



The Nationalist

ISSN 2454-9401

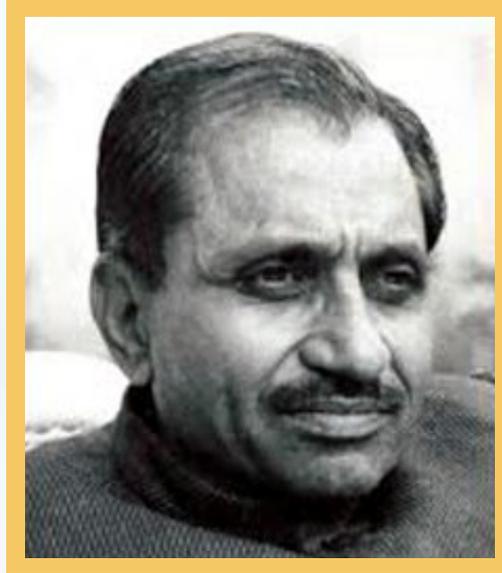
Issue: October, 2016



India-ASEAN Relations A GREEN PUSH

The Role of Solar Energy
in India's Energy Security

Outcomes of BRICS
Summit & Decoding India's
leadership role



“Choose the right man and see that the man you choose wins; that will be your victory”

-Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya

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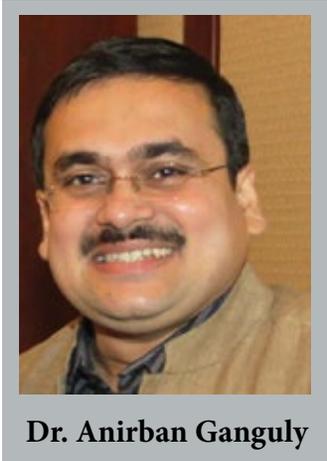
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THE MESSAGE FROM KOZHIKODE FOR OUR GENERATION



Dr. Anirban Ganguly

Prime Minister's Eight-fold Sutra for national growth, development and integration, encompassed the entire gamut of action and activities that his government has initiated so that India can take lead in the 21 st century.

P rime Minister Narendra Modi's message at the BJP National Council meet at Kozhikode on 24th and 25th September 2016, was in line with the vision of governance and of India that Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya had envisaged through his political philosophy of Integral Humanism. In fact, the National Council meet at Kozhikode was historic in many ways. It announced the celebrations of Pandit Upadhyaya's centenary and pledged to undertake a countrywide effort to spread his integral and uniting philosophy. It also saw a clear and unequivocal articulation by BJP national president Shri Amit Shah on the need to fight to the finish while taking on terrorism. "This battle may be a protracted one" his statement said, "but we shall fight it to the finish. We are confident that our Army will have the final victory." These message instilled hope and energy, especially in those whose concern is always India's well-being. Prime Minister's Eight-fold Sutra for national growth, development and integration, encompassed the entire gamut of action and activities that his government has initiated so that India can take lead in the 21st century. The Sutras give a clear direction for action that is needed to raise India to the next stage as a leading power. Prime Minister talked of freeing India from poverty and replacing it with prosperity, of replacing discrimination with equality-equity, of replacing dirt with cleanliness, of replacing unemployment with employment and opportunities, of replacing despair with hope, of restoring the dignity of women by ending exploitation, of replacing corruption with transparency and of replacing injustice with justice.

The fulfilling of the Eight-fold Sutras is the duty of every conscious citizen and around them has to be gradually created a national movement. By articulating them before a mammoth gathering at Kozhikode Prime Minister has himself re-affirmed his own commitment to achieving these. Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya's centenary is also an appropriate period when one ought to systematically work to see these achieve fruition. The message of "Samriddhi" and "Suraksha" also clearly emerged out of the meet.

Reference was also made to how Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya built the party and how the Bharatiya Jana Sangh during his period and later the BJP have always been organisation and workers based parties which have always India's national interest, her prosperity, her security and sovereignty at the core of their political philosophy. These were and are workers and India centric parties. Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya and the legions of leaders and workers who worked with him or whom he created and nurtured had this defining vision and inspiration before them.

At a time when most political parties are either rudderless, or suffering from internal squabbles, dynastic debilitation and plain directionlessness, this reiteration coming from the principal national party and its leadership is indeed hope generating and are the results of a sustained political and ideological movement.

The message from Kozhikode of 2016 resonated with the spirit of India – the commitment to work for her prosperity and self-reliance and for the ultimate triumph of the vision of her that nationalists across generations have seen and aspired for.

SALIENT POINTS OF PM MODI'S SPEECH ON RELEASE OF FULL VOLUMES OF PANDIT DEENDAYAL UPADHYAYA'S WORKS ON 9TH OCT, 2016



- While talking about Pandit Deendayal Ji, among the first things that we remember is his simplicity.
- In a short span of time, one party completed the journey from 'Vipaksh' to 'Vikalp' and this was due to foundations laid by Deendayal Ji.
- Organisation based political parties, this is a contribution of Deendayal Ji. This was the identity of the Jan Sangh & the BJP.
- Dr. Lohia spoke about the efforts of Deendayal Ji that resulted in the people getting an alternative to the Congress in 1967.
- Deendayal Ji was known for his simplicity & his focus on organisation based politics to serve India & our people.
- Deendayal Ji gave impetus to 'Karyakarta Nirman'. The Karyakarta inspired by him are party centric and the party is nation centric.
- At the core of Pandit Deendayal Ji's thoughts were the poor, the villages, the farmers, the Dalits, the marginalized.

SALIENT POINTS OF PM MODI'S SPEECH AT THE INAUGURATION OF PRAVASI BHARATIYA KENDRA



■ सालों तक हम देखते आए हैं एक ही शब्द सुनते आए हैं। के हमारे लोग पढ़ लिखकर के तैयार होते हैं विदेशों में चले जाते हैं। Brain Drain, Brain Drain ये शब्द हम सुनते आए हैं। लेकिन विश्व भर में फैले हुए भारतीय समुदाय को सिर्फ संख्या के रूप में नहीं, अगर शक्ति के रूप में देखें तो ये Brain Drain की हमारी जो चिंता थी इसको Brain Gain में Convert किया जा सकता है।

■ नदी में पानी बहुत बहता रहता है। लेकिन कोई डेम बना दे, ऊर्जा उत्पादन कर दे, तो वही पानी एक नई शक्ति का स्रोत बन जाता है। विश्व में फैले हुए भारतीय समुदाय में भी सार्थकता तो है। कोई ऐसी स्थापना की जरूरत है, जो उस ऊर्जा को Convert करके राष्ट्र में उजाला फैलाने के लिए काम ला सके। जब नीति आयोग की रचना हुई तो उस नीति आयोग ने अपने प्रमुख काम को लिखा है उसने उसमें एक स्थान पर और शायद भारत के Document में ये पहला ऐसा Document होगा, जिसमें प्रवासी भारतीयों के सामर्थ्य को स्वीकारा गया है। और प्रवासी भारतीय को विश्व

भर में करीब पौने तीन करोड़ लोग या तो मूल भारतीय हैं या तो प्रवासी भारतीय हैं। और दुनिया के करीब डेढ़ सौ से ज्यादा देशों में कभी – कभी तो हमारा मिशन पहुंचा हो या न पहुंचा हो कोई न कोई प्रवासी भारतीय जरूर पहुंचा है।

■ कई देश ऐसे हैं कि जहां, मिशन की शक्ति से अनेक गुना शक्ति प्रवासी भारतीयों की है। कई मिशन ऐसे हैं, जो बड़ी कुशलता से अपना कारोबार चलाते हैं। उस मिशन के मुखिया प्रवासी भारतीयों की ताकत पहचानते हैं और वे लगातार साल भर उस देश में प्रवासी भारतीयों को जोड़ कर के भारत की बात पहुंचाने के लिए बहुत कुशलता से काम करते हैं। ऐसे छुटपुट-छुटपुट प्रयास निरंतर चलते रहते हैं। लेकिन अब एक प्रयास है इसको एक संगठित शक्ति के रूप में हम कैसे प्रयोग करेंगे।

■ भारत के प्रति जिज्ञासा बढ़ी है, विश्व का भारत के प्रति आकर्षण बढ़ा है। ऐसे समय Fear of Unknown बहुत बड़ा Obstacle होता है। और

ये Fear of Unknown जो है उसको मिटाने की अगर किसी की ताकत है तो विश्व भर में फैले हुए भारतीय समुदाय में है। वो उस देश के व्यक्ति को अरे भई चिंता मत करो मैं वहीं का हूँ। एक बार अगर वो कह दे हां मैं वहीं का हूँ, तो फिर भई Confidence level इतना बढ़ जाता है कि जो Fear of Unknown है वो फिर खत्म हो जाता है। अच्छा-अच्छा आप हिन्दुस्तान के हैं। अगर वो पूछ ले कि आप कब गए थे तो वो थोड़ा मुश्किल में आ जाएगा। लेकिन अगर नहीं पूछता है तो उसको विश्वास कर लेगा कि हां भई ये सज्जन मुझे मिले हैं ये तो हिन्दुस्तान के हैं, तो चलो मैं भी जा सकता हूँ।

■ विश्व में फैला हुआ भारतीय समुदाय विश्व में जो जिज्ञासा पैदा हुई है। विश्व में जो आकर्षण पैदा हुआ है। इसके लिए कोई बहुत बड़ा बीज अगर कोई बन सकता है। मिशन से भी ज्यादा अगर उसके शब्दों पर कोई विश्वास करेगा, तो फैला हुआ हमारा भारतीय समुदाय। और इसलिए हमारे लिये आवश्यक है के हम पहले विश्व भर में फैले हुए हमारे भारतीय समुदाय से अपने आप को कनेक्ट करें। जुड़ना जरूरी है।

■ पिछले दो वर्ष में आपने देखा होगा कि मानवता के मुद्दों पर भारत ने विशेष कर के भारत के विदेश विभाग ने एक अपनी एक प्रतिष्ठा अर्जित की है। किसी देश में बीस-पच्चीस देश के लोग फंसे हों, उसमें भारतीय समुदाय के लोग होंगे। दुनिया के बड़े से बड़े देश सबसे पहले भारतीय एम्बेसी को सम्पर्क करते हैं कि भई हमारे लोग वहां फंसे हैं। आपका देश तो जरूर कुछ करता होगा। हमारे लोगों को भी जरा बचा लेना। और विश्व के 80 से ज्यादा देश ऐसे होंगे, जिनको पिछले दो साल में भारतीयों के साथ-साथ संकट से बचाने का बड़ा काम विदेश विभाग के नेतृत्व में भारत ने किया है।

■ हम कल्पना कर सकते हैं प्रथम विश्व युद्ध की, द्वितीय विश्व युद्ध की। ये देश कभी जमीन का भूखा नहीं रहा है। इस देश ने कभी भी दुनिया में कहीं भी आक्रमण नहीं किया है। लेकिन इसके बावजूद भी किसी और के लिए डेढ़ लाख से ज्यादा हमारे जवान प्रथम और द्वितीय विश्व युद्ध में शहीद हो गए। डेढ़ लाख संख्या कम नहीं होती। लेकिन हम भारतीय हैं। उन शहीदों के साथ जुड़ कर के विश्व को हमारे इतने बड़े बलिदान का एहसास नहीं करा पाएगी। और इन दिनों जब मैं भी दुनिया में जाता हूँ तो मैं यह बात अगर वहां कहीं छोटा सा भी स्मारक है तो बड़े आग्रह से चला जाता हूँ। विश्व इस बात को स्वीकार करे कि हम वो लोग हैं जो किसी के लिए मरते हैं। हम वो लोग हैं जो किसी के लिए बलिदान देते हैं। हमारी ये महान परम्परा है ये हमारी उज्ज्वल गाथा है। और ये हमारी जो ताकत है। इसका एहसास दुनिया को मानवता से लेकर सामर्थ्य तक कराते रहना ये हम लोगों की जिम्मेवारी है।

■ आने वाले दिनों में भी विश्व जिस रूप में भारत को अब देख रहा है भारत से अपेक्षा कर रहा है। उसमें बहुत बड़ी भूमिका विश्व भर में फैले हुए हमारा

