

India’s Moment

At a time when much of the world economy is caught in a spiral of stagnation, inflation, and fractured politics, India is scripting a story that few dared to imagine even a decade ago. Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s assertion that India is ready to “help the world out of slow growth” is not empty rhetoric—it is a statement backed by hard numbers, bold reforms, and visible global impact. The contrast with the past could not be starker. For decades, India watched from the sidelines as opportunities of industrialisation, digitisation, and modernisation slipped away. Governments hesitated, policies faltered, and the nation missed the bus. Post-2014, that era decisively ended. Today, India is not merely on the bus of global growth—it is driving it. Consider the facts. The Indian economy has become the world’s fastest-growing major economy, on track to be the third-largest within a few years. Its manufacturing sector, once written off as uncompetitive, is today exporting everything from electric vehicles and locomotives to advanced telecom technologies and defence hardware to over 100 countries. The country that was once seen as a land of cheap back-office services has now become a hub for cutting-edge 5G and AI innovation. What changed? The answer lies in one word: conviction. Reforms are no longer ad hoc responses to crises; they are part of a coherent vision—rooted in the “Reform, Perform, Transform” mantra—that redefines India’s economic architecture. Simplification of GST, strengthening of banks, digital revolution in governance, massive infrastructure push—each of these reforms has unleashed new energy. The message to global investors is unmistakable: India is stable, reliable, and brimming with opportunity. But India’s rise is more than an economic turnaround—it is civilisational in scope. Self-reliance, once mocked as an outdated slogan, has been reimagined as Atmanirbhar Bharat: a confident, connected, and competitive India. This is not about closing doors; it is about opening them wider, on India’s own terms. It is about building capabilities that not only serve 1.4 billion Indians but also meet the needs of a turbulent world—from affordable healthcare and clean energy to digital solutions and resilient supply chains. The global context makes India’s role even more vital. Western economies remain burdened by debt and ageing populations, China faces slowing growth and declining trust, and large parts of the Global South are struggling to recover from shocks. Amid this uncertainty, India alone combines scale, speed, and stability. It offers not just a huge consumer base but a workforce that is skilled, youthful, and ambitious. This is why the world is looking to India—not just for trade, but for leadership. In forums from G20 to BRICS, India has consistently stood up for fairness, inclusivity, and development-driven growth. As it races towards its centenary of independence in 2047, the vision of India as a developed nation is not just an Indian dream—it is a global necessity. For too long, India was seen as a nation of potential. Today, it is a nation of performance. And tomorrow, it will be the nation that redefines the global economy itself. The world cannot afford to ignore this India—because India is no longer waiting for history. It is making history.

PM Modi in SCO

■ DR D K GIRI

It goes without saying that Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s performance in the 25th SCO Summit in Tianjin marked a dramatic shift in India’s foreign policy. Such a sudden strategic turn has hardly been witnessed in India’s foreign policy since 1947. During 80s and 90s, ‘continuity and change’ was the standard norm in India’s foreign policy making. During the Congress era, changing the foreign policy structure created by the first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru was considered imprudent and impractical. Nehru was perceived to be the architect of India’s foreign policy. Admittedly, Nehru’s concept of Non-Alignment persists in one form or the other. Now it is called strategic autonomy, multi-alignment, Global South (solidarity) or Active Non-Alignment (mainly in Latin America). Nehru’s foreign policy, including Non-Alignment, after the decline of Congress regime, has been subjected to serious evaluation and coruscating criticism. This is, however, not the intent today, to engage in that exercise. Suffice to say that Narendra Modi, with all his innovative ideas, has not discarded lock, stock and barrel, the principle and rhetoric of Non-Alignment. It is called strategic autonomy. I have, in this column, engagingly expressed the disappointment about Modi somewhat following Nehru’s foreign policy paradigm. Note that Modi’s regime has been otherwise critical of Nehru’s policies. Tianjin drastically changed all that perception some of us held since 2014. In Tianjin, Modi jumped into the bandwagon of Sino-Russian camp and revived the dormant and inactive Trilateral, Russia-India-China (RIC). From the photo-ops and personal conduct, Modi gave a clear message to the world that he is seeking to firm-up the global alliance of these three countries. The bonhomie witnessed between Modi and Putin – walking hand-in-hand to the summit, travelling in the same car, one-to-one tete-a-tete upto 45 minutes demonstrated a remarkable personal bond. Similar proximity, although a bit less warm, was noticed between Modi and Xi Jinping. Let us not forget that Modi had experienced similar warmth and closeness with American President Donald Trump in his first term. It is another matter that now the chemistry between the two has gone off. Therefore, it is evident in global geo-politics that hugs and handshakes, swings and strolls (Wuhan and Sabarmati Riverfront) do not change the focus on national interests.

