

**INDIAN INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION****Sixty-fifth Members' Annual Conference - 2021****on****Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan****(Virtual/Online mode)**

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Director-General: Shri Surendra Nath Tripathi

**Welcome Address**

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Respected friends and colleagues of the Indian Institute of Public Administration. I take the privilege of welcoming each one of you to this very very special 65<sup>th</sup> Members' Annual Conference on Aatma Nirbhar Bharat and its various aspects which will be analysed today. I am happy to tell you that the brief that has been prepared by Dr. Pawan Kumar Taneja, Assistant Professor, Operation Research, IIPA, is not only of excellent quality but also gives a new dimension to Aatma Nirbhar Bharat. India is a country which has been aspiring to be the leader, to be the lighthouse, to be the *vishwaguru*, to be the *sonay-ki-chidiya* and to be offering to the world without aspiring for an inch of foreign land. India has always been the knowledge capital of the world and that is how we became victim of our softness. That is the beauty of Aatma Nirbhar Bharat and that is the

beauty of this land of ours. Bharat also needs to reboot itself in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and it cannot be business as usual which we have done for the past 60 or 100 years. A lot of things need to be done. First few things that need to be done are, is our system capable of becoming *aatmanirhar*, *nagrik sarkar nirbhar*, *sarkar videsh nirbhar*, *videsh China nirbhar*, *China America nirbhar*. In such circumstances, you cannot become *aatmanirbhar*. It means and supposes that we must be *aatmanirbhar* in every dimension of the system. We are proud of our political system. There have been 70 transitions without any issue. We are proud of our Judiciary which has never distinguished between Aryan Khan and any *Arya* anywhere under the sun. We have opened the gates of justice to even Kasab when he was in our custody. We are a country which has become victim of our goodwill. We proved to the world that the problem can be only solved by India's soft techies. Then, too soft to be global, too hard to be resisting. These things need a serious debate. Now the time has come that we should distinguish ourselves from our past and come out to a new future which is both exciting as well as inspiring. I was listening to a *Kavi Sammelan* yesterday done in Srinagar and I was reminded of a couple of couplets which I would like to share with you. Iqbal Shayar has written very beautifully, and I would like to quote—

*Mere bachcho meri ungli na pakdo*

*Meri ainak se duniya ko na dekho*

*Mere nakshe kadam par khak dalo*

*Mere raste se rasta mat nikalo*

Which means only one thing that we have to reboot, reshape, repurpose and we have to see what India stands for, what India is going to be in the next 10 years, 15 years, 20-year and 30 years. We are proud that we are celebrating our 75<sup>th</sup> year of independence and today's Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan achievements and way forward is also a continuation of what India should look like itself after 75<sup>th</sup> year of its existence and what India should become in its 100<sup>th</sup> year of independence in 2047. Friends, all these aspects have been very beautifully covered by our colleague, Dr. Pawan Taneja and I have requested him to make a very elaborate PowerPoint presentation in a very limited period of time. He has to really do

*gagar mein sagar* to see that the concept that he wishes to convey is conveyed, the concerns that he wishes to convey are conveyed and the inspiring ideas that the Government has taken itself, be it facing pandemic with 100 crore vaccination, be it reviving economy with Rs.29 lakh crore of investment, be it one-nation-one-ration card or JAM trinity – but Jam needs bread. The time has come that we should improve our per capita purchasing power. Our per capita purchasing power is one indication which can give us a new place in the global space but that alone will not be sufficient. There is soft power in many areas. We produce 1000 films which whole of world, maybe, whole of Europe and America taken together, may not be thinking of. Our soft power in these areas needs to get a global attention and I am happy that today's deliberations will throw some light on these aspects. I know all of you or some of you have already organized your prelude conference and many vital points must have come which may not have been covered by Dr. Taneja, but we would like to listen to each voice from every corner of the country so that we can really update ourselves what Aatma Nirbhar Bharat means. Aatma Nirbhar Bharat has become enigma for many. Some people are saying it is version-2 of self-reliant India. Some of the critiques are saying what is so great about *aatmanirbhar*, how can we become *aatmanirbhar* when globalization, liberalisation and many such tendencies of the world are unfolding themselves. In fact, nobody is dependent or independent in today's world; everybody is inter-dependent. But all these inter-dependencies and inter-dependence require that if you are strong enough, the world will welcome you. Power attracts power, poverty does not attract poverty; poverty attracts injustice. Aatmanirbhar Bharat means that India should give justice to its own people. Right to Life and Liberty, Right to Dignified Living, and on top of it, present itself in the comity of nations as equal partners. *Jaisa ki mananiya Pradhan Mantri ji bolte hain, 'Hum aankh jhuka ke nahin, aankh mila ke baat karma chahte hain'*. Our value of passport must go up along with our dollar value and our per capita purchasing power.