भारतीय समुदाय कर सकता है। हमारा भारतीय समुदाय दुनिया के देशों में जाकर के राजनीति नहीं करता है। वो सत्ता हथियाने के खेल में नहीं जुड़ता है। वे वहां रहकर के समाज की भलाई के लिए क्या काम हो सकता है उसकी चिंता करता है। दुनिया के किसी भी देश में जाइए अगर सौ साल से भारतीय समुदाय रह रहा है अगर पचास साल से रह रहा है, अगर बीस साल से उनके पड़ोस में रह रहा है, कहीं से भी भारतीय समुदाय का वहां रहने से वहां के समुदाय को कभी भी कोई दिक्कत नहीं होती। कितनी आसानी से उनमें घुल मिल जाता है। अपने उसूलों को बनाए रखता है लेकिन सबको अपना पन महसूस होता है। और यही तो हमारे संस्कारों का परिणाम है हमारी सांस्कृतिक विरासत है। हमारा व्यक्ति कहीं जाकर के 'पानी रे पानी तेरा रंग कैसा' जैसे मिल जाते हैं वैसे ही हमारे लोग मिल जाते हैं। और उसको वो उस अपने पन के कारण हमारी एक ताकत बन जाती है। ये भारतीय समुदाय की विशेषता है। हिन्दुस्तान के पास Tourism के Development के लिये बहुत संभानाएं हैं। विश्व में सबसे तेज गति से Grow करने वाला व्यवसाय है।

■ आप दुनिया के कुछ देशों में जाएं आपको Entertainment के लिये बहुत कुछ मिलेगा। लेकिन मानव इतिहास की महान विरासत देखनी है तो हिन्दुस्तान जैसे ही कुछ देश हैं जहां लोगों को आकर्षण हो सकता है। हम उनको इतनी बढ़िया होटल देंगे। हम उसको हमारा कितना बढ़िया आर्किटेक्चर दिखाएंगे। विश्व के सामने अगर हम भारत के पास विश्व को परोसने के लिए Tourism के क्षेत्र से जो विरासत है। दुनिया के कई देशों में जाइए पूछिए कि भई पुरानी चीज तो कोई 200 साल पुरानी बताएगा कोई 400 साल पुरानी बताएगा। हमारे यहां कोई आएगा तो हम पांच हजार साल से शुरू करेंगे। दुनिया को देने के लिए हमारे पास क्या कुछ नहीं है। प्रवासी भारतीय दिवस के भारत इस Confidence के साथ हम इस काम को कर सकते हैं। हम करना चाहते हैं।

■ प्रवासी भारतीय दिवस केन्द्र जो सौ साल पहले हिन्दुस्तान से बाहर गया है। उसको इतना पता है कि मेरा रंग, मेरा ब्लड इस देश से जुड़ा हुआ है। लेकिन यहां आने के बाद उसको पूछने वाला कोई नहीं है। कौन हो तुम। न घर का पता है न गांव का पता है। ये उसको लगेगा कि हां चलो मुझको एक घर मिल गया। वे चाहकर के मेरा बिस्तर लेकर के पूछताछ करके अपनी जगह बना पाऊंगा। ये पौने तीन करोड़ विश्व में फैले हुए लोगों का एक ऐसा केन्द्र बना है, जो वो जो निकल पड़े सिर्फ वेबसाइट पर देखा होगा। वो आकर के उसे कोई तो मिल जाएगा अपनेपन से बात करेगा। आइए भइया अच्छा बिहार के स्टेशन जाना है। ठीक है देखिए ऐसे-ऐसे जाया जाता है। अच्छा आपका ये गांव था। देखिए कोशिश करते हैं देखें मिल जाता है आपका कोई रिश्तेदार। ये एक बहुत बड़ी Dedicated व्यवस्था है। मुझे विश्वास है विश्व भर में फैले हुए प्रवासी भारतीयों के लिए बहुत ही मुबारक हो।

SALIENTS POINTS OF PM NARENDRA MODI'S ADDRESS AT THE DEDICATION OF SHAURYA SMARAK IN MADHYA PRADESH ON 14TH OCT, 2016



**हम वैन की नींद सो सकेँ
इसलिए हमारे जवान अपनी
जवानी खपा देते हैं**

- बाढ़ और अन्य प्राकृतिक आपदाओं के समय सेना ने अदम्य साहस दिखाया
- लोगों को बचाने के लिए सैनिकों ने अपनी जान दी, कभी कोई भेदभाव नहीं किया
- भारतीय सेना मानवता की एक बड़ी मिसाल है
- विश्व शांति सेना में सबसे ज्यादा योगदान भारतीय सैनिकों का
- हर मुश्किल के समय सेना ने आगे बढ़कर काम किया है
- यमन जैसे देशों में भारतीय सेना ने अपने पराक्रम से वहां फंसे पांच हजार से ज्यादा लोगों को सलामत वापस निकाला
- विश्व युद्ध में हमारे डेढ़ लाख जवानों ने अपनी जान गंवाई, जिसे विश्व आज भुला रहा है, दुनिया को ये याद दिलाना होगा
- हमारे पूर्वजों ने कभी भी किसी की एक इंच जमीन पर कब्जे के लिए युद्ध नहीं किया
- पत्थरबाजी के बावजूद हमारे जवानों ने बाढ़ में कश्मीरियों की मदद में कोई भेदभाव नहीं किया



- हम चैन की नींद सो सकें इसलिए हमारे जवान अपनी जवानी खपा देते हैं
- शौर्य स्मारक आने वाली पीढ़ियों के लिए प्रेरणा का स्रोत है
- हमारी सेना और रक्षा मंत्री बोलते नहीं काम करके दिखाते हैं
- सेना का मनोबल उसका सबसे बड़ा शस्त्र है और यह ताकत सवा सौ करोड़ लोगों की भावना से आती है
- हमने वन रैंक वन पेंशन का अपना वादा पूरा किया, सबसे वादे किये हमने पूरा करके दिखाया
- वन रैंक वन पेंशन के लिए धनराशि हम चार किश्त में पूरी तरह वितरित कर देंगे

- हमने निर्णय लिया कि OROP के आधार पर ही सातवां वेतन आयोग को गिना जाएगा ताकि सैनिकों को अधिक फायदा हो
- रिटायर होने वाले सैनिकों को मिलेगी स्किल डेवलपमेंट ट्रेनिंग, हम 50,000 रिटायर्ड फौजियों के लिए रोजगार उत्पन्न कर रहे हैं
- हमारी सरकार ने फौजियों के बच्चों के लिए स्कॉलरशिप बढ़ाकर 5,500 रुपये कर दी है
- शौर्य स्मारक हमारी पीढ़ियों को संस्कार देने के लिए ओपन स्कूल है

INDIA-ASEAN RELATIONS A GREEN PUSH

● Dr. Sreemati Ganguli



P rime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to attend the 14th ASEAN-India Summit in Vientiane (Laos) in September 2016 touched upon a wide array of issues including trade, physical and digital connectivity and counter-terrorism. As 2017 will mark 25-years of bilateral Dialogue Partnership and 5-years of Strategic Partnership between India and the ASEAN, this article attempts to focus on a less publicised but not a less important area of the new 'Act East' Policy – green energy cooperation between India and the ASEAN to ensure energy security as well as to mitigate adverse impacts of climate change in the inter-regional scenario. The early signs of this initiative were visible in 2007 with the proclamation of the ASEAN-India Green Fund under the ASEAN-India Network for Climate Change, and it was formally established in 2010.

Perspective

In the present scenario, India-ASEAN green energy cooperation gains significance in the context of some recent events in the global, regional and national energy scenario.

The UN-sponsored Paris Climate Change Pact of 2015, the first ever universal legally-binding global deal, set the target of keeping the rise of global temperature below 2 degree Celsius, if possible to limit it to 1.5 degree, above the pre-industrial level to reduce the risks and impact of climate change. The Paris Summit asked for all concerned parties to formulate and communicate long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies in view of their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. The October 2016 Kigali Amendment to

the 1989 Montreal Protocol also put differentiated cuts on the emission of hydro-fluorocarbons to reduce global warming level by half a degree Celsius. It is significant to note that India not only ratified the Paris Climate Pact, thereby paving the way of its entering into force in November 2016, but it took a leading and principled stance during the negotiations of both these global treaties to put forward the rights of developing countries to provide economic security to its population, without jeopardizing the global climate change goals and to seek environmental justice for Mother Earth.

Earlier, in September 2014, a new theme for the ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC) was endorsed during the 32nd ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting. The ministerial meeting proposed 'Enhancing Energy Connectivity and Market Integration in ASEAN to achieve Energy Security, Accessibility, Affordability and Sustainability for All'. Besides the implementation of ASEAN Power Grid and the Trans-ASEAN Pipeline, the new areas of energy cooperation as identified by the APAEC 2016-2025 are related to research and development of clean coal and civilian nuclear energy technology and regulation, reduction of energy intensity by 20 per cent in 2020, and reaching the aspirational target to increase the component of renewable energy to 23 per cent in ASEAN energy mix by 2025.

India's new energy policy, as proposed in 2014 by the Modi government, also envisaged of achieving 175 GW of renewable energy by 2022 (100 GW of solar, 60 GW of wind, 10 GW of biomass and 5GW of hydro electricity) to change its energy mix with an increased percentage in favour of renewable energy. It is important to note in this vein that when India's candidature for Nuclear Suppliers' Group in June 2016 was supported by a large majority of members of the Group it was not only a vindication of India's impeccable non-proliferation record, unlike some of its neighbours, but also it was an international support for India's plan to change its energy mix through better access to clean energy, to acquire newest civilian nuclear technology to limit its carbon emission and reduce air pollution from coal-based power plants as well as to propose plutonium trade

for its indigenous thorium-based nuclear programme to gain green energy security.

Way Forward

The growing trends towards energy cooperation, in different forms and at various levels, are evidence of different challenges the world is facing today and will face tomorrow like energy poverty, balancing economic development with environmental sustainability, changing the nature of global energy mix with larger share for renewable energy resources, developing innovative technologies, commercially viable carbon capture and storage (CCS) and clean coal technology (CCT), and promoting energy efficiency. India-ASEAN bilateral cooperation in green energy acquires a strategic character in this context.

The bilateral arrangement for energy cooperation, as delineated in the 'Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN- India Partnership for Peace, Progress and Shared Prosperity (2016-2020)' includes India's support for the APAEC 2016-2025; further promotion of ASEAN-India new and renewable energy initiative; increased cooperation to pursue energy security and to minimize environmental impacts through research, capacity-building, development, production and use of renewable and alternative energy sources; promotion of clean energy as well as energy efficient technologies through institutional capacity-building. The other areas include encouragement of private sector engagement in the development and utilization of renewable and alternative energy sources; development and strengthening of institutional linkages between ASEAN and India including the ASEAN Centre for Energy to cooperate on R&D in areas of energy efficiency and conservation, renewable energy, energy security, policy planning and programmes of action; and India's support for the rural household electrification programmes in ASEAN member states through solar, bio mass, bio gas, micro hydro and off-grid electrification to narrow the developmental gaps in urban-rural settings in these states. The plan further envisages the undertaking of programmes to provide technical and financial assistance and capacity-building for ASEAN states to address environmental management and climate change through the use of



the ASEAN-India Green Fund.

Significantly a number of ASEAN countries like Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam are a part of the 121-member International Solar Alliance, the grouping of Sunshine Countries over solar energy. This international energy initiative by Prime Minister Modi was inaugurated in Paris, alongside the global Climate Change Summit in 2015 to meet the common goal of increasing utilization of solar energy in meeting energy needs of the member countries in a safe, convenient, affordable, equitable and sustainable manner. This solar initiative puts focus on the common goal for both India and the ASEAN to provide energy access to the poorest section of society in an environment-friendly way. Notably, Prime Minister Modi commented in a recent interview to National Geographic Channel in the Documentary series ‘Years of Living Dangerously’ that India needs international investment and technology to meet the challenges of changing India’s energy mix overwhelmingly in favour of clean energy and reaching out to the last man in the energy value chain – the 300 million Indian people who still have no access to electricity.

Conclusion

For any bilateral relationship to prosper, the factor of versatility is one of the most significant criteria that offer substance in a long-term strategic scenario. Green energy cooperation between India and the ASEAN is such a vector of cooperation with a common agenda to prioritize green energy sources, to enhance ethical and efficient usage of energy, to call for a partial de-hydrocarbonization of national energy systems and to search for innovative clean energy solutions to balance economic development with environmental sustainability.

