम है, यह विश्व के औसत का एक तिहाई ही है। अतः भारत सरकार लगातार यह कोशिश कर रही है कि देश में ऊर्जा की कमी को खत्म कर स्वच्छ ऊर्जा की उपलब्धता को बढ़ाया जाय।

एक अच्छी बात जो हाल ही के समय में देखी जा रही है वो यह है कि विशेष रूप से ऊर्जा के क्षेत्र में केंद्र सरकार एवं विभिन्न राज्य सरकारों के बीच अच्छा तालमेल हो रहा है। जिसके कारण ग्रामीण स्तर पर बिजली पहुंचाने में केंद्र ने सफलता हासिल की है। यह एक सराहनीय उपलब्धि है।

इसके साथ ही, तकनीकी क्षेत्र में हुई क्रांति के चलते ऊर्जा की दक्षता में बहुत सुधार हुआ है। सबसे पहले तो लोग सामान्य बल्ब से

CFL में स्थानांतरित हुए और फिर LED के उपयोग पर आ गए हैं। इससे देश में ऊर्जा की खपत बहुत कम हो गई है।

देश के कई घरों में तो ऊर्जा का उपयोग लगभग आधा हो गया है। इससे वितरण कम्पनियों पर भी दबाव कम हुआ है। केंद्र का लगातार यह प्रयास है कि गाँव के प्रत्येक घर में सस्ती दरों पर बिजली उपलब्ध हो सके।

सौर ऊर्जा में भी हमारे देश की क्षमता बढ़ाए जाने के लगातार प्रयास केंद्र सरकार द्वारा किए जा रहे हैं। इससे देश में ही इसके अवयवों का निर्माण किया जाएगा एवं मेक इन इंडिया के साथ-साथ रोजगार के भी कई नए अवसर निर्मित होंगे। सौर ऊर्जा और पवन ऊर्जा के मामले में भारत में उल्लेखनीय प्रगति हो रही है। नवी ऊर्जा के भंडारण को बढ़ावा देने के उद्देश्य से देश में बैटरी के उत्पादन को बढ़ावा दिया जा रहा है ताकि ग्रिड का विस्तार किया जा सके।

पूरी दुनिया में बिजली का उपयोग भी, ऊर्जा के रूप में, बढ़ता जा रहा है। पहले डीजल, पेट्रोल एवं गैस का उपयोग सबसे अधिक होता रहा है। परंतु, अब ऊर्जा सम्बंधी जो भी नीति आगे बने वह बिजली को केंद्र में रखकर बनाई जानी चाहिए। अब समय आ गया है कि भारत बैटरी स्टोरेज के क्षेत्र में भी दुनिया को रास्ता दिखाए जिस प्रकार सौर ऊर्जा के क्षेत्र में भारत दुनिया को राह दिखा रहा है।

*(लेखक बैंकिंग क्षेत्र से सेवानिवृत्त हैं। आर्थिक विषयों के जानकार हैं। प्रस्तुत विचार उनके निजी हैं।)*

# India & Bangladesh Should Foster Basin-Wide Management of Trans-Boundary Rivers

Basin-wide management of trans-boundary rivers can act as a confidence-building measure for taking our bilateral relations to a higher level



**Bipul Chatterjee**



**Prashant Sharma**

**O**ver the last several years, India and Bangladesh have improved their bilateral relations by several notches and there is a huge scope for them to foster integrated water resources management whose potential is still to be tapped fully. This is a medium that two countries can mainstream into their shared agenda of exploring new avenues of benefiting their people on the ground in a sustainable manner.

Not just that it can help them achieve cross-cutting Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 but also it will make their river-dependent economies, communities and ecosystems resilient from shocks such as the Covid-19 including imminent threats from climate change in future.

Along with 54 common rivers as part of the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna (GBM) river system, India and Bangladesh share around 4096.7 kilometres of land and riverine borders. Put together, the GBM basin touches upon the human and environment flow requirements of around 630mn people across eastern South Asian countries of Bangladesh,

Bhutan, India, Nepal and the Tibet in their north.