Many more issues are their friends. I take this opportunity once again to welcome each one of you. I am very happy that all the branches, Regional and Local branches, have made some attempt to organize their prelude conference on

such a topical subject like Aatma Nirbhar Bharat and with this, we would like to listen to each one of you. First, we will listen from Dr. Pawan Kumar Taneja. He will make a presentation for about 40 minutes. Thank you.

**Presentation of Theme Paper by  
Dr. Pawan Kumar Taneja**

DR. PAWAN KUMAR TANEJA, ASISTANT PROFESSOR, OPERATION RESEARCH, IIPA: A very good morning to all of you. Specific Branch Heads, Secretaries of the Branches, Director-General, IIPA and friends. I consider it a privilege to me that I am sharing my thoughts with all of you related to Aatma Nirbhar Bharat. I have divided my thoughts into four components. First, I will try to bring out some theoretical background that what this Aatma Nirbhar Bharat is and what we normally think it is because it is something which has come immediately as Aatma Nirbhar Bharat. As Director-General was mentioning that first time people started thinking whether we are again talking about import substitution or closing our economy or something like that? Is that what is *aatmanirbhar* or is it different? So, that is what we will try to look into, what theory of Aatma Nirbhar Bharat is itself, I will try to bring forward to you that theory which has been there in ancient Indian times and how, in the last 100 years, the *aatmanirbhar* concept has evolved in India and how it has been there and what exactly that meant at those times, what wisdom we can still draw from those things which we were discussing in the last 100 years, and then I will try to give you some modern concept of *aatmanirbhar* theory. To come to that modern concept of *aatmanirbhar* theory, I will come to the verdict how the world has been responding to globalization in the two or three decades. Then I will try to come to whatever reforms we have done in our country in the last two years. Reforms have been continuing but last two years have been tough times, as you all know, and in those tough times, what tough decisions we have taken which will be making us more *aatmanirbhar*, and then, what is the way forward which we need to look forwarded to address some of the challenges which I have highlighted. I have highlighted just 5 or 6 challenges, but these are inter-dependent, and these are

more deep challenges. So, that is what I will just try to put forward broadly what are the challenges and then I will try to get some kind of way forward also, what is the way forward for Aatma Nirbhar Bharat.

We all know that this Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan has been launched by the Prime Minister on 12<sup>th</sup> of May 2020 at his favourite time, 8.00 p.m. People know that what happened at 8.00 p.m. in India all the time is very interesting. Prime Minister has given a call this time that let us make India self-reliant and when he was giving this call, what he was talking about? He was talking about this particular mindset which he has arrived after talking with the villagers in village panchayats, and then he talked about that yes, some of the *sarpanches* were talking that what we were doing during the Corona lockdown? So, we have to be self-reliant in managing our village well. So, that is where he got the view of self-reliance from. The building blocks of Aatma Nirbhar Bharat that he has given are: economy, infrastructure, how we should improve our systems, processes, and then demographic difference which we have and how we should use our demand, As Director-General was also mentioning, we need to use this demand more effectively that it is our internal demand as well as the demand of the world which we are going to cater, how we should be taking this together. He has suggested four important reform categories, if I define it - land, labour, liquidity, and laws. These are reform areas which he has suggested.

Another focus area which he has pointed out is that we go for the local economic development, that is, we look inwards and, what we say, the concept of glocalization. That is what he is talking about. Let us improve our internal processes more effectively and do our internal economic development more effectively.

Now I will go to the conventional development paradigm which has been there against this concept of Aatma Nirbhar Bharat. I go back to what people start saying that okay, is Aatma Nirbhar Bharat the same or similar as Swadeshi because Swadeshi is something which is there in our mind? People also say that Swadeshi Movement is popularly linked with Mahatma Gandhi. That is not the reality, friends. When I looked into *Google* and other texts of various books