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THE ROLE OF SOLAR ENERGY IN INDIA'S ENERGY SECURITY

● Mukul Asher
● Siddharth Gupta



The Context

Solar is an important source of renewable energy. Given India's major dependence on imported fossil fuel for its energy needs, increasing the share of renewable energy is a sound diversification strategy, as well as potentially significant contributor to India's goal of environment sustainability, preserving natural capital.

As Indian economy expands (The 2015 GDP at current exchange rates was USD 2.3 trillion) and at assumed

nominal growth rate, (real plus inflation rate), of 12% per year, its GDP will be USD 4.6 trillion by 2022. As there is a positive relationship between GDP level and energy consumption, India's absolute need for energy will increase significantly. So for energy security, and preservation of natural capital reducing energy needs per unit of GDP and enhancing share of renewable energy have become national imperatives.

Goals

India's diplomatic efforts are also focussed on diversifying its energy options and with expanding its

economic and strategic space. On April 23, 2016, India signed the Paris Climate Act and announced plans to increase renewable power capacity to 175 GW (4 times the current capacity) by 2022. India seeks to add 100 GW of solar (photovoltaic) capacity, 60 GWs of wind power, 10 GWs of biomass and 5 GWs of small hydro projects.

It aims to source around two-fifths of its electricity from renewable and low-carbon energy sources and to reduce its emissions intensity, i.e. ratio of carbon emissions per unit of GDP, by around a third by 2030.

Initiatives

(i) In partnership with France, India has taken a leading role in forming the International Solar Alliance (ISA), with over one hundred members, to harness the potential of solar power and to facilitate global investments in this sector. The ISA will be based in Gurugram (formerly Gurgaon) in Haryana, India. India has contributed USD 30 million, the ISA aims to raise USD 400 million from membership fees and international agencies. This will be leveraged to generate investments in solar industry globally from many sources [1].

Due to its proximity to the Equator, India has a good potential to generate solar power, with about 300 clear, sunny days in a year. Theoretically calculated solar energy incidence on its land area alone is about 5,000 trillion kilowatt-hours (kWh) per year. The solar energy available in a year exceeds the possible energy output of all fossil fuel energy reserves domestically available in India [2].

The National Institute of Solar Energy has also estimated India's solar power generation potential at 749 GW which is much more than the present total installed capacity of about 300 GW from all sources of energy, renewable and non-renewable [3]. It should however be stressed that only a small fraction of potential solar capacity can be realised in practice. Intra-energy source pricing, particularly between solar and wind power, would have a significant role in the relative share contributed by the solar energy in India's energy production and consumption.

(ii) National Solar Mission (NSM)

The Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission (JNNSM) was launched on the January 11, 2010. The mission initially set a target of deploying 20 GW, but the Prime Minister Narendra Modi led government, which was entrusted with the governance responsibilities as a result of May 2014 general elections, set the target of 100 GW of grid connected solar power by 2022. The new solar target of 100 GW is expected to abate over 170 million tonnes of CO₂ over its life cycle and 1.5 Million Metric Tons per year which is equivalent to replacement of 50000 cars on road. The target will translate into Annual Clean Energy Generation of 1.67 billion units per 1000 MW [4]. It will facilitate India's commitment towards reducing its emission intensity per unit of GDP by around one-third by 2030.

It also aims to reduce the cost of solar power generation, achieving grid tariff parity by 2022 in the country through (i) long term policy; (ii) large scale deployment goals; (iii) outcome oriented R&D; and (iv) domestic production of critical raw materials, components and products.

As of March 31st 2014, India's total installed capacity of Solar Power was 2,632 MW and the present cumulative installed grid connected solar power capacity is 7,568 MW (2.54% of total installed capacity) with rooftop capacity of 740 MW [5]. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy recently reported that India added 6,937 MW of grid-connected renewable energy (Solar, Wind, Biomass, and Small Hydro) capacity in FY 2015-16. Additionally, 176 MW of distributed renewable energy capacity was added [6]. The government has set an ambitious target of total 12,000 MW including 4800 MW of rooftop solar to be achieved in the FY year 2016-17.

It is encouraging that India's large domestic companies are making significant investments in solar energy. Thus, Indian Oil Corporation is planning to build 1 GW solar farm in Madhya Pradesh; and ONGC (Oil and Natural Gas Corporation), NTPC (National Thermal Power Corporation) and Tata Power are planning to invest in renewable energy for business reasons [7]. Tata Power Solar is building export capabilities, while planning to expand its domestic

market share. India's largest wind turbine producer is also establishing solar power capabilities. Many foreign financial and other organizations, such as Japan's Softbank Corporation, are also planning to invest in the solar sector in India[8].

Implementation strategy for NSM

The total investment in setting up 100 GW will be around INR 6000 Billion (about USD 100 billion). In the first phase, the Government of India is providing INR 150.5 billion as capital subsidy to promote solar capacity addition in the country. This capital subsidy will be provided for Rooftop Solar projects in various cities and towns; for Viability Gap Funding (VGF) based projects to be developed through the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) and; for decentralized generation through small solar projects. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) intends to achieve the target of 100 GW under two schemes of 40 GW Rooftop and 60 GW through Large & Medium Scale Grid Connected Solar Power Projects. [4].

Some of the provisions designed to support the target of 100 GW of Solar Power by 2022 are briefly states below:

1. Accelerated Depreciation: For profit making enterprises installing rooftop solar systems, maximum 80% of total investment can be claimed as depreciation in the first year (Accelerated Depreciation will reduce to maximum of 40% from April 2017). It allows significant decrease in tax to be paid in Year 1 for profit making companies. This policy had been a key instrument in the success of wind sector, where almost 70% of projects laid on Accelerated depreciation.

2. Capital Subsidies: India's Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) allocated INR 50 billion (USD 750 million) funding for 30% capital subsidy for rooftop solar installations of up to 500 kW. The capital subsidy of 30% will be provided for general category States/UTs and 70% for special category States i.e., North-Eastern States including Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The subsidy is restricted to residential, government, social

and institutional segments. The government projects that this provision is likely to lead to total rooftop capacity of 4,200 MW. There is no subsidy provision for commercial and industrial establishments, since they are already eligible for other benefits such as accelerated depreciation, custom duty concessions, excise duty exemptions and tax holidays.

3. Renewable Energy Certificates: Renewable Energy Certificate (REC) mechanism is a market based instrument to promote renewable energy and facilitate compliance of renewable purchase obligations (RPO). It is aimed at addressing the mismatch between availability of renewable energy resources and the requirement of the obligated entities to meet the renewable purchase obligation (RPO).

One Renewable Energy Certificate (REC) is treated as equivalent to 1 MWh. There are two categories of RECs, viz., solar RECs and non-solar RECs. Solar RECs are issued to eligible entities for generation of electricity based on solar as renewable energy source, and non-solar RECs are issued by state agencies to eligible entities for generation of electricity based on renewable energy sources other than solar. REC would be exchanged only in the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) approved power exchanges. Almost 20,083 solar RECs were sold in the month of May, 2016 at an average clearing price of INR 3500 [9].

4. Net Metering Incentives: In a net-metering arrangement, the focus is primarily on self-consumption of electricity generation by the consumer. The excess/surplus is either sold to or banked with the local utility. Net metering arrangements, thus, combine elements of captive consumption and exchange of power with the utility. Net metering incentives depend on two aspects - whether the net meter is installed and the other is the incentive policy of the utility company. If there is a net metering incentive policy in the state and if there is a net meter on the rooftop, then financial incentives for the power generated can be availed. For example in Punjab, 208 plants (Domestic: 144, Institutional: 46, industrial: 18) are installed under net metering policy of state government with total capacity of 5.5 MW and the financial incentives released for these projects cost

around INR 1.8 crores [10].

5. Assured Power Purchase Agreement (PPA):

The power distribution and purchase companies owned by state and central governments guarantee the purchase of solar power as and when it is produced. The PPAs offer high price equal to that of peak power on demand for the solar power, which is usually secondary power or negativeload and an intermittent energy source on daily basis.

6. Viable Gap Funding (VGF): VGF means a grant to support infrastructure projects that are economically justified from a social or national perspective but fall short of commercial financial viability. The VGF amount is set at INR 1.25 crore per MW for domestic content based projects and INR 1 crore per MW for open category. For bidding for the projects, the government sets a reference price, over and above which the companies would bid for viability gap funding (VGF) from the government.

The solar power thus produced will be sold to the purchasing Discoms/ State utilities/ bulk consumers at a pre-determined tariff of INR 5 per unit, as determined by MNRE based on the prevailing marketing conditions, with a trading margin of 7 paisa per unit by the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI). The estimated requirement of funds to provide VGF for 5,000 MW capacity solar projects is estimated to be INR 50.5 billion (INR 1crore per MW). This includes handling charges to Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) at 1% of the total grant disposed and INR 500 crore for payment security mechanism for all three VGF schemes of 750 MW, 2000 MW and 5000 MW.

The key indicator of the effectiveness of the above provisions is the number of firms or intends entities which are using the above initiatives, i.e. the utilization rate of the provisions. More robust and timely data concerning this rate needs to be publicly made available by the relevant government organizations for deeper analysis. A separate National Solar dashboard, such as the one developed National UJALA dashboard for Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA) program [11], with real time information on the progress towards solar energy

goals merits urgent consideration.

Issues and Challenges

Despite the good potential for solar power in India, there are numerous challenges in progressing towards India’s solar energy goals. The first challenge is securing financing and funding for the solar energy projects. India’s ambitious target of 100 GW by 2022 requires, around INR 6,000 billion (USD 100 billion). These amounts do not include other investment in solar energy industry, such as increasing domestic manufacturing and technology capability facilities. As noted, Public and Private sectors, both domestic and global, and multilateral funding will need to be blended. This will require confidence of financial and capital markets in the viability of projects, and in the credibility of government policies and processes.

The second challenge is enforcing Renewable Purchase Obligations (RPOs) by States. The Ministry of Power has revised the solar RPO targets to 8% of total energy consumed from previous 3% to be achieved by 2022. But most of the State discoms are already in financial distress (As of March, 2015, discoms are in debt of INR 4.3 lakh crore and accumulated losses of INR 3.8 Lakh crore). They are finding it difficult to purchase solar power owing to its high per unit cost of electricity and are unable to achieve their RPO targets consistently [12]. The renewable energy industry, including solar industry will also need to adjust to government’s taxation and bidding policies. Thus, the consideration is being given to move to reverse bidding process under which business is secured by those quoting the lowest prices. These contracts with “Feed-in-tariffs” compensate generators by setting a certain tariff to compensate them for their costs. The reverse bidding could promote efficiency and innovations which are beneficial to the society as a whole, but pose challenges to current firms.

The implementation of Goods and Services (GST) Tax, a nation-wide sales tax which is expected to unify India’s internal market for the first time, will require adjustments by current solar industry stakeholders. Other major challenges include high installation costs (INR 5-6 crore/MW), cost of land and its availability (5 acre/MW), scope for greater longer term

consistency in policy framework; high Transmission and Distribution (23% T&D) losses (to which the Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana, UDAY program is attempting to address), high cost of energy storage, maintenance of solar panels due to excessive dust (in India cleaning of solar panels need to be done every month in comparison to cleaning of panels in a year in western countries) and Low Capacity Utilization Factor (18-20% CUF) of Indian solar plants [13].

Need to be competent and focused in harnessing the Learning Curve

There is increasing recognition that the government’s plan to achieve 100 GW by 2022, while ambitious, provides attractive investment opportunity. Major investors are coming forward to invest in the solar industry. To achieve the targets and meet demand, the program is expected to encourage and support

domestic solar cells capacity is only 1212 MW with 14 manufacturers in the country, which is insufficient to realize economies of scale, and compete globally [16]. At the same time, efficiencies are needed for small capacity village based Solar-Powered systems for village level applications[17].

To achieve the above, the concept of “Learning Curve” becomes relevant. In engineering economics, this concept is defined as reflecting increased efficiency and performance with repetitive production of a good or service. Thus, some of the key inputs need to decrease on a per unit of output, as the number of units produced increases over time [18]. The concept refers to inputs needed as cumulative output increases, and is thus different from the concept of economies of scale, which refers to cost per unit as output increases at a given point in time.

