

DREAMS WHICH SHOULD NOT LET INDIA SLEEP

Do not go gentle into that good night
Old days should burn and
rage at close of day

Rage, rage against the dying of the light
Though wise men at their end
know dark is right

Because their words had faked No lightning they
Do not go gentle into that good night
Rage, rage against the dying of the light

The aspirations of 1.3 billion people of India which is second largest population in the world and having about two-third of its population is under the age group of 25. This new millennium would pave the way for achieving the goals set out in Preamble which was the vision of all who were involved in the freedom struggle and strive for Justice, Liberty, Equality and Fraternity. The difficult times for India in the history like foreign invasions, Colonisation

by the britishers and orthodox, degrading practices like Sati, female infanticide, child marriages, widow remarriage. The fight for equal rights to women as that of men should continue with full blow. The historical injustice meted out to the Harijans needs to be dispensed with.

The excellence India achieved in the past needs to be regained. India was famous for education, health, music, art & architecture. Also, to get rid of dependency on others through "Atmanirbhar" India which India achieved in food self sufficiency. The other things to become superpower is to train workforce in advanced technologies. The environmental concerns needs to be taken more seriously as India having more than 7500 km coastline and forest dwelling communities living in the vicinity of Environment. The agriculture and rural economy will move the wheels of Indian economy. There are hindering forces like caste, class, poverty, unemployment, rich vs poor, rural vs Urban which needs to be addressed to inclusive growth.

DIGNITY TO WOMEN :

Women are discriminated from ancient time in different sphere of life whether it is education, work, decision making in family, customs and traditions.

The evils like sati, child marriages, widow marriage which are demeaning for women were fought against by modern reformers like Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Pandit Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar. The glaring inequality and injustice against women in the form of domestic violence, sexual abuse, recent rape incidents (Disha, a veterinary doctor going back to home after work was raped and murdered and another crime 'Nirbhaya' which shook consciousness of a nation and world). The other issues to fight against:

Low literacy rate of 65% of Indian women, low sex ratio of 940 needs to be tackled if we want to be superpower nation. As 10% increase of women in Labour Force would help GDP to raise by 770 bn \$. There is not all gloomy picture.

India had philosophers like Gargi, Maitreyi during Vedic times. There were female rulers such as Rudramadevi of Kakatiya dynasty, Razia Sultan of Delhi Sultanate. Under the leadership of Gandhiji, traditionally home secluded women entered freedom struggle and lead the way like Vijayalakshmi Pandit, Usha Mehta. There were few opportunities but

they grabbed it, which shows matte like Shakuntala Devi aka Human Computer.

All the stakeholders from government to a common citizen needs to shed Patriarchic mentality and provide equal opportunities to women to make India prosperous, developed and value-ladden.

The initiatives by government like Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, VIGYAN JYOTI, PM Matru Vandana Yojana, changes in Maternity benefits, Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013 are the steps in the right direction.

ERADICATING UNTOUCHABILITY :

The constitution makers abolished Untouchability and inserted Article 17 which puts responsibility on state to not allow such practices and punish through law those who perpetrates it.

Inspite of such strict no to such practices, incidents are still happening. One groom going to brides house riding a horse stopped by fringe elements and said groom can't go on horse as he was belong to Scheduled Caste. These incidences were sorted out after mediation by police and administration.

Such discrimination obstructs the development of united feeling and creates groupism and caste violence. The brotherhood that Indian constitution strives for gets hindered by such untouchability incidents.

The leaders realised the necessity to remove untouchability for united patriotic feeling. Gandhiji through Harijan wrote articles for religious reforms and also seated on Satyagraha. Dr. B. R. Ambedkar fought for rights of marginalised sections and got "Poona Pact" signed. Mahatma Phule also worked for equal rights to backward groups and against brahmanical orthodoxy.

In the constitution, there are provisions for empowerment of SCs/STs like reservation of seats in Parliament and state legislature. Government enacted SC & ST Prevention of Atrocities Act, Forest rights Act. Also, there is demarcation of budget for welfare of SCs/STs. And grievances against non-implementation of provisions for SC/ST handled by constitutional bodies like National Commission for SCs and National Commission for STs.

The need is to take collective efforts through community participation, prompt action by law enforcement agencies on such incident.

PREAMBLE : A KEY TO THE CONSTITUTION

Preamble entails the nature of Indian Polity as Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic, Republic. It aims to strive for Justice (social, economic, political); Liberty of thought, expression, belief, opinion, faith; Equality before law and of opportunities; Fraternity - respecting the dignity of an individual and promote among them all.

Whenever anyone has any doubt whether country going in right direction or not, preamble shows the way. It embodies the source of the constitution i.e., the people of India and reflects grand and noble vision of the constituent assembly.

EXCELLENCE IN LIFE :

The excellence of individuals in their professions and brought laurels to the era to which they belonged and rulers who gave them patronage. Chanakya through his machinations helped Mauryan ruler Chandragupta to become victorious against his rivals. Charaka through Charaka Samhita propounded knowledge of Ayurveda, a system of medicine while Sushruta brought Sushruta Samhita, a treatise on Surgery. Kalidas, was once struggling in personal life then rediscovered himself to become one of

the greatest dramatist and playwright and includes in his collection, 'Abhijana Shakuntalam', 'Ritu Sambhavam'. Tansen earlier under the patronage of Raja of Gwalior and later under Akbar composed many ragas and known for musical knowledge and vocal skills.