## Scope and rationale for basin-wide management

According to the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, a majority of the 630mn people living in the GBM basin depends on shared waters for lives and livelihoods. While Nepal and Bhutan are located in the Ganges (popularly known as the river Ganga in India) and Brahmaputra river basins, respectively, India with more than 60 percent area - over 1.7

**Beside them, depleting and polluting water resources, weaker drainage and waste water treatment systems, issues related with harmful impacts of dredging on aquifers, disputes on constructions of dams and barrages are some of the areas of mutual concern. They can be better addressed through a basin-wide management as against piece-meal approaches.**



**They should also contemplate and contextualise holistic and sequential initiatives from global good practices such as those on the Mekong river, the Danube river, on how holistic trans-boundary basin management can foster a sustainable nexus for food, water and energy security. They can do so by encouraging greater civil society engagement other than using big data analytics and exponential technologies in informing their decisions.**

million square kilometres of the GBM basin - shares contiguous upstream and downstream riparian linkages with Bangladesh with Ganga and Brahmaputra flowing into it as Padma and Jamuna.

The two rivers further converge with Meghna in Bangladesh, which connects the Barak river in the upstream in Assam, before they terminate together in the Bay of Bengal. These three great rivers along with their tributaries and distributaries including shared lakes and creeks in the Sundarbans offer incredible scope for undertaking a basin-wide approach for the management and development of riverine resources.

Those resources are essential not just for human life and biodiversity of the two countries and the BBIN plus the Tibet sub-region but also for sustainable agriculture, industrial, energy, navigation, drinking water and sanitation and other ecological considerations.

Underpinned with 54 trans-boundary rivers, a basin-wide approach can help transform mutual differences into shared

opportunities. This will also help the two countries share the costs and benefits of their management. Constructive political and diplomatic efforts are being taken to sort out water management issues in a mutually acceptable manner.

For example, a shared understanding between India and Bangladesh to withdraw 1.82 cusecs of water from the Feni river for drinking purpose for the people of Sabroom town in Tripura has set a milestone. Similar arrangements are being endeavoured for other common rivers by collecting data and preparing water management arrangements.

These are high-impact, community-oriented measures and help people to understand the values of our bilateral cooperation. Along with an enhanced attention to augment inland waterways linkages under the bilateral protocols for inland water trade and transit including their linkages with coastal shipping, a robust cross-border trade infrastructure including that of border haats and potential for developing riverine border haats, among others, can be the basis of taking bilateral relations to the next level.

**Along with 54 common rivers as part of the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna (GBM) river system, India and Bangladesh share around 4096.7 kilometres of land and riverine borders. Put together, the GBM basin touches upon the human and environment flow requirements of around 630mn people across eastern South Asian countries of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal and the Tibet in their north.**



**According to the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, a majority of the 630mn people living in the GBM basin depends on shared waters for lives and livelihoods. While Nepal and Bhutan are located in the Ganges (popularly known as the river Ganga in India) and Brahmaputra river basins, respectively, India with more than 60 percent area - over 1.7 million square kilometres of the GBM basin - shares contiguous upstream and downstream riparian linkages with Bangladesh with Ganga and Brahmaputra flowing into it as Padma and Jamuna.**

Besides them, depleting and polluting water resources, weaker drainage and waste water treatment systems, issues related with harmful impacts of dredging on aquifers, disputes on constructions of dams and barrages are some of the areas of mutual concern. They can be better addressed through a basin-wide management as against piece-meal approaches.

### **What needs to be done?**

Not just that a basin-wide approach is helpful in addressing the demand and supply asymmetries for different sectoral needs, it can help prioritise the use of shared water resources, particularly in stressed situations. For that to happen there is an imminent need to widen the ambit of the Joint Rivers Commission to steer discussions and dialogues on comprehensive basin management concepts and capabilities.

This is possible when the two countries adopt a whole-of-government approach by engaging inland waterways authorities with agriculture and other relevant ministries including state and local government bodies.

They should also contemplate and contextualise holistic and sequential initiatives from global good practices such as those on the Mekong river, the Danube river, on how holistic trans-boundary basin management can foster a sustainable nexus for food, water and energy security. They can do so by encouraging greater civil society engagement other than using big data analytics and exponential technologies in informing their decisions.