The above strongly suggest that solar energy industry stakeholders at all levels need to develop mind-sets which encourage competence and focus on harnessing the potential of the “Learning Curve”.

There is also a need to explore potential for ‘Economies of Scope’ in the renewable energy sector in general, and in solar sector in particular. This occurs when

domestic manufacturing of solar panels and other components consistent with the ‘Make in India’ policy under which the Government of India encourage multi-national, as well as national companies to manufacture their products in India.

India already has domestic manufacturing capabilities for wind turbines and other components. According to a recent report, India is exporting about \$400-500 million of wind turbines and components annually, with industry hoping to increase it substantially [14]. But as mid-2016, the solar panels and other components are mainly imported. The current domestic industry will need to develop manufacturing capabilities for a fair proportion of 20 GW of solar panels to support ‘Make in India’ objectives and to lessen the impact on trade deficit, which at USD 141.4 billion in 2014 equivalent to 6.8% of GDP is already too high, and needs to be reduced [15]. India’s current

it is less costly for a firm to undertake two activities than two separate firms. Examples of avenues through which such economies can be achieved are increased operational efficiencies through related diversification, merger or acquisition of complementary business units, and linking supply chains and logistics through vertical or horizontal integration. Specific industry and firm context in India will impact on how such economies are achieved in the solar energy sector in India.

In addition, new Indian context specific innovations are needed. As an example, the concept of “Solar Tree” designed by Indian scientists could help overcome the challenge of land segregation. With photovoltaic panels placed at different levels on branches made of steel, solar trees could dramatically reduce the amount of land needed to develop solar parks. It takes about four square meters of space to produce per unit energy which otherwise would have required 400 square meters of space from ground mounted projects. So, almost 100 times the space is saved[19].

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सरकार की नीतियों में दीन दयाल जी के विचारों का प्रभाव

● शिवानन्द द्विवेदी

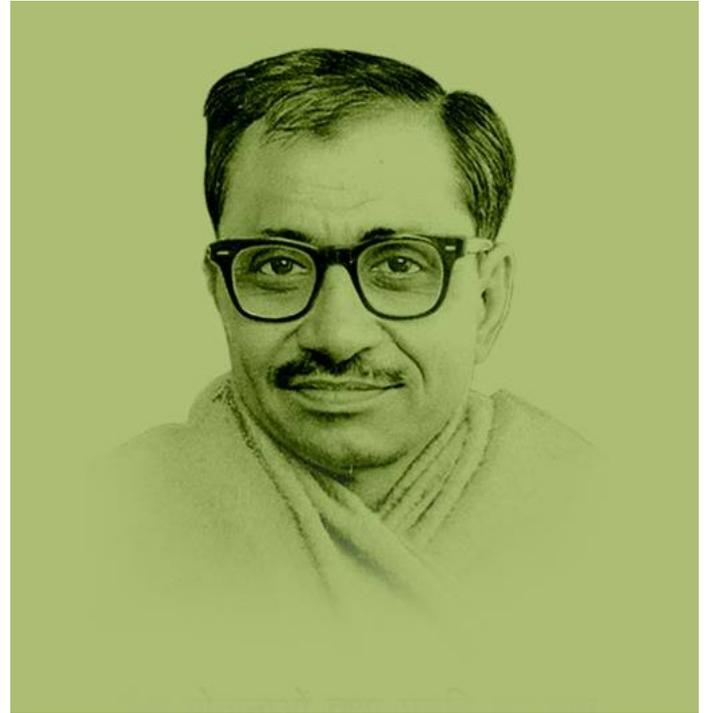
मानव की बुनियादी जरूरतों का सीधा जुड़ाव सामाजिक, राजनीतिक एवं आर्थिक विषयों से होता है। एक आम मनुष्य का निजी एवं सार्वजनिक जीवन इन तीनों कारकों से प्रभावित होता है। कभी उसे राजनीति प्रभावित करती है तो कभी समाज की रीती-नीति तो कभी अर्थनीति का प्रभाव होता है। लेकिन सही मायने में अगर देखें तो मानव मात्र के लिए ये तीनों ही परस्पर जुड़े हुए कारक हैं। एक आम मनुष्य की मूल जरूरतों की पूर्ति को ध्यान में रखते हुए इतिहास में अनेक विद्वानों द्वारा अनेक विचार दिए गये हैं। अनेक विद्वानों ने अपने-अपने तरीके से यह बताने की कोशिश की है कि मानव मात्र की बेहतरी के लिए समाज का स्वरूप क्या हो, राजनीति कैसी हो और अर्थनीति किस ढंग से संचालित की जाय। इसी श्रृंखला में एक बड़ा नाम जनसंघ के नेता, महान विचारक एवं चिंतक पंडित दीन दयाल उपाध्याय का भी है। राजनीति, समाज और अर्थ को मानव मात्र के कल्याण से जोड़ने का जो एक सूत्र पंडित दीन दयाल उपाध्याय ने दिया है, वो एकात्म मानववाद के दर्शन के रूप में विख्यात है। पंडित दीन दयाल उपाध्याय द्वारा एकात्म मानववाद का विकल्प उस कालखंड में दिया गया जब देश में समाजवाद, साम्यवाद जैसी आयातित विचारधाराओं का बोलबाला था। भारत में भारतीयता को पुनर्जीवित करने वाली विचारधारा की बजाय समाजवाद एवं साम्यवाद जैसी आयातित विचारधाराओं का बोलबाला होना भारतीयता के लिए अनुकूल नहीं था। पंडित जी ने भारत की समस्या को भारत के सन्दर्भों में समझकर उसका भारतीयता के अनुकूल समाधान देने की दिशा में एक युगानुकूल कोशिश किया। चूंकि पंडित दीन दयाल उपाध्याय इस बात को लेकर गम्भीर थे कि आजादी से पूर्व का जो संघर्ष था वो स्वराज का संघर्ष था। लेकिन आजादी के बाद का जो संघर्ष है वो 'स्व' की अवधारणा को मजबूत करने का संघर्ष है। पंडित जी मानते थे कि राष्ट्र के निर्माण और उसकी मजबूती में उसकी विरासत के मूल्यों का बड़ा योगदान होता है। देश के आम जन जीवन की बेहतरी, आम जन-जीवन की सुरक्षा, आम जनता को न्याय आदि के संबंध में एक समग्र चिन्तन अगर किसी एक विचारधारा में मिलता है तो वो एकात्म मानववाद का विराट दर्शन है। पंडित जी द्वारा प्रदिपादित इस विचार दर्शन में 'एकात्म' का आशय अविभाज्य अथवा एकीकृत अवधारणा से है। वहीं मानववाद से आशय यह है कि सबकुछ

मानव मात्र के कल्याण हेतु संचालित हो।

हालांकि यह जरूरत थी कि पंडित दीन दयाल जी द्वारा देश के राजनीतिक, सामाजिक एवं आर्थिक विकास की दिशा में दिए गये विचार दर्शन को सरकार की नीतियों में प्रमुखता से शामिल किया जाय। मेरा निजी मत है कि जब पंडित जी 'स्व' की बात कर रहे थे तो उनका स्पष्ट दृष्टिकोण राष्ट्र की बहुमुखी आत्मनिर्भरता को स्थापित करना रहा होगा। तत्कालीन दौर बेशक तकनीक के दौर वाले आधुनिक भारत से बेहद अलग था, मगर उनके 'स्व' की अवधारणा का अगर मूल्यांकन करें तो उनकी दृष्टि में एक सक्षम भारत का भावी चित्र रहा होगा। प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी के नेतृत्व में काम कर रही भारत सरकार उस 'स्व' की दृष्टि को अपनी नीतियों में प्रमुखता से लागू कर रही है। आत्मनिर्भरता से अन्त्योदय की राह निकालने की दृष्टि के साथ काम कर रही भाजपा-नीत केंद्र सरकार की तमाम योजनाओं में अंतिम कतार के व्यक्ति को आत्मनिर्भर बनाने का संकल्प और प्रतिबद्धता साफ़ दिखती है। अगर हम केंद्र सरकार के एक कार्यक्रम 'मेक इन इण्डिया' को ही उदाहरण के तौर पर लें तो यह कार्यक्रम वैश्वीकरण के इस दौर में भारत को निर्माण एवं रोजगार के क्षेत्र में आत्मनिर्भर बनाने की दिशा में मील का पत्थर साबित होने वाला कार्यक्रम है। बेशक इस कार्यक्रम का लक्ष्य दूरगामी है और इसका मूल्यांकन तुरंत अथवा बहुत जल्दीबाजी में नहीं किया जा सकता है, लेकिन अपने लक्ष्य तक पहुँचते-पहुँचते यह कार्यक्रम एक आत्मनिर्भर भारत की स्थापना में महत्वपूर्ण कारक साबित होगा। पंडित जी अन्त्योदय की बात करते थे। उनके मन में कतार के अंतिम व्यक्ति तक खुशहाली और समृद्धि का प्रकाश पहुँचाने की चिंता सदैव रही है। उनके वैचारिक दृष्टिकोण में जिस अन्त्योदय की अवधारणा का जिक्र आता है, यह समाज के अंतिम छोर पर खड़े व्यक्ति को सक्षम, सबल और स्वालम्बी बनाने की उनकी चिंता का ही प्रतिफल था। वर्तमान में जब केंद्र में उसी दल की सरकार है जिसकी नींव की पहली ईंट रखने में दीन दयाल उपाध्याय जी का महती योगदान था तो उनके विचारों का सरकार की नीतियों में व्यापक प्रभाव पड़ना स्वाभाविक है। स्टार्ट-अप, स्टैंड-अप जैसी योजनाओं के माध्यम से सरकार ने अंतिम व्यक्ति को सबल, सक्षम और स्वालम्बी बनाने की दिशा में कार्य को आगे बढ़ाया है। इन योजनाओं को लेकर सरकार का दृष्टिकोण साफ़ है कि आम जन महज

नौकरी की निर्भरता से ऊपर उठकर मुख्यधारा से जुड़े एवं आर्थिक रूप से न सिर्फ खुद स्वालम्बी बने बल्कि औरों के लिए अवसर पैदा करें. स्टैंडअप जैसी योजना के माध्यम से समाज के उस वर्ग को आत्मनिर्भर बनाने की कोशिश की गयी है जो लंबे समय से हाशिये पर है. आज अगर केंद्र सरकार की विकास यात्रा के केंद्र में 'सबका साथ सबका विकास' की मूल भावना नजर आती है तो इसके प्रेरणास्रोत के रूप में दीन दयाल जी के विचार ही नजर आते हैं. पंडित जी का स्पष्ट मानना था कि जो व्यक्ति आर्थिक रूप से स्वतंत्र नहीं होता है वह राजनीतिक रूप से भी स्वतंत्र नहीं होता है. आज सरकार आम जन को आर्थिक रूप से आत्मनिर्भर और स्वालम्बी बनाने की दिशा में जिन प्रयासों पर सतत काम कर रही है, वो वाकई इन्हीं विचारों से ओत-प्रोत नजर आते हैं. चूंकि भारत की अर्थव्यवस्था के मूल में कृषि है लिहाजा पंडित दीन दयाल उपाध्याय कृषि सुधारों पर खास जोर देने की बात करते थे. वे कृषि में भारतीय कृषि के अनुरूप आधुनिकता का प्रवेश भी चाहते थे. वर्तमान केंद्र सरकार द्वारा कृषि सुधारों की दिशा में सॉयल हेल्थ कार्ड जैसी योजना को लाना यह प्रमाणित करता है कि सरकार कृषि सुधार को आधुनिक तकनीक के माध्यम से करने की दिशा में लगातार नवाचार कर रही है.

आज देश पंडित दीन दयाल उपाध्याय जी को याद करते हुए उनकी जन्म शताब्दी वर्ष मना रहा है. उनके विचारों का सरकार की नीतियों का आधार बनना बेहद ही उपयोगी साबित होगा. दीन दयाल जी ने अपने चिन्तन में आम मानव से जुड़ी जिन चिंताओं और समाधानों को समझाने का प्रयास आज से दशकों पहले किया था, आज प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी के नेतृत्व



वाली सरकार द्वारा उन्हीं बातों को केंद्र में रखकर सरकार की नीतियों का निर्माण किया जा रहा है. भारत और भारतीयता के संवाहक एवं संचारक के रूप दीन दयाल उपाध्याय के विचार किसी आदर्शलोक का दर्शन होने की बजाय व्यवहारिकता के धरातल पर बेहद मजबूती से टिकते नजर आते हैं.