which are on English literature, I found that first time this word Swadeshi was presented in 1825 at the time when we were not even having the Britishers, as such, and when the East India Company was there. Reformers like Raja Rammohun Roy talked about Swadeshi systems to be brought in to bring social reforms in the society, including *sati pratha* or those issues which were there, and he talked about the word 'Swadesh' for the first time, and then after that, we all know that this concept continued, and this concept made into Swadesh and Swaraj Movements brought by Bal Gangadhar Tilak. He talked very silently about this thing in his famous book '*Srimad Bhagwad Gita Rahasya*'. Therefore, I am trying to point out here that in 'Swaraj', 'Swadeshi', the first word is 'swa'. That 'swa' means 'yourself'. So, first yourself must be improved. That is the meaning that we derive of this word Swaraj or Swadeshi, rather than just taking it and saying, okay, it is just a ticklish word, we are now talking about, we talk about 'swa' in general systems. The Swadeshi Movement was first brought in, in 1903 to 1908 in Bengal and that is where for the first time this word Swadeshi was used and this kind of thought was being presented like it is not only about the isolated freedom from the Britishers, it is about freedom of social and individuals, spiritual and material world together. All these things together have been taken as social formation, and this has been named by Rabindranath Tagore. He termed it as '*swadeshi samaj*', that we are a *samaj* which is coexistence of everything together, and that is what we bring in that internal system has to be improving not only the external, and that is what Bal Gangadhar Tilak has also been talking about, that rejuvenation of Bharat, which was the clarion call given by him at that time.

Now I come to the famous points which people talk about that Swadeshi Movement or self-reliance concept has been given by Mahatma Gandhi. Mahatma Gandhi gave the concept of self-reliant village. The definition of self-reliant village, if we talk about today, is that every village should be a complete republic. Now, if we take this definition, you can imagine what he is talking about at that time, in 1930. So, he was talking about this definition. It is today relevant, and not only relevant and that is what is being talked as Sustainable Development Goals by the U.N. If you look into the 17 Goals, you will see all these points which are

talked about that it is a complete republic, independent of its neighbors for its own vital needs. Your own vital needs you need to do yourself, but you have to be inter-dependent on to the other, and which dependence is a necessity. You cannot say that we are closing the doors of self-reliance, or we are closing the doors of *aatmanirbhar* or we are closing the door where there are no exports, nothing. It is very much there. We are having dependence. And what Gandhi Ji also talked about at that time is that every village should grow its own food. Here, the SDG points is that it is not only concern about the people, but also about the cattle, the animals which you are having, and your children your adolescents, your youth, you should have playgrounds for them and if your extra land is available with you, you go for cash crops. So, this is how he is talking about, earning money. He again talks about that when you are earning money, you should not go for the unethical businesses, you should go for the ethical businesses. He specifically pointed out, not ganja, tobacco, or opium kind of things. This is what we are teaching in our schools that you should do ethical practices or be socially responsible. That concept has been there into the Gandhian thoughts, and he has given all these points: village theatres, recreation of people, water resources to be effectively managed, clean water - still we are talking that we should give clean water - compulsory education for all or right to education. All these things he talked about at that time, and in the village. So, the self-reliant concept has been existing in India for so long. He has not only given that, but he has also given this final concept of how all these things will be happening. It will be happening when you are having vibrant cooperative societies. And for these vibrant cooperative societies, this Government has again taken up this concept and set up a Ministry of Cooperatives. So, this kind of thought process has been there since long. It is not just Gandhi or the politicians who are talking about self-reliant, it is a political agenda. Economists like Kumarappa have given well thoughts into it which we name as modern thought of economics, which is related with the ecological economics, as we name it nowadays. This ecological economics concept has been given by him and he gave this concept that we should focus on small scale operations because large scale operations can be harmful to the nature, and if you

are doing large scale operations and if you want to close it down, it will be very difficult to do so. So, small scale is always eco friendly. That is what he talked about at that time and that is why he said that the focus should be on small scale industries, and that is what we are talking today in India. We are saying, we should have more micro, small scale and medium enterprises than large scale companies and this thought process continued even after Independence, not only by people like pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya. He gave the concept of integral humanism and he also cautioned that we talk about Sarvodaya and Swadeshi. It may be a Bhartiya approach of life, but it is misunderstood that we only talk about spirituality. We talk about every other aspect of the life which is important to be living in. To be spiritual, first we have to earn our bread, then only we can do other things. That is what he talked about. And it is not that this kind of thought process was there only for the politicians or the political economists, even European people also talked about this. Schumacher also has given this concept that we should be looking to the small enterprises rather than the bigger ones. He has written a book 'Small is Beautiful: Economics of the People that matter'. That means, people-centered approach is the main thing he talked about.

Now, I shift my thought process from here to how this thing has been changing? I name it as the new global economic order which has been coming up in the last decade, I should say. I am trying to point out here that his Covid is not only a big reason for our starting this Aatma Nirbhar Bharat thinking now, but it has also been there in our thought processes and we are working, not only we, the world is working o this kind of concept for the last one or two decades. That is what I shall try to project here.