Thus, it is time for India and Bangladesh to empower the Joint Rivers Commission with necessary legal and institutional frameworks so as to enhance its scope and scale for management of shared waters. As the political determination to transform our bilateral relations as a role model for the Bay of Bengal region and the world is being manifested at all levels - diplomatic, security, trade and economics, civil society - the stage is set for a consensus towards the establishment of a cooperative governance framework for the management of basin-wide linkages.

Both countries have realised that such robustness is a product of our shared values and beliefs in discussions and dialogues under a rules-based order to resolve longstanding disputes. As a result, amicable resolution of land and maritime disputes between the two countries have effectively acted as confidence-building measures for continued deepening of our bilateral relations in every possible domain.

*(Bipul Chatterjee is the Executive Director & Prashant Sharma is the Assistant Director of CUTS International, a global public policy think- and action-tank on trade, regulations and governance; Views are personal)*

# स्वामित्व योजना : बदलेगी गाँव की तस्वीर



सन्नी कुमार

**ए**क अच्छी सरकार से सिर्फ इतनी ही अपेक्षा नहीं होती कि वो रोजमर्रा के शासन को औपचारिक ढंग से चलाती रहे, बल्कि उससे एक बेहतर भविष्य की कल्पना से प्रेरित अग्रसक्रिय कदम उठाते रहने की भी आशा रहती है। खासकर, एक ऐसे देश में जो अभी विकास के उस पायदान पर हो जहाँ से बहुत तेज़ी से आगे बढ़ने की संभावना हो वहाँ सरकार से ऐसी सक्रियता की अपेक्षा और बढ़ जाती है। और जब हम बेहतर भविष्य की कल्पना से प्रेरित कदम की बात करते हैं तो इसका प्रधान आशय संसाधनों के सर्वाधिक बेहतर उपयोग से होता है। अर्थात् भौतिक व मानव संसाधन का इस प्रकार प्रबंधन किया जाए कि देश की उन्नति में अधिकतम ऊर्जा का निवेश हो सके। यह दो तरीकों से हो सकता है। मानव संसाधन के लिए एक शांतिपूर्ण समाज की स्थापना करके, और इसके लिए 'संघर्ष समाधान' की बेहतर युक्ति प्रस्तुत करना। इस बिंदु को थोड़ा और स्पष्ट करें तो इसका अर्थ है कि यदि सरकार सामाजिक विवादों को यथासंभव कम कर दे और विवादों के निपटान की प्रक्रिया को आसान बना दे तो शांतिपूर्ण समाज की स्थिति को हासिल किया जा सकता है। इस प्रकार मानव संसाधन की जो ऊर्जा आपसी टकराव में नष्ट होती है वो उत्पादक कार्यों में निवेश होने लगेगी। दूसरा तरीका यह है कि भौतिक संसाधनों की स्थिति इस प्रकार निश्चित किया जाए कि वो 'अनुपयुक्त' न रह जाते हों। इससे आर्थिक गतिविधियों को गति मिलती है। अब, इन दोनों ही संदर्भों में भारत सरकार द्वारा शुरू की गई 'स्वामित्व'(SVAMITVA) योजनाओं को देखते हैं कि इनके कितने अनुकूल हैं।

सबसे पहले अगर यह देखें कि स्वामित्व योजना है क्या तो यह दरअसल एक संपत्ति कार्ड है जो उसके असली धारक को प्रदान की जाएगी। यह एसएमएस के माध्यम से संबंधित व्यक्ति तक भेजा जाएगा और फिर राज्य सरकारें भौतिक रूप से इसे वितरित भी करेंगी।