(लेखक डॉ श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी रिसर्च फाउंडेशन में रिसर्च फेलो हैं एवं नेशनलिस्ट ऑनलाइन के संपादक हैं)

UJALA: A STEP TOWARDS SAVING ENERGY AND CONSERVING ENVIRONMENT

● Vaibhav Chadha



The National LED programme was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 5th Jan, 2015 at New Delhi with a target of replacing 77 crore incandescent lamps with LED bulbs. PM Modi described the LED bulb as a “Prakash Path” (way to light) while launching the LED bulb distribution scheme under the Domestic Efficient Lighting Programme (DELP).

On March 11, 2016, Sh. Piyush Goyal , Hon’ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Power, Coal, New and Renewable Energy and Mines announced the name ‘UJALA’ for the LED based Domestic Efficient Lighting Programme (DELP). The DELP programme was running successfully in more than 120 cities across India. While speaking on the occasion, the Minister said that UJALA will give a new life to already successful DELP programme.

About the Scheme

Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA) scheme is being implemented by a joint venture of PSUs under the Union Ministry of Power- EESL (Energy Efficiency Services Limited.) A consumer having a metered connection from his Electricity Distribution Company is entitled to get the LED bulbs under this scheme. A consumer can purchase LED bulb either by paying Rs 75-95 (depending on state) upfront per bulb or on an EMI payment under which Rs 10 is to be paid in advance per bulb and the balance amount of Rs 70-85 per bulb can be repaid in 8 easy monthly installments. The consumer needs to carry the copy of Government authorized ID proof for upfront payment and for EMI- a copy of latest electricity bill and Government authorized ID proof is required.

Under UJALA, LED bulbs will not be available at retail stores but shall be distributed through special EESL

kiosks and DISCOM offices. The location detail of distribution counter is further available at www.ujala.gov.in. Free-of-cost replacement for LED bulbs will be provided by EESL for a period of 3 years if the bulb stops working due to a technical defect. All replacements shall be done through designated replacement/distribution kiosks. During the distribution period these LEDs can be replaced from any of the UJALA kiosks. There will be state specific replacement drives, post distribution which will indicate the retail shops or locations where replacement will be available.

Benefits

As on 21st Oct, 2016 number of households participating in UJALA was above 5.7 crores. While the status of total LEDs distributed as on 21st Oct, 2016 07:48 pm across India was 17,27,34,640 which has helped in saving 6,14,58,985 KWh energy per day and has benefitted in saving Rs 24,58,35,940 cost per day. 4,491 MW Peak demand has been avoided by UJALA and environment has gained as 49,782 t CO2 reductions per day have taken place. The state leading under the UJALA scheme as on 21st October, 2016 is Gujarat where 2,65,12,331 LED bulbs have been distributed.

UJALA scheme is a part of the Modi Government's agenda of spreading the message of energy efficiency in the country. In general we see that day by day the energy consumption is rising and to meet the increased electricity demand, Government has to look towards various sources for generating more electricity. This gives rise to setting up of thermal

plants, hydroelectricity plants, nuclear plants...etc. Even when a power plant is planned to be set up, Government has to address further issues such as ensuring availability of coal, uranium...etc. Also high costs of production of dams, environmental problems, and displacement of people are also to be taken care of. But the Modi Government has handled these problems single handedly with the UJALA Scheme. Under UJALA, by providing LED bulbs at very low prices to common masses, Government is not only reducing the electricity Bills of common people and providing them with more money in hand to spend on other things but is also reducing its burden of producing more electricity.

LED bulbs are more energy efficient than an incandescent bulb and consume up to 90% less power than an incandescent bulb. One 9W LED bulb gives the same luminosity as compared to a 100W incandescent lamp and consumes power one tenth than that by an incandescent bulb. Life of LED bulb is also very long; it is around 50 times more than an ordinary bulb and 8-10 times than that of a CFL bulb. With reduced demand for electricity from the consumer's side the Government will be able to save more money, which it otherwise had to spend on construction of more power plants and other sources of energy production. The scheme also helps in conserving the environment by reducing the use of coal in thermal power plants on one hand and low carbon emission by LED bulb itself on the other. Thus, UJALA scheme can be said to be a major step towards saving energy and conserving Environment.

(Writer is a Research Associate at Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation, New Delhi)

THE ENTRY OF WISE HAWK- GOVERNOR URJIT PATEL

● Ms. Guriya

The first monetary policy under the purview of newly constituted Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) was announced on October 4, 2016. The committee chaired by Urjit Patel, the newly appointed governor of Reserve bank of India, cut the interest rate by a quarter. The governor's maiden monetary policy targeted the growth numbers. With stabilized inflation over the past few quarters, decent rainfall and food prices, the economy need a push towards growth. The finance minister Arun Jaitley has been fighting for a rate cut which he had expressed in September this year, which was taken into account by the MPC.

On August 20, 2016, Urjit Patel got appointed as the 24th Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, effective from September 4, 2016. The appointment of "Dr. Patel", as largely and popularly known, is imperative for the current government as it is their first Governor appointment since they have come to power. The government chose to continue with the Deputy Governor appointed by the UPA alliance in 2013, which makes Dr. Patel's appointment quite path breaking and a great example of bipartisanship in today's polity.

Urjit Patel enters with a magnificent academic record and an exposure to government, consulting, public and private sector services. Dr. Patel was born in Kenya, and he later pursued his academic endeavors in UK and the US. He majored in Economics from the London School of Economics, and then did an M. Phil from Oxford University in 1986 and a PhD from Yale University in 1990. The grandeur of the academic institutions Dr. Patel has been associated with talks volumes about his credentials as a scholar. He has been associated with the names in the political arena from PV Narsimha Rao, Dr. Manmohan

Singh, P Chidambaram, to Narendra Modi, who have acknowledged the work of Urjit Patel as a distinguished scholar, contributor to the monetary policy of the government and lately, as a Deputy Governor of the RBI. Dr. Patel has served at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and was on deputation from the IMF to the Reserve Bank during 1996-1997. During that phase, he provided advice on development of the debt market, banking sector reforms, pension fund reforms, and evolution of the foreign exchange market. This has been one of the reasons for the admiration of Urjit Patel amongst the political identities like Dr. Manmohan Singh, who talks in high praise of him.

Dr. Patel has also been associated with the Prime Minister Narendra Modi since early 2000 when he worked as a member of the board (and chairman of the audit committee) of Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation Ltd. He was also an advisor (Energy and Infrastructure) with Boston Consulting Group before he became the Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India. He also held the position of president of business development of the Reliance Industries. In 2013, under the UPA government, he was appointed as the Deputy Governor of RBI. An economist by profession, Dr. Patel has worked in the financial, energy, advisory and consultant territories and successfully conqueror them all.

Dr. Patel's trustworthiness can be further derived as the celebrated economist Jagdish Bhagwati addressed his appointment as a "terrific choice". Dr. Bhagwati said that, "Dr Urjit Patel is a terrific choice. A student of the great Indian economist, Professor T N Srinivasan, and also a macroeconomic expert trained at Yale, Patel will be an ideal Governor who can take over with distinction and continuity from Dr Raghuram Rajan."

As the Deputy Governor of RBI, Dr. Patel headed the

Urjit Patel Committee which had been primarily designed to take the monetary policy decisions. In 2014, the committee suggested the government to keep the CPI (Consumer Price Index) as a measure of nominal policy anchor. The committee also recommended 4% (+/-2) inflation target to the government which was later put forth in the monetary policy framework agreement in February 2015 signed between the government and the RBI. Dr. Patel has written several seminal papers on monetary policy, budget deficit, and energy allocation. Dr. Patel's vision of a structured monetary policy as well as the RBI's contribution in attaining that vision was laid in a 2015 working paper ("Challenges of Effective Monetary Policy in Emerging Economies"), published by RBI, which articulated:

"For the central bank, the tasks ahead are two-fold. First, perhaps re-balance the reform agenda from high profile subjects such as legislative amendments, like a monetary policy framework and associated institutional changes, to addressing policy-induced distortions that undermine monetary policy efficacy and transmission. Second, address the challenge of multiple roles/objectives and limited instruments."

In a June 2016 note, Japanese brokerage Nomura mentioned Patel as the only one among the seven speculated successors under the "hawk" category. "As a deputy governor in charge of Monetary Policy, Patel's (possible) appointment would imply continuity of the present monetary policy. He is generally perceived as more hawkish," the Nomura economists had said.

Often termed as a "hawk" for his work in the monetary policy sphere, Dr. Patel will have to face tough challenges as the Governor of RBI. As an inflation combatant, the ideal stand for him would be to tweak and increase the interest rates. But with the creation of the new Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) under the RBI Act on June 27, 2016, he will not be able to exercise as much power on the interest rates as his prior counterparts. It would again be a challenge in front of Dr. Patel to manage the new scenario under which the government would also be a party for setting the interest rates in the country. The government's persistent commitment towards

monetary conservatism and the Governor's desirability for subduing inflation of might be a clash of interest or a combined goal while implementation of policies are concerned in the short and long run.

The first monetary review would have set expectations. But the advisor will have to take the stand as a "hawk" or a "dove", in the upcoming decisions he makes. But like the outgoing Governor Dr. Raghuram Rajan had once said commenting on inflation, "We are neither hawks, nor doves. We are owl. The owl is traditionally the symbol of wisdom." Urjit Patel might be a "wise" hawk working towards its prime agenda of plummeting inflation numbers through wise decisions under the purview of the MPC.

Dr. Patel in his address to the Business Standard Best B-School project award spoke about the "Make In India" as provider of much needed focal point to inculcate the competitiveness in key sectors of the economy. He also entitled Jan Dhan Yojana as a "game changer" as it broadened the scope of financial inclusion of the economy. Hence, the government and the governor can assist each other, imbibing each other's ideas, which would provide both fiscal and monetary stability taking the economy to a better growth trajectory.

The "stress test" (as they popularly use in banking) of Urjit Patel, would determine his ability to withstand the adversities in his tenure. As the captain of the ship, he will have the responsibilities of steering the wheels of monetary policies, current and capital account deficits and currency volatilities.

(Guriya is a Young India Fellow (2016-2017) at Ashoka University. Views expressed by the author are strictly personal)

सरकार की कौशल विकास नीतियों से संवर रहा युवाओं का भविष्य

● अरुण चन्द्र रॉय



“ Skilling is building a better India. If we have to move India towards development then Skill Development should be our mission ”

Red Fort, Delhi 15th August 2014

Shri Narendra Modi
Prime Minister of India

प्रधानमंत्री कौशल विकास योजना (पीएमकेवीवाई) को लागू किये 31 मार्च 2016 को दो वर्ष पूरा हो गया। एनडीए सरकार के सत्ता में आने के बाद शुरू की गई नयी नीतियों में यह एक महत्वपूर्ण नीति है। देश में युवाओं के कौशल विकास के लिए यह नीति तैयार की गई है ताकि पूरे देश में सभी तरह के कौशल प्रशिक्षण के प्रयासों में निरंतरता, सामंजस्य और समन्वय स्थापित किया जा सके। इस नीति के लागू करने का उद्देश्य कौशल विकास में मुख्य बाधाओं को दूर करना, कुशल कार्मिकों की आपूर्ति एवं अंतर को पाटने के लिए कुशलता की मांग को पूरा करना, सामाजिक/भौगोलिक रूप से वंचित एवं कमजोर समुदाय के लोगों को न्यायसंगत तरीके से अवसर मुहैया कराना और महिलाओं के सशक्तिकरण के लिए महिलाओं के लिए कौशल विकास एवं उद्यमिता के कार्यक्रम को रेखांकित करना।