FOCUS ON EDUCATION & HEALTH :

Education sector has expanded in India in last few decades, however deep malaise exists there. The Gross enrollment ratio at primary level is above 90% but it decreases as one goes upto higher education to 25% (2017 - AISHE Report). The number of colleges and universities (availability) increased but quality is degrading which reflect in higher unemployment amongst Graduated and above degrees.

- The experts found out reasons for these gaps:
- i) Degree focused study i.e. the focus of educational institutions is more or less to provide degrees and not a knowledge and skill-enabled youth.
 - ii) Lack of skills training i.e. skills in latest technologies given were late and competition is already higher.
 - iii) Segregated streams → Arts, Commerce and Science stream are separated but need of today is interdisciplinary or say multidisciplinary approach.
 - iv) Foundational learning → 3-6 years age group covered at basic level through ICDS and needs to be emphasized upon.

The National Education Policy, 2020 aims to reform Indian education system as per the needs of 21st century and provides for:

- i) involving Early Child Care and Education, 3-6 yrs age group within foundational learning.
- ii) Provides for multidisciplinary approach
- iii) bringing apprenticeship and vocational skills from class XI.
- iv) focus on teacher training and teacher training institutions.
- v) To increase expenditure on education from current 3% to 6%.

In respect of health, though India improved life expectancy rate from 31 (1950) to 69 (2020), still it lags in many aspects. India has highest number of Tuberculosis patients in the world, also non-communicable diseases like hypertension, high blood pressure, diabetes spreading rapidly. Mortality during pregnancy, under 5, infant is high in India compared to other countries.

The out-of-pocket expenditure is about 70% which is borne by an individual whose Per Capita monthly income is around 12,000 Rs. The health is an important part of life to have healthy workforce, healthy mother and her child and economic growth.

The government needs to increase public health expenditure from current 1.5% of GDP to atleast 3% of GDP by 2025 as desired by National Health Policy 2017. Also, initiatives like PM Matsya Varshana Yojana, Ayushman Bharat are welcome.

but more needs to be done.

TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS

To become a superpower, India needs to invest in Research & Development, skills training, collaborations on advanced technologies like Artificial Intelligence, Blockchain, Machine Learning, Deep learning, Big Data etc. The development in Pharmaceuticals, Genetic Engineering, Space technology needs to give boost.

These will enable India to become manufacturing hub and services provider increasing the growth of economy and creating employment.

NITI Aayog's launch of National AI Portal, RAISE 2020 platform ; ISRO's successful launching of Anti-satellite missile (mission Shakti), Mangalyaan and to be launch Gaganyaan taking India in right direction. Role of India's scientists and pharmaceutical companies on COVID19 vaccines research is commendable.

AGRICULTURE & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Though India moved from Agri-based economy to service economy, still 70% of its population dependent on agriculture for their survival and 48% of total workforce is involved in agricultural activities.

India once a food scarce country after Independence and dependent on support of others like PL-480, achieved food self-sufficiency through

Shastriji's "Jai Jawan Jai Kisan" self confidence and Green Revolution. However, after Economic reforms of 1991, the economic structure has changed and now more focus is on Industrialisation and Services Sector; the climate change also made the profession difficult.

The government is taking steps to double farmers' income and make farming remunerative, climate resilient agriculture. The schemes like PM KISAN, PM AASHA, increased agri credit is welcome.

As far as development is concerned, it needs to be environment friendly. The natural disasters like Earthquake, Cyclones, floods are increased in frequency but not in fatality but man-made disasters like chemical, biological, crowd, urban fires have high casualty rate. The Sustainable Development Goals needs to be incorporated in policy planning and implementation. This will enable present as well as future generations to optimally utilisation of resources.

DIVIDING FORCES :

Caste and class consciousness exists which may have cultural aspects but often, than not used for communal violence. India though 5th largest economy (by Nominal GDP) and 3rd largest (PPP wise) and 5th richest person of the world is Indian but still India by and large middle income country, high number of poor people in the world where Per capita income is lower than similar income countries.

The rural-urban divide exists in terms of opportunities, infrastructure, income, standard of living, digital divide. Though 65% of India's population is under the age of 25, but due to lack industry-relevant skills and insufficient job creation, unemployment is high.

The above discussed areas should not be seen as problems but as challenges and opportunities to work in different fields. Even though if one considers them as problems at present but they were present in past and few will reappear to be fight in future also. Our forefathers worked through it, find solutions, the present and future generations needs to be taken inspiration from past. The dreams and aspirations of society, country where women can walk shoulder to shoulder with men, contribute equally in different spheres of life as that of men; marginalized section gets dignity and self-confidence; farmers getting right value for his produce; environmentally sustainable development; India, a destination for education as that of Nalanda and Vikramshila universities; healthy citizen who become asset for a nation; skilled workforce.

India has the strength and capability to work through challenges which kept Indian civilisation to sustain while others collapsed lately. The socio-religious reform

movements changed outlook of society. Preamble sets path for modern India, progressive India. The leaders like Sardar Patel, Gandhiji, Jayaprakash Narayan fought for Unity, Integrity, sovereignty and freedom in various aspects of life which citizens of India enjoying today and actions of today will be fruits to ripe for future generations.

"lets stop waiting for a better world. Lets start working on it. Together"