पहली नजर में यह कौतूहल का विषय हो सकता है कि किसी धारक को उसकी संपत्ति का कार्ड देने का क्या औचित्य है? इस पर तो वैसे भी उसका दावा होता ही है, लेकिन ग्रामीण भारत की बहुत सारी जमीनों को लेकर ऐसी बात नहीं कही जा सकती। वस्तुतः गाँवों में ऐसे भू-खंडों की बहुतायत है जिसके मालिकाना हक को लेकर कोई स्पष्ट स्थिति नहीं है। इसे आबादी इलाका भी कहा जाता है। इन भू-खंडों के स्वामित्व का व्यावहारिक निर्धारण आमतौर पर इससे होता है कि यह पीढ़ियों से किसके पास रही है, जबकि उनके पास भी इसके स्वामित्व का कागजी प्रमाण नहीं होता। इसके अलावा इससे जुड़ी एक और समस्या यह है कि ठीक उसी भूमि पर कोई और व्यक्ति भी दावा कर रहा होता है। इससे उत्पन्न विवाद अक्सर इतने विस्तृत हो जाते हैं कि न्यायालय तक मामले पहुँच जाते हैं। इस प्रकार इस अनिश्चितता से एक सामाजिक तनाव तो पैदा होता ही है साथ ही उस भूमि की आर्थिक गतिविधियों में हिस्सेदारी भी गौण हो जाती है। फिर चूँकि इन भू-खंडों का कोई कानूनी आधार निश्चित नहीं होता इसलिए इनसे राज्य को भी इनसे कर आदि की प्राप्ति नहीं हो पाती। कुल मिलाकर यह ग्रामीण भारत की एक जटिल समस्या बन गई है।

अब अगर इस स्थिति पर विचार करें कि क्या हो अगर इसका समाधान कर दिया जाए? इसका पहला लाभ तो यही होगा कि प्रत्येक भू-खंड का कानूनी अधिकार निश्चित होगा और राज्य के पास अपने संसाधनों का ठीक-ठीक हिसाब रहेगा। दूसरा लाभ यह है कि इससे

सबसे पहले अगर यह देखें कि स्वामित्व योजना है क्या तो यह दरअसल एक संपत्ति कार्ड है जो उसके असली धारक को प्रदान की जाएगी। यह एसएमएस के माध्यम से संबंधित व्यक्ति तक भेजा जाएगा और फिर राज्य सरकारें भौतिक रूप से इसे वितरित भी करेंगी। पहली नजर में यह कौतूहल का विषय हो सकता है कि किसी धारक को उसकी संपत्ति का कार्ड देने का क्या औचित्य है? इस पर तो वैसे भी उसका दावा होता ही है, लेकिन ग्रामीण भारत की बहुत सारी जमीनों को लेकर ऐसी बात नहीं कही जा सकती।



अब अगर इस स्थिति पर विचार करें कि क्या हो अगर इसका समाधान कर दिया जाए? इसका पहला लाभ तो यही होगा कि प्रत्येक भू-खंड का कानूनी अधिकार निश्चित होगा और राज्य के पास अपने संसाधनों का ठीक-ठीक हिसाब रहेगा। दूसरा लाभ यह है कि इससे सामाजिक तनाव में कमी आएगी और सह-अस्तित्व की भावना विकसित होगी।

सामाजिक तनाव में कमी आएगी और सह-अस्तित्व की भावना विकसित होगी। इसका तीसरा लाभ यह है कि इस प्रकार जिन्हें भी मालिकाना हक प्राप्त हो जाता है वो इसके आधार पर व्यवसाय आदि हेतु बैंक लोन ले सकते हैं। इससे यह एक जीवित संसाधन में तब्दील हो जाएगा। इसी से जुड़ा चौथा लाभ है कि राज्य को कर आदि के रूप में कुछ न कुछ प्राप्त होने लगेगा तथा वो इसका रेट आदि तय कर सकते हैं। न्यायालयों पर से मुकदमों के भार का कम होना, इसके अन्य लाभ के रूप में देखे जा सकते हैं। कुल मिलाकर कहे तो एक इस निर्णय से ग्रामीण भारत की पूरी स्थिति बदली जा सकती है। और प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने जब वीडियो कॉन्फ्रेंसिंग के माध्यम से इसके लिए 'स्वामित्व' योजना की शुरुआत की तो फिर इस बदलाव ने मूर्त रूप ले लिया। उपरोक्त बिंदुओं से यह स्पष्ट है कि स्वामित्व योजना किस प्रकार ग्रामीण भारत की बेहतरी में मददगार है।