कौशल के पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र को फिर से जीवंत करने और दुनियाभर में स्किल्ड वर्क फ़ोर्स का रिसोर्स सेंटर बनाने की दिशा में सरकार कौशल विकास और उद्यमिता 2015 नाम से यह स्कीम लेकर आई है। गत दो वर्षों में इस स्कीम का प्रदर्शन उल्लेखनीय रहा है। राष्ट्रीय कौशल विकास निगम द्वारा निजी तौर पर कौशल प्रशिक्षण वातावरण तैयार किया गया और साझेदारों ने पिछले दो वर्षों में 60,78,999 को प्रशिक्षित किया और तकरीबन 19,273,48 लोगों को रोजगार दिलाया। राष्ट्रीय कौशल विकास निगम ने अब तक 80.33 लाख छात्रों को प्रशिक्षित किया। राष्ट्रीय कौशल विकास निगम ने अपनी मुहिम में 138 ट्रेनिंग साझेदारों को जोड़ा है। देशभर

में 267 प्रशिक्षण साझेदारों को जोड़ा गया। इस दो वर्षों के दौरान सरकार के विभिन्न मंत्रालयों को समन्वित करके पचास से अधिक कार्यक्रम संचालित किये गए साथ ही सभी मंत्रालयों में एक किस्म की सक्रियता देखी जा रही है।

इसी योजना का असर है कि देश में पहली बार राष्ट्रीय कौशल योग्यता फ्रेमवर्क का संचालन (एनएसक्यूएफ)-कौशल प्रशिक्षण के परिणामों में स्थिरता सुनिश्चित करने के लिए राष्ट्रीय कौशल योग्यता फ्रेमवर्क को तैयार किया गया। दिसंबर 2016 तक सभी सरकारी कौशल प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रमों को राष्ट्रीय कौशल योग्यता फ्रेमवर्क से जोड़ दिया जाएगा।

इस योजना के अन्तर्गत आईटीआई को पुनर्जीवित किया, 1,141 नए आईआई बनाए गए जिनमें 1.73 लाख सीटें हैं और केंद्रीय प्रशिक्षण संस्थानों के महानिदेशालय ने 15,000 अनुदेशकों को प्रशिक्षित किया है। सभी राज्यों में स्थित सभी आईटीआई संस्थानों में आईएसओ 29990:2010 प्रमाणन की प्रक्रिया शुरू की जा चुकी है।

पहले आईटीआई प्रशिक्षित छात्रों को बारहवीं उत्तीर्ण नहीं माना जाता था। किन्तु अब औद्योगिक प्रशिक्षण संस्थानों में दो वर्षीय डिप्लोमा कोर्स शुरू किया गया है जिसे 12वीं कक्षा के बराबर माना जाएगा। इसके फलस्वरूप इन कार्यक्रमों की ओर युवा छात्रों का रुझान बढ़ा है। इस कार्यक्रम के अधीन दूरस्थ शिक्षा का ढांचा तैयार किया गया और 18000 से अधिक प्रशिक्षुओं

को प्रशिक्षित किया गया। सरकारी आईटीआई संस्थानों के प्रधानाचार्यों में क्षमता निर्माण को लेकर विभिन्न प्रकार प्रशिक्षण दिए गए इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेजों और पॉलिटेक्निक संस्थानों की शत-प्रतिशत उपयोगिता के लिए उनके साथ साझेदारी की गई है। उद्यमिता के तहत शिक्षकों द्वारा बड़े पैमाने पर ओपेन ऑनलाइन कोर्स (एमओओसी) के जरिये 2200 कॉलेजों, 300 स्कूलों, 500 सरकारी आईटीआई संस्थानों, 50 व्यावसायिक प्रशिक्षण केंद्रों को उद्यमिता, शिक्षा एवं प्रशिक्षण मुहैया कराया गया।

नवंबर 2014 में नए मंत्रालय के गठन के साथ ही इसने अपने पहले साल में स्वतः ही एमएसडीई ने गतिशील कौशल पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र मजबूत कर ली और भारत के कौशल प्रशिक्षण पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र को पुनः जीवित करने की दिशा में महत्वपूर्ण प्रगति की है। आम आदमी को इन योजनाओं को लाभ मिले इसके लिए एमएसडीई ने अपनी निगरानी तंत्र को मजबूत किया है और लगातार इनकी निगरानी कर रहा है ताकि योजनाएं कागज़ी न रहकर जमीनी स्तर तक पहुंचे और जनता को लाभान्वित करें।



YECHURY'S ABSURD VIEWS ON INDIA-PAKISTAN TIES REFLECT INDIAN COMMUNISTS ARE AILING

● Dr. Anirban Ganguly



For them, the nation is always secondary and not first, and the fulfilling of her interests tertiary or non-existent.

The infatuation of Indian communists with “internationalism” at times borders on the absurd or simply reveals their out-of-depth status in India. This obsession with “internationalism”, which I have termed as the “Comintern syndrome”, sees Indian communists come up with the most ludicrous and insensitive statements, ideas or actions right in the midst of a crisis or challenge which India and the Indian state is trying to handle with great dexterity and determination.

Like Alzheimer’s afflicts memory and renders the immune system and the discerning powers weak, the Comintern syndrome also blurs the power to reflect

and to rationalise, it acutely affects the capacity to feel connected to one's mother country or to understand her national interest and prevents one from advocating the need for its fulfilment.

The Comintern syndrome, in short, de-rationalises, de-nationalises and de-links and always compels the one afflicted with it to side with India's adversaries, with those whose compelling aim is to see her dissolved, dismembered and disintegrated.

Comrade Sitaram Yechury's recent bombast, insisting that we must hold talks with Pakistan and that it is India's responsibility to ensure that there was no escalation and that peace prevailed in the area, coming as it did just around the time when constable Nitin was martyred trying to foil a terrorist attack on the Army base at Baramulla, is the manifestation of the Comintern syndrome.

His ideological ancestors too have fallen victims to that syndrome ever since the Communist Party of India was founded in Tashkent!

The position that Indian communists took during the 1942 Quit India movement – in fact in a secret memo to the then British home member in the viceroy's council, PC Joshi, had termed the entire movement a “national suicide” – their call to armed rebellion against free India in the aftermath of Independence and their kowtowing to Chinese and Soviet communist parties and allowing them to set the agenda for their Indian operations are all the expressions of that acute affliction, syndrome or malady.

In fact, right up till 1955, the Indian communists refused to accept that Independence had come. The then CPI's mouthpiece, *The People's Age*, for example, described the advent of freedom as “sham freedom” in line with the Cominform's own mouthpiece which dubbed India's freedom as a “sham independence bestowed on India”.

Remember how the CPI's policy review “proudly” argued that the party had “separated” itself from the August 9 struggle – that is, Quit India.

The report also noted how it had unfortunately termed Gandhi as “anti-fascist” and should have instead denounced him as a “leader whose movement sought to exploit fascist invasion of India.” Of course, the communist role during the 1962 Chinese aggression has been well documented and discussed – such treacherous behaviour is rare perhaps even in the annals of world history.

A question may be asked at this juncture: Are Delhi chief minister, Arvind Kejriwal, and P Chidambaram, the once “formidable” home minister of the Indian Union, both suffering from the Comintern syndrome, since they have both raised doubts over the operations valiantly carried out by the Indian forces?

The answer is an obvious no – the Comintern malady only afflicts those who have had some ideological nurturing or understanding. The Indian communists – despite their rapid de-ideologisation still have some vestiges of it left. At least for purposes of theoretical discussions and for cobbling up tactical, read opportunistic, alliances ideological angles are bandied about.

For the likes of Chidambaram and Kejriwal, whose primary political *raison d'être* is survival and opportunism, the Comintern malady does not affect. Their calculated aspersions on our armed forces – calculated because they know well that such buffoonery will be lapped up by a section of the Paki-Talibani audience back in Pindi or Islambad – and on the prime minister is the expression of plain lumpenism – in case of Kejriwal it is political lumpenism and in the case of Chidambaram it is intellectual lumpenism.

These, therefore, need not be taken too seriously and if at all taken note of, may be dismissed as manifestations of intellectual and political thuggery.

But lest I digress, from jumping to the defence of the “Bharat ki Barbadi” types in JNU, to knocking at the doors of separatists whose only slogan and world-view revolves around “go back India” to justifying cries of “Pakistan Zindabad” on India soil, to hectoring India on the need to de-escalate and initiate talks with a recalcitrant neighbour whose *seule raison d'être* is the

end of India, Indian communists and especially their senior ideologues and leader don't cease to surprise or exasperate.

Comrade Yechury's evening walk to Geelani's house in Srinagar and his offer of talks on behalf of god knows whom, his recent insistence that India hold talks with Pakistan when the latter just massacred our jawans, his hesitant acceptance of the surgical strikes are signs that the Comintern malady has made deep inroads in him – the only permanent solution perhaps is a permanent withdrawal from public life or at least a sabbatical which can see a systematic treatment being undertaken.

For that matter, almost the entire CPI(M) politburo, and the leaders of its marginal affiliates is afflicted with this syndrome and is in need of urgent and immediate treatment.

Indian communists are passing through their worst phase. In the last few years they have been incapable of attracting fresh blood while seeing their numbers dwindle. Internal squabbles under the garb of ideological debates have generated intense confusion among the rank and file, its unabashed kowtowing to the Congress – and in it especially to the family, its whiling away time in the name of inane and calcified debates – such as “is India a fascist or an authoritarian state” – has seen it badly drift.

Indian communists find it hard to internalise the fact that India is witnessing one of the most decisive periods of leadership in nearly three decades under Prime Minister Modi, a man they had, till the other

day, dismissed as someone who will never be able to win or command a national mandate.

In a sense, the decline, confusion of Indian communists augurs well for the health and future of the Indian polity as a whole, but such a state of drift has also clouded their leaderships' capacities for clear thinking and deliberation.

Unfortunately, despite all their verbosity and access to the so-called higher intellectual echelons, Indian communists have never evolved a true understanding of India and have always desisted from dispassionately and unequivocally articulating her national interest.

For them India is always secondary and not first, and the fulfilling of her interests tertiary or non-existent. The entire basis of their politics has essentially been this neglect of India.

Interestingly, comrade Yechury's ongoing volley of gratis advice on what India should do brings to mind the words of Khasa Subba Rao, that intrepid patriot-journalist, freedom fighter and founder editor of the *Swarajya*.

Writing his column in the *Swarajya* in the context of the Chinese aggression, Rau caustically observed, that Indian communists were a “special brand of dangerous nationals to beware of, fit only to be distrusted and guarded against incessantly for some chronic betrayal or other of the country's interests and security.”

Five decades down the line nothing seems to have changed, as comrade Yechury's homilies show.

(This article was first published in Dailyo.in on 05 October 2016,

<http://www.dailyo.in/politics/communists-cpim-sitaram-yechury-pakistan-surgical-strikes-kashmir-kejriwal-modi/story/1/13253.html>)

A REPLY TO COMRADE SITARAM YECHURY'S INTERVIEW GIVEN TO GANASHAKTI AND REPRODUCED IN THE MAINSTREAM WEEKLY OF OCTOBER 1ST 2016

Dear Shri Sitaram Yechury,

I read with a lot of interest your interview in the CPI(M) party paper Ganashakti on 13 Sep 2016. Your three targets of attack were Shri Narendra Modi, the BJP and the RSS.

You start with the problems in J&K and you speak of the students death and have faulted the Government for blaming it as a cross border issue. At the outset any death especially of a student where ever that might be is tragic and deplorable. Are you saying that the Kashmiri parents are keeping their children away from schools, to stand on the streets and throw stones while they hide behind? Or they are forced by the militants from across the border? Do these Kashmiris in the Valley, who are predominately, Muslims not know what the Holy Quran says about 'TALIM' and the importance given for education. You talk about dialogue with Pakistan, can you spell out with whom their elected PM, or the Army Chief or the ISI Chief? Could Shri Modi have created a better stage for dialogue than inviting to Nawaz Sharif to his oath taking and by visiting him at his home on his birthday?

The central theme of your attack, the 2.5 years of Modi Government. As per you it is pro-rich anti poor, a junior ally of the US and following the RSS agenda of making this secular country a Hindu Rashtra. You said that the term 'ache din' was used as an electoral cliché and with Modi's lack of economic knowledge. Let me point out to you Shri Modi's speech in the Lok Sabha reminding the Congress led opposition, including a handful of CPI(M) members that even after 60 years

of Congress rule, the UPA had to bring a scheme for people to dig holes and fill them to make an earning. Surely as the leader of 'largest' Communist party in the country you cannot accept this plight of the toiling classes for whom you have always 'fought'.