100 Years of Sangh Yatra: From the past, through the present, to the future

A century-old movement brought together people from all walks of life for a landmark dialogue on values, education, and identity. The prestigious event revisited the timeless wisdom of Deendayal Upadhyaya Ji, who, through his core concept of Ekatma Manav Darshan, offered a framework to evaluate the Sangh’s journey from the past, through the present, and into the future—charting the path towards Integral Humanism, as Dr Mohan Bhagwat addressed the movement’s history, present challenges, and envisioned pathways to strengthen society while harmonising tradition with contemporary aspirations

■ SWASTI SHARMA

Reiterating the importance and vitality of nation-building through individual development—Vyakti-Nirman se Rashtra-Nirman—a three-day lecture series upon the completion of hundred years of illustrious journey by Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh commenced in Vigyan Bhawan, Delhi. It was a confluence of divergent ideas and convergent goals. The primary purpose was collective brainstorming, orienting discourse, and designing a roadmap for the future.

Vision and Mission in Context

In the aforementioned three-day Vyakhyannama, the aims and objectives of the RSS were revisited. Founded in 1925 by Dr Keshav Baliram Hedgewar, RSS has played a crucial role in eliminating discriminatory practices, educating the marginalised, participating in disaster management efforts, providing social services, pro-

moting environmental equilibrium, etc. These humanitarian and philanthropic initiatives have ensured greater inclusivity over the years. There’s a growing need to keep up the efforts and reject complacency.

In his comprehensive address, Revered Sarsanghchalak Dr Mohan Bhagwat quoted several verses from the Vedic canon to describe the significance of Dharma (Dhaarayati Iti Dharmah) for youth. It comes at an opportune moment when the world is grappling with uncertainty. His speech underscored striking a delicate balance between Pravritti dharma (outward path) and Nivritti dharma (inner path). Emphasising the importance of self-discipline, Dr Bhagwat cautioned against the repercussions of Eurocentric wokeism, unbridled global market forces and other -isms on Bharatiya society. The cultural fabric of the rashtra (not the nation-state) must be protected and preserved by future generations. For this, Sangh shakha has an indispensable function to perform – transmission of the Bharatiya ethos. While self-reliance

is appreciable, extreme individualism can be fatal for humanity.

Integrating Traditional Values and Modern Practices

In the contemporary scenario, Bharatiya Jnana Parampara has acquired a unique place due to the implementation of the National Education Policy 2020, which places a premium on integrating traditional values with modern requirements. Creating an ideal citizen begins in the classroom. Connecting mainstream education with the Gurukul system will elevate personality development. Swadeshi, atmanirbharta and antodaya are integral values of our society. Everyone should have access to places of worship and basic amenities. Sarsanghchalak Ji, in his address, focused on adopting and inculcating best practices from everywhere without forgetting the roots of one’s native culture. This frequent cultural amnesia often leads to self-deprecation and an identity crisis. In order to become Vishwaguru, we need to reclaim Bharat’s glorious past, foster oneness and ac-

knowledge heterogeneity of ideas. A positive approach is central to positive outcomes. Therefore, giving a human touch to knowledge and recognising the strength of Hinduness, as per Sarsanghchalak Ji’s speech, can change the world’s perspective towards our country. Man-to-man contact, heart-to-heart talk should be the key.

Breaking free from left-liberal Cultural Hegemony

The dominance of leftist ideology over the years is clearly reflected in the erstwhile policymaking and education model. Wokeism is an offshoot of the leftist propaganda machinery. Due to the hegemonic framework of the communist-capitalist binary, the society has become extremely individualistic, whereas the focus should be on selfless leadership and service.

Co-ordination (Samanvaya) and not conflict (Sangharsh) is the cornerstone of Bharatiya values. As Dr Hedgewar said and Sarsanghchalak Ji quoted, “This life of mine is dedicated to the nation; concern for personal happiness shall be reserved for the

next birth.” Focus on regional principles, samskaras and imbibing virtues will produce a free individual in the true sense. Only through seamless dialogue and deliberation can we negotiate solutions.

A New Horizon of Expectations

After one hundred years of indefatigable journey, the way forward is Charaiveti-Charaiveti. Presumably, there is a need to expand the dimensions of work through constant reflection and introspection. The media has a bigger responsibility in this endeavour. Unbiased coverage will motivate others to join the cause of nation-building.

As the event concluded, one of the key takeaways was the engagement with the Bharatiya diaspora and the anticipated exchange with the neighbouring countries.

A broad spectrum of vimarsh is being executed to evaluate social progress and identify problem areas. This, indeed, lays the groundwork for the next hundred years.

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