आश्चर्य की बात है यह जरूरी समाधान इतने दिनों से सिर्फ इसलिए नहीं हो पा रहा था क्योंकि ऐसे विवादित भूमि की नापी करना और इस आधार पर उसके मालिक का निर्धारण करना एक 'खर्चीली' योजना थी। किंतु वर्तमान सरकार ने इसके लिए अलग बजट की व्यवस्था करते हुए इस पूरी प्रक्रिया में राज्य सरकारों और पंचायतों को हिस्सेदार बनाया। चूंकि कानून व्यवस्था और भूमि राज्य के हिस्से आते हैं तो इसमें राज्य की भूमिका भी प्रभावी होनी चाहिए तथा ग्रामीण भारत का प्रबंधन पंचायतों से बेहतर कौन कर सकता है। इस संदर्भ में एक बहुआयामी नीति के तहत गाँव तथा वहाँ की भूमि का सर्वेक्षण किया जाएगा तथा ड्रोन के माध्यम से इसकी मापी की जाएगी। यह प्रक्रिया पूरी हो जाने के बाद भूमि सत्यापन का कार्य अत्यंत आसान हो जाएगा। इसके बाद जिस भी भू-खंड पर एक से अधिक व्यक्ति मालिकाना हक का दावा करेगा, ड्रोन सर्वेक्षण और सरकारी रिकार्ड के मिलान से उसका विनिश्चयन कर दिया जाएगा। इस विनिश्चयन की सूचना पोर्टल पर डाल दी जाएगी जहाँ से संबंधित व्यक्ति इस संपत्ति अधिकार के कार्ड को प्राप्त कर सकता है। यह पूरी प्रक्रिया भू रिकॉर्ड को पारदर्शी बनाएंगी।

आज ग्रामीण भारत को तकनीक से जोड़ना एक जरूरी पहल है, और इस तकनीक के माध्यम से विकास की नई कहानी लिखना उसकी तार्किक परिणति। यह खुशी की बात है कि केंद्र सरकार इसे समझ रही है और इस पर अमल भी कर रही है।

*(लेखक इतिहास के अध्येता हैं तथा विभिन्न अखबारों तथा ऑनलाइन पोर्टल के लिए नियमित लेखन करते हैं।)*

# The 'Quad' is India's Destiny



**Prof Sreeram Chaulia**

**T**he announcement on October 19, 2020, that India had invited Australia to rejoin the Malabar naval exercises alongside Japan and the United States was a key moment in the evolution of New Delhi's defence diplomacy. It was a statement of how fearless and committed the Narendra Modi government remains when it comes to securing India's geostrategic interests. It was yet another reminder that a staunchly nationalistic 'India first' is the driving factor behind foreign policy in the Modi era.

To understand why the extension of Malabar back to its originally envisaged quadrilateral format is significant, one must revisit the basic premise of the 'Quad' dialogue mechanism as a loose coalition of likeminded countries that shared a common unease about China's hegemonic ascent.

The Quad was conceived and launched in 2007 by then Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, a fervent nationalist and charismatic right-wing political leader who saw the Chinese challenge with supreme clarity much earlier than any other international figure. It was thanks to Abe's persuasive skills that the Malabar exercise of 2007 in the Bay of Bengal featured navies of all four Quad members, plus Singapore, for the first time ever.

That combined show of force put China on

notice that a new counterbalancing force was shaping up to limit its military expansion and push it back to regionally acceptable boundaries. Beijing was so rattled by this plurilateral demonstration of geopolitical will that it immediately issued diplomatic protests and threats to the Quad members to cease ganging up against it.

By 2008, the early promise of the Quad was deflated as Abe was overthrown in Japan's unstable domestic political arena, and India's then feeble Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh, developed cold feet about angering China. Malabar went back to bilateral and trilateral mode, with Australia left out, and it was not until 2020 that the quadrilateral staged a comeback.