West Bengal was ruled from 1947 to 2011 by Congress and CPI(M) led Left Front and since then by TMC which is nothing but a Congress derivative party. Then why is the plight of the people in general and particularly the Muslims so poor? The so-called communal and anti-poor party BJP was nowhere there. How come the poorest Muslims live in West Bengal and their affluent brothers in Gujarat? Also one question on the Minorities issue – you seem to only recognize Muslims as minorities why not Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains? Is it because their numbers are far less and not a sizeable vote bank.

You have also charged the PM with giving a tax rebate of Rs 5.5 lac crs and a tax write-off of Rs 1.25 lac crs. You will re-collect that every year after budget you used to attack the Congress / UPA on the same two issues and each time I pointed it out to you that there was a basic fallacy in your argument and calculations. It seems you have simply replaced Congress with BJP with your line of fire remaining the same.

Now for your survival, you are holding the 'black hand' as you used to call earlier because of their pro-rich and anti poor policies.

You talk about the anti-poor policies of the Shri Modi, are Jan Dhan, Swach Bharat, Ujjwal Bharat anti-poor?

The CPI(M) has a unit called the Kisan Sabha. Did they ever take up the issue of toilets in the villages? Did they think about the village women folks even in Kerala, Tripura and West Bengal and make toilets for them? How come the CPI(M) never thought of asking the affluent to give up subsidized LPG and save the needy women folks from being forced to inhale smoke equal to 40 cigarettes per day? I read an ADB report that said that in India many widows do not get compensation as they could not encash the cheques since they did not have bank accounts. Never did this thought cross the many thinking minds in CPI(M). Now introduction of Jan Dhan you call anti-poor. Please name one policy initiative of the Narendra Modi Government which is not 'janamukhi / janamohini'.

I must confess that I have been reading with great amusement the difference in views being debated at the highest level between dictator and fascist, in the same way as earlier there used to be an unending discussion on the difference between Left and Democratic parties or forces and the occasion when the Central Committee debated for 2 days whether China is Communist or not and thankfully for China, voted in favour of calling it Communist.

Let me end by thanking you profusely for expecting the Modi Government to last in excess of 25 years, as you have termed the 2.5 years as a trailer.

With regards
Shishir Bajoria

OUTCOMES OF BRICS SUMMIT & DECODING INDIA'S LEADERSHIP ROLE

● Siddharth Singh



BRICS nations are celebrating 10 years of partnership under BRICS. A decade of collaboration has produced strong benefits of cooperation. The footprint of intra-BRICS engagement has expanded over time to include large areas of economic activity. The scope of India's partnership with other BRICS members stretches from agriculture to industry and innovation; trade to tourism; environment to energy; films to football; skill development to smart cities; and from fighting corruption and money laundering to securing our societies. The establishment of New Development Bank and the Contingency Reserve Arrangement are indeed signature achievements under BRICS umbrella.

In a world of new security challenges and continuing economic uncertainties, BRICS stands as a beacon of peace potential and promise. BRICS work holds

much meaning for the developing world. The process of institution building in BRICS has continued to remain a focus area. The institutions that BRICS nation has build and intend to build in future, actually support the development of all countries and entire region. There has been greater flexibility and freedom, and wider choices in responding to the developmental priorities of BRICS nation. For example now BRICS nations also look forward to translating into reality the idea of a BRICS Credit Rating Agency.

The BRICS summit in Goa also stressed upon the need to speed up the work on setting up BRICS Agriculture Research Centre, BRICS Railway Research Network, and BRICS Sports Council. There is also a consensus and clear intentions of BRICS nations to build norms, create structures and pool the capacities to stop tax evasion, and fight against black money and corruption. Now BRICS nations must also build mechanisms

of information sharing to bring to justice the tax offenders and money launderers. In future, BRICS should push for empowering the global governance institutions to reflect today's reality.

The "Goa Declaration" of BRICS summit strongly condemned the recent several attacks, against some BRICS countries, including the Uri attack in India. The Goa declaration explicitly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and stressed that there can be no justification whatsoever for any acts of terrorism, whether based upon ideological, religious, political, racial, ethnic or any other reasons. BRICS nation also agreed to strengthen cooperation in combating international terrorism both at the bilateral level and at international fora.

In the past years, India under the umbrella of BRICS, have played an active role in shaping the global agenda for change and development. India's association with Agenda 2030, the Paris Climate Agreement, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development has been purposeful and productive. And, India remains at the forefront of pushing change in the global governance architectures. India's achievements have been substantial and so in future also India needs to sustain the positive direction and strong momentum of intra-BRICS engagement.

Under India's Chairmanship of BRICS this year, India placed emphasis on digital- technology, smart-cities, urbanization, and cooperation between BRICS cities. On the issue of securing the societies from the menace of terrorism, India pushed for the cooperation on security and counter-terrorism issues among BRICS nations if all want to secure the lives of its citizens. Terrorism casts a long shadow on development and economic prosperity. Its reach is now global. It has grown more lethal and adept at the use of technology. So India highlighted that the response of BRICS nations to terrorism must, therefore, be nothing less than comprehensive and India also stressed upon the need to act both individually and collectively because selective approaches to terrorist individuals and organizations will not only be futile but also counter-productive. There must be no distinction based

on artificial and self-serving grounds. Criminality should be the only basis for punitive action against the individuals and organizations responsible for carrying out terrorist acts. India strongly put forth its views in Goa summit that terrorist funding, their weapons supply, training and political support must be systematically cut off. The Goa declaration of BRICS summit is unanimous in recognizing the threat that terrorism, extremism and radicalization presents, not just to the regional but to the global peace, stability and economic prosperity. PM Modi underscored the need for close coordination on tracking sources of terrorist financing; and targeting the hardware of terrorism, including weapons' supplies, ammunition, equipment, and training.

India took many new initiatives this year for example India took BRICS to the Indian cities and states and linked it directly to our people from different walks of life. The BRICS Films Festival, Trade Fair, Tourism Convention, Sports Council, Football Tournament and other related activities during the India's chairmanship of BRICS this year, has resulted in creating millions of young stakeholders that will ultimately carry partnership forward among BRICS nations and its people.

The main highlight of the BRICS, Goa Summit, was the outreach to the BIMSTEC countries. The Heads of State, Heads of Government and Leaders from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand, that together with India, collectively constitute the BIMSTEC, were in Goa as the special guests to 8th BRICS Summit. It was a unique opportunity for BRICS and BIMSTEC leaders where they all discussed and agreed upon the prospects for closer partnership and coordination. In future, as home to nearly two third of humanity, BRICS and BIMSTEC together can potentially unlock immense synergies with huge benefits for all the people living in the region.

(Siddharth Singh is Research Scholar at School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi)

INDIA-RUSSIA SUMMIT IN GOA: REINFORCING THE INTERESTS OF BOTH IN MAINTAINING TRADITIONALLY CLOSE & FRIENDLY RELATIONSHIP

● Siddharth Singh



The outcome of the 17th Annual India-Russia summit between President Vladimir Putin and Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Goa on October 15 again demonstrated that Russia continues to remain a trustworthy strategic partner for India, in changing global geo-political situations. Following delegation level talks, led by Putin and Modi, 16 major agreements were signed in sectors including defence, energy, trade and investment, space and smart cities. The highly productive outcomes of meeting clearly established the special and privileged nature of strategic partnership between both the countries. In a statement at a joint press briefing with Putin after the talks, PM Modi described India's special partnership with Russia using a Russian proverb: "An old friend is

better than two new friends."

The 16 agreements signed after the talks include three prominent deals on bilateral defence cooperation: Inter-Governmental Agreements (IGAs) for five S-400 'Triumf' air defence missile systems, four Admiral Grigorovich-class (Project 11356) guided missile stealth frigates and a share-holders agreement for a joint venture (JV) to manufacture 200 'Kamov'-226 helicopters in India.

These defence deals are extremely significant especially in context of India's recently materialized Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) with the US. The LEMOA provides conditional US

access to military bases in India, giving a perception that it was drifting away from Russia. It is expected that by 2020, Russia will start delivery of S-400s to India. It is considered one of the most advanced long range missile systems in the world and can tackle all incoming airborne targets at ranges of up to 400 km.

The Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Russia's Rostec State Corporation will set up a joint venture to manufacture 200 Kamov-226 helicopters, at the location of HAL's choice. Of the four improved Krivak or Talwar class stealth frigates, two will be built in Russia and the other two in India with Russian assistance. These defence deals are estimated to cost India a total of around \$10 billion. While the cost of S-400s will be about \$5 billion, the deals relating to the Kamov-226 helicopters and the stealth frigates will be worth \$1 billion and \$3 billion, respectively.

The agreements on manufacturing of Kamov- 226 helicopters, constructions of frigates, and acquisition and building of other defence platforms are in synergy with India's technology and security priority. These deals will also be helpful for India to achieve the objectives of 'Make in India' programme.

During the talks, both countries also agreed to organize an annual military industrial conference beginning later in 2016. It is expected to allow stake-holders on both sides to institute and push collaboration. The joint statement which was issued after the talks also stated that the India-Russia military industrial conference will address military-related issues, including spares, repair, and maintenance of Russian supplied equipment and co-production.

India and Russia have also signed an important agreement for the joint study of a gas pipeline to India from Russia. Apart from this, Russia has also agreed to invest \$500 million into the Indian infrastructure, along with an equal investment by the newly formed National Infrastructure Investment Fund (NIIF), to form a \$1 billion "Russian-Indian Investment Fund." An MoU was signed to set up the bilateral investment fund by NIIF of India with Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF), to facilitate high-technology investment in both the countries.

Via video conferencing, Putin and Modi dedicated the second unit and launched the work for the third and fourth units of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project. Nuclear energy will make a very significant contribution to the energy security of India. It will give an additional impetus to the growth of the Indian economy.

India and Russia also signed an agreement on cooperation on International Information Security, to counter terrorism and drug-trafficking. Russia's clear stand on the need to combat terrorism mirrors India's concern over the issue. PM Modi, in his press statement, deeply appreciated Russia understanding and support for India's actions to fight cross-border terrorism that threatens the entire region. Both countries have time and again reaffirmed the need for zero tolerance in dealing with terrorists and their supporters.

On the energy deals, which also included a deal by Gazprom to increase engagement with India, Russia is slowly opening its energy sector for India because Russia considers India as one of the most natural partners in the field of energy.

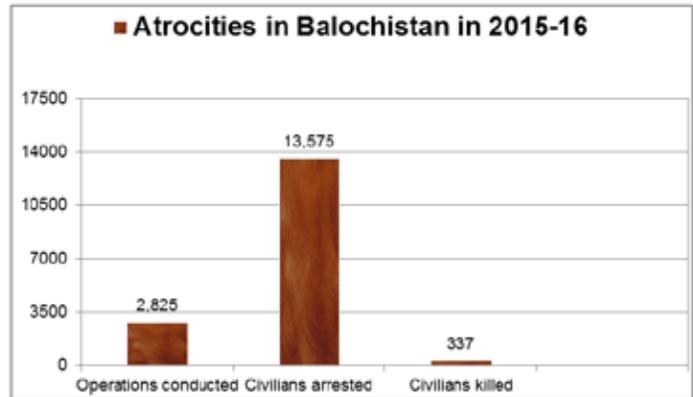
So fresh impetus has been provided to the strategic partnership between India and Russia during President Putin's recent visit to India. His visit has reinforced the interests of both countries in maintaining their traditionally close and friendly relationship. In coming years, India and Russia have to exploit their comparative advantages in a globalising world if they wish to expand bilateral trade and deepen economic co-operation. This is imperative to add greater weight to their strategic partnership in the 21st century.

(Siddharth Singh is a research scholar at School of International Studies, JNU, New Delhi)

THE CRISIS IN BALOCHISTAN

● Arushi Sharma

The predicament that Pakistan finds itself in today is comprehensibly of its own making. It has several deep fault lines; worsened by its own faults; and with immensely far-reaching ramifications. The Baloch belt of Pakistan is in the throes of a militarised insurgency, and the cause for separation of the Baluch with Pakistan is almost complete. In Sindh, there are stirrings of an incipient insurgency. There is also a looming possibility of a Pashtun nationalist resurgence, as a result of the mass displacement and ill-treatment of people during military operations and because of the Taliban insurgency. These ethnic divisions are also reverberating in places like Karachi, interior Sindh and other parts of the country. Pakistan occupied Kashmir continues to be in a state of turmoil and a source of constant conflict to its people. What is common to all these regions are the blatant atrocities committed by the state against its own people; pushing them deeper into an infinite cycle of socio-economic regress relative to the rest of Pakistan. These deep fault lines have resulted in unintended consequences that threaten the very existence of the Pakistani state. The longest civil war in the history of Pakistan has now reached a crossroads in international discourse as India made an aggressive change in its approach against Pakistan by slamming the neighbouring state for the blatant human rights violation committed by its government and its military in Balochistan at the 33rd session of the United Nations Human Rights Council, India articulated that Pakistan “is a nation that practices terrorism on its own people and the sufferings of the people of Balochistan are a telling testimony in this regard. In the last two decades, the most wanted terrorists of the world have found succour and sustenance in Pakistan. This tradition unfortunately continues even today, not surprising when its Government employs terrorism as an instrument of state policy”. On the 70th Indian Independence Day earlier this year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi also made distinct references to Pakistan’s mistreatment of Balochistan and the



atrocities meted out in the region and in Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir.

Topographically, Baluchistan is in the south-western region of Pakistan, constituting 44% of Pakistan’s total area, making it the largest yet the most politically unstable province in the country. The region has seen five waves of insurgencies, in 1948, 1958-59, 1962-63 and 1973-77, with the last wave still ongoing. Baloch separatists are demanding greater autonomy, increased royalties from natural resources and provincial revenue, and an independent nation-state. The Baloch nation, time and again, has claimed that Balochistan should be open to international intervention as it is not an internal matter of Pakistan, given that no single document is available which proves Balochistan willingly joined Pakistan. In opposition, the Baloch have historic documents as evidence to show that Pakistan forcibly invaded Balochistan on March 27, 1948 and illegally annexed it.

Since then, there have been some appalling brutalities that the Pakistan army has gotten away with. According to some members of the Baloch Republican Party (BRP), Baloch people are persecuted, abducted and systematically killed by Pakistani security agencies and the Pakistani Army. The Pakistan army, The Frontier Corps, the anti-Shia group Lashkar-e-Jhangvi and the Inter-Services Intelligence agency have been accused of allegedly adopting a “kill and dump”

policy, under which “Baloch nationalists, militants or even innocent bystanders are picked up, disappeared, tortured, mutilated and then killed”; which has resulted in abductions of more than 20,000 Baloch since 2005. More recently, the Home Department of Balochistan issued figures stating that 13,575 people were arrested while 337 killed in around 2,825 operations in 2015-16 alone. According to journalist Malik Siraj Akbar, “dozens of people are losing their lives and being tortured every day” in “extra judicial killings committed by the Pakistani security forces” in Balochistan. The Balochs, after facing heavy socio-economic losses, military unrest, have been demanding autonomy from the rule of Pakistan.

India was the first country to take stock of this outrageous and almost systematic barbarism to international notice; when Prime Minister Modi mentioned it in his Independence Day speech, and India took strong political stands in Geneva and New York. Baloch separatists and their supporters have enthusiastically thanked PM Modi for highlighting the issue to the international community, as they have long vied for their voice to be heard. The message has also been supported by Bangladesh and Afghanistan, with Bangladesh’s information minister Hasanul Haq Inu stating that “Pakistan has a very bad track record as far as addressing aspiration of nationalities is concerned. They learnt nothing from the defeat of 1971 and continued to practice the same policy of repression and are now targeting the Baloch nationalists.” President of Afghanistan Ashraf Ghani said, “There is war in Pakistan which media doesn’t speak about, there are 207,000 Pak forces in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. This violence needs coverage and understanding and needs to be stopped.” Brahumdagh Bugti of Balochistan Republican Party has expressed gratitude to PM Modi, saying that he hopes that “the Indian government and Indian media and whole nation will not only raise voices for the Baloch nation but also strive to help practically the Baloch independence movement”. In this vein, India has also taken steps as affirmative action for the people of Balochistan. The government recently asked All India Radio (AIR), the state-owned radio broadcaster, to include Balochi language among the 14 foreign languages that it currently broadcasts in. Interestingly, All India Radio was effectively used

during the Bangladesh unrest ahead of the liberation war and in the early days in of the pro-democracy movement in Myanmar. In another move to counter Pakistan, the Modi government also announced compensation for civilian victims of terror in the valley including the residents of Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK). Civilian victims of cross border firing along the Indo-Pak border will be given a compensation of Rs 5 lakh similar to those who die due to terrorism. Such impetus is key to Balochistan’s people, its leaders, and its martyrs, who have been fighting for its freedom since 12th August, 1947; symbolizing their refusal to bow down in spite of brutal assaults on their freedom. The brutalities in Balochistan, while having a clear violation of law of order and complete breakdown of social justice, also highlight a more fundamental issue of hypocrisy by the Pakistani state. When a country that is using helicopter gunships on its own civilians, as one of the worst perpetrators of human rights violations, talks about human rights repeatedly in international conventions and fora, it is clearly a case of hypocrisy of the highest order. One argument that the Pakistani state takes refuge in is that Balochistan is an “internal” matter of the country; we vehemently argue that it is not. It has now transcended to becoming a human rights issue which needs the immediate and unwavering attention of the international community at large.

(Arushi is a Young India Fellow (2016-2017) at Ashoka University. Views expressed by the author are strictly personal)

SALIENT POINTS OF BJP PRESIDENT SH. AMIT SHAH'S SPEECH ON THE OCCASION OF MAHARSHI VALMIKI JAYANTI



- The epic of Ramayana is not a eulogy of Lord Rama; rather it is the first message of greatness of the Indian culture to the world
- Through the epic of Ramayana, the greatest message that sage Valmiki gave to the world was that truth wins finally, no matter how mighty, powerful and clever falsehood is
- If the desire is sincere, there is will to work hard, want to acquire knowledge, capacity to reach a decision, the person can scale all heights —

Maharshi Valmiki exemplified it

- Everybody in society, regardless of which community he belongs to, can seek inspiration from Maharshi Valmiki to rise higher
- The example of Maharshi Valmiki, who worked for social harmony and uplift of Dalits without seeking publicity, is unparalleled
- Harmony is at the heart of Indian society and its pristine ethos. That all are equal needs no mention; it

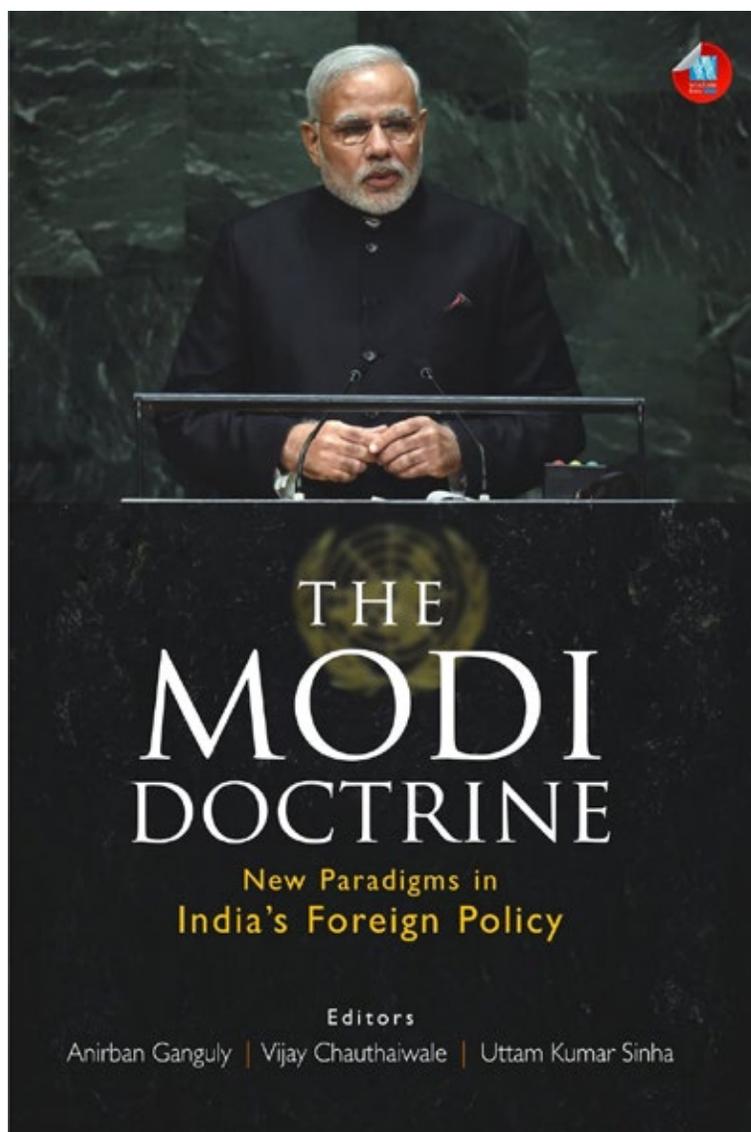
is an integral part of India's culture

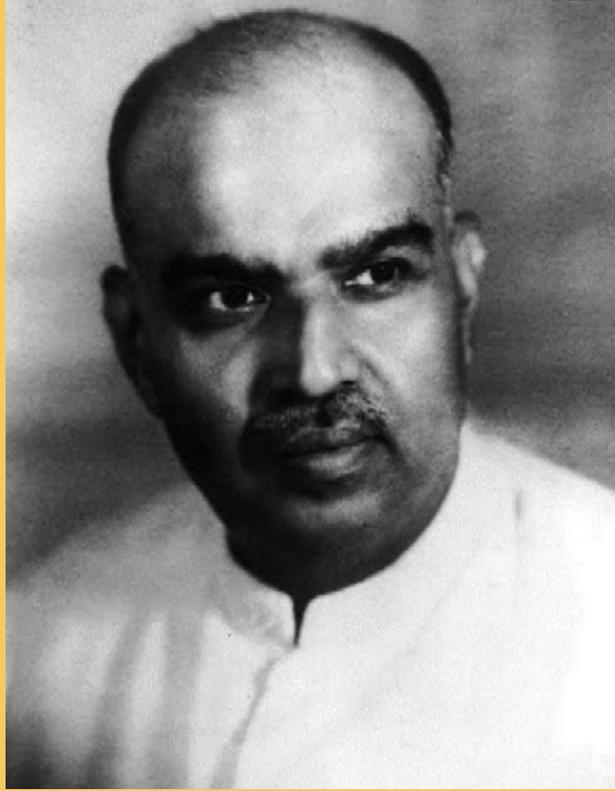
- Today, nobody needs to lead a life ridden with guilt, accepting ill-treatment
- The Constitution made by Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar gave equal rights to all citizens of the country and equal opportunities to all to rise in life
- The Modi government that the people are witnessing today has worked the most for Dalits, backward classes, tribal people and the poor
- Look at the website of any ministry; the first five schemes would be dedicated to the poor, Dalits, the exploited and the backward
- When the Prime Minister in his Independence Day speech from Red Fort appeals to the banks to seek out the Dalit youth to help make themselves self-sufficient, it is a clear sign of change in the style of governance India has witnessed so far
- May the epic Ramayana composed by Maharshi Valmiki always remain a source of inspiration for us, on the basis of which we can create a great and glorious society. **This is our wish**



ISAS PANEL DISCUSSION “INDIA’S FOREIGN POLICY & THE MODI DOCTRINE”

Dr. Vijay Chauthaiwale, Head of BJP Foreign Affairs Department and one of the Editors of "The Modi Doctrine: new paradigms in India's Foreign Policy", participated in a panel discussion on "India's Foreign Policy & The Modi Doctrine" at Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS), National University of Singapore on 20th October 2016. The other panelists were Dr. C.Rajamohan, Director Carnegie India, Ambassador Gopinath Pillai Chairman ISAS and James Crabtree journalist, author, Senior Visiting Fellow at the LKY School of Public Policy.





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

-Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee
*Convocation Address delivered at Gurukul Kangri
Viswavidyalaya, Haridwar, 1943*

Published By:

Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation

9, Ashoka Road New Delhi - 110001

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