Even as a diplomatic forum, Quad stagnated throughout the Manmohan Singh years as a low-level conclave of bureaucrats. Modi had a hand in reviving it in 2017 and the group began humming again only from 2019, when it got upgraded to a ministerial level dialogue. A proper heads of government summit of the Quad countries is yet to take place, but it is a logical next step that will happen as greater political resolve to save the Indo-Pacific from Chinese imperialism takes root.

Before Modi came on to the scene with a robust foreign policy vision and gave the Quad a new vigour, China took advantage of the strategic opening provided by a weak and disorganised opposition. It built artificial islands and military bases all over the disputed South China Sea, penetrated the tiny Pacific Island nations through its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), interfered in Australia's internal politics and society, cornered Japan by blocking rare earth mineral exports,



gained mastery over poorer Southeast Asian countries like Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and the Philippines, and extended the reach of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy all the way to the western edge of the Indian Ocean.

The freedom China enjoyed to run amok in the Indo-Pacific for over one decade was well captured in the admission of the US Navy in 2018 that Beijing had pretty much established control over the mineral-rich South China Sea and that it could not be dislodged “short of war with the US”.

Had there be a strong Quad military and economic structure in place uninterruptedly from the beginning in 2007, the colossus of China that we see today would not have arisen so rapidly. China's success in leapfrogging towards its authoritarian President Xi Jinping's goal of ‘national rejuvenation’— which includes restoration of a world order where the US is marginalised, China is dominant at the centre, and the rest of the countries in Asia are subordinate to China— was enabled by the absence of a countervailing collective of countries that acted in concert to raise the costs of Chinese aggression.

Here, one must appreciate why a fraternity of four in the Quad form is a more formidable barrier to China's hegemony compared to trilateral or bilateral cooperative mechanisms. Australia's absence had reduced the punch and X-factor in Malabar exercises for the past 13 years. Under the courageous Prime Minister Scott Morrison, whose nationalism resembles that of Modi and Abe, Australia can bring unique assets to the struggle to curb China's belligerence.

The Morrison government is significantly ramping up its defence spending with pledges to spend \$270 billion over the next ten years. It still has considerable influence in the Pacific Island

nations, where China is encroaching through the BRI. So, Australia's presence will mean the ‘Quad’ gets teeth and a wider canvas on which to counterbalance China.

Bilateral or trilateral military cooperation have limitations in terms of geographical scope and ‘jointness’. When military exercises scale up to become quadrilateral or bigger than that, they have greater strategic value because they signify the advent of a robust ‘coalition of the willing’ to confront military expansionism by rogue powers.

Malabar's new avatar will increase the constraints on the PLA Navy in the Indo-Pacific. If Malabar eventually expands to include Vietnam, Indonesia and Thailand, the three most powerful militaries of the ASEAN group, the ‘Quad-plus’ formation will be complete and it will sow doubt in Xi's mind about the wisdom of his present aggressive posture in the Indo-Pacific. Quad-plus can eventually compel China to course correct on its brash foreign policy.

One often hears from high-ranking officials of Quad countries that it is not a military alliance and that talk of an ‘Asian NATO’ is unfounded. Compared to the US, which under President Donald Trump has severely criticised China and declared a de facto ‘new Cold War’ against China, the remaining Quad members tend to be less vocal in attacking China. India, Japan and Australia are geographically more proximate to China and hence would prefer to let their deeds do the talking instead of getting into an undiplomatic war of words with Beijing.

But just because the Modi government does not issue scathing anti-China rhetoric the way the US does, one must not conclude that India is scared or anxious about not upsetting China. India's threat perception about China has multiplied many-fold since the standoff in



eastern Ladakh in April 2020. In earlier periods, the value of the Quad used to be more like a tactical bargaining chip for India to convey to China that if it did not respect India's national security red lines, India could enter into an alliance-like formation to counterbalance China. Now, all that signaling business is over. It is obvious to India that China does not respect India's security and sensitivities. So, holding back on the fuller strategic blossoming of the Quad and hedging on operationalising it is no longer a smart approach. India wants more 'jointness' in the Quad without qualms now.

In the past, the tragedy of the Quad had been buck-passing. Each member country said it was ready for more coordinated strategic action, but believed the others were hesitant. India did not feel it got full and unconditional backing of the other three Quad members to go on an alliance-like offensive to push back China. Even now, despite the Quad maturing, India understands that the other three have their own complex relationships with China.

But this year, with the coronavirus-induced military and economic adventurism of China, all four members of Quad realised that China poses serious geopolitical threats. The era of cooperation-cum-competition with China is gone because China has changed into an aggressor power. All four Quad members now realise that the only way to have leverage over China at this stage is not to play nice and talk cooperation with it, but to show that expansionism will be resisted.

Undoubtedly, China has brought it upon itself with its reckless militaristic threats and maneuvers. Instead of dividing the Quad and keeping its members limited to halfway measures, China has unintentionally given a new strategic fillip to the grouping. Beijing is

particularly vexed with Australia and India, which have become bolder and less inhibited in challenging Chinese might. With Modi and Morrison leading the charge, it will be hard for China to break down the Quad and Quad-plus initiatives as it did in 2007-2008.

The future for the Quad lies not only in making Malabar-type joint naval activity more permanent and continuous, but also conceiving non-military instruments that can match China's BRI in the Indo-Pacific. Quad-financed infrastructure projects and economic connectivity missions in poor nations along the vast maritime rim of the Indo-Pacific will be effective alternatives to Chinese 'debt trap' diplomacy.

Imagine the quality of Japan, the technology of the US, the ingenuity of Australia and the human resources of India, all pooled together to assist a country like Myanmar, Fiji, Sri Lanka or Maldives. China will not be the only 'game in town' if the Quad coheres and endures.

Prime Minister Modi knows that the Quad is a principal element of India's foreign policy destiny. As long as he is in power, China cannot take Asia for granted. He showed China once in 2017, during the Doklam standoff, and again in 2020 in eastern Ladakh, that a 'new India' will not hesitate to take forceful measures to deter aggression and prevent bullying of smaller countries. The Quad is the longer-term institutional manifestation of the Modi government's pursuit of a multipolar Asia and a multipolar world. May more power accrue to it.

*(The writer is a Professor and Dean at the Jindal School of International Affairs. His most recent book is 'Trumped: Emerging Powers in a Post-American World.' The views expressed are his own)*

15th October 2020

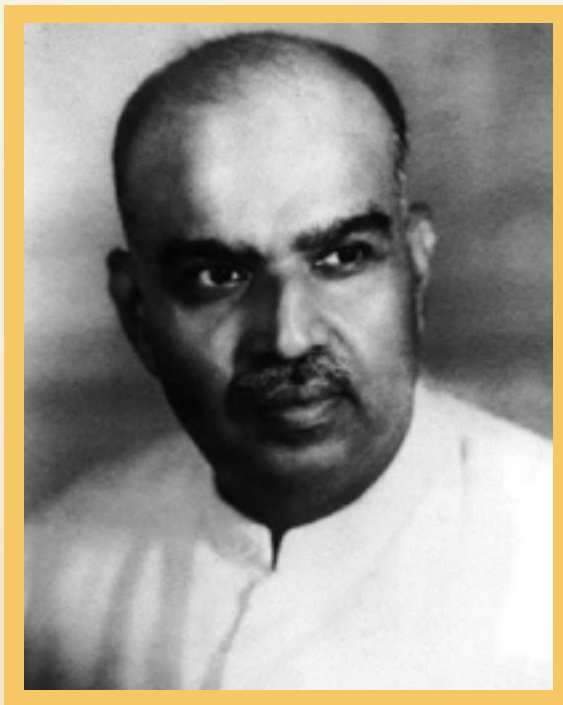


10th October 2020



04th October 2020





“As a university you have a great role to play in reshaping the destinies of the people of your country. We must bear in mind the cardinal principle that we want to see developed and trained through education the whole nature of our alumni, intellectual, moral and physical, not merely for the purpose of qualifying for any special calling but to bring up good citizens, useful members of society, men, true and fearless capable of bearing their part with credit in public and private life...”

**-Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee**  
Banaras Hindu University,  
1 December 1940

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