Both things are there. No doubt that Covid has disrupted this system and WTO is also predicting that global trade is going on in the coming years. It is also predicting that dependence upon the nations is going to be restricted to the few things around them but, at the same time, this world is looking for economic convergence of developed and developing countries for the main concept of liberalization, privatization and globalistion, which was happening but now emerging economies in the last decade have faced the music of it and they are



saying that we do not want the life to be in a purely globalised economy, we are trying to de-globalise ourselves and restrict ourselves. That is not what the developing countries and emerging economies are talking about, it is also being talked about by the developed economies and that is what you will see in the coming slide.

If you look at one year comparison of the imports and exports of china to Africa, Asia and European nations and Latin America or America, you will see that there is a declining trend of the exports as well as imports from China We say that China is the world manufacturing hub, but you can see that the major decline is by Europe as well as by America. So, this is showing one trend.

I will go to the next trend which is how we measure the globalisation. For measuring globalization, the main indicator is what is the ratio of the world exports to the world GDP. I have shown this trend for the last 40 years. If you look into the 40-year trend, it was not there at the time when we were talking about the earlier years, but after 1980s, you see there is a sharp increase which is happening into the globalization trend and lot of globalizations was happening and it had gone to the peak in the years 2008 or 2009. But after that, we all know that this sub-prime crisis happened and after that sub-prime, you can see that there is a sharp decline which is happening in terms of the global exports which are happening as the ratio to the world GDP. This is showing that over a period of time, exports growth has gone down. And why globalisation was happening and why people were looking for this thing, is because developed countries came to the developing countries, because they were looking for the cheap labour and that is in easy supply, and that is what the whole world is doing. China excelled in 20 years, and they want on to become a world production hub. And not only China, countries like Malaysia, Thailand, these countries also entered into the field, and everybody was into the field because you as an emerging economy, are also getting benefited because you are getting the required FDI, your people are growing. Because their growth was more than the growth of the developed countries, so their growth was happening. So, it was a win-win strategy for both of them. But now, in the last ten years, if you look into the manufacturing, it has

already saturated. Now, after the manufacturing, what is needed is service sector, and service sector requires technology, and with the information technology being there and everybody being on one global platform, so, everybody can do the research, everybody, can do similar kind of aspects of the service and try to bring better ways of doing software or IOT and all those things which we can imagine. So, information is becoming for all. That is why this declining trend is there. European countries do not want to share their ideas and technologies with the world. At the same time, Americans are also not doing that. It is a competition which has started in that way that it is a matter of my national security, it is a matter security of my people and food security in our nation. So, that is where the exports start getting declined. This we can see from another trend because WTO was established with the objective of free trade, but free trade is concerned about reducing tariff and non-tariff barriers. But tariff barriers are very easily visible. So, world has shifting from tariff barriers to non-tariff barriers in a disguised manner like put non-tariff barriers in front in such a way that those people will not be able to understand that you are putting such a barrier. And these barriers are not just imposed by the emerging economies, it has been done equally by the developed countries. In 2010, there was one report which was saying that out of G-20 nations, 17 countries defaulted on their own commitments for removing tariff barriers and these non-tariff barriers have been given subsidies in disguised ways, supporting a particular sector directly or indirectly, giving a direct benefit transfer or giving a development fund for setting up of industries. All those different ways are there, means are there, which are being utilized. That is what we can see in the discriminatory vs. liberalizing measures. Liberalizing measures are not increasing at the same pace as the discriminatory measures are increasing in the global trade.

Now I shift to what this global economic position which we are looking into is and how this is being termed now as a new theory. You may be interested in this theory which I am sharing with you now as the modern theory of self-reliance. I have worked extensively in the field of public health, so this public health has given me a very interesting theory there and this theory is being utilized

by people who de-edict the drug edicts. That is what the theory talks about. This theory is having two major aspects. First is being self-reliant. If you want to be self-reliant, first thing you need to be doing is, be true to yourself. You should know what you are and what is your reality, and you should be very clear with your strength and your weaknesses. Nobody else should be able to do that much work which you are able to understand that thing. That is the first pillar of this self-reliance that you should know what your strengths are, where you are and where you need to change yourself and what is it that you need to improve.

The second thing is that be connected. It is not just being there. The most important is being connected. You cannot be isolated. When a drug edict is there who is told that we are trying to modify you and now you try to do it yourself, you accept that yes, I am taking drugs, but I want to get out of it. But you should relate to the world; you should not get isolated into one area where you are not able to talk to the world. That is not. You should be connected. And this is what this self-reliance is also talking about that we should be connected with the world. It cannot be that you as a country remain in an isolated place. It is not like this. This being true to oneself has further three components—

**Being responsible:** Whatever you are doing, you be responsible. Not only caring for yourself, but you have also to be caring for the others. When you are being self-responsible, you will be behaving very effectively not only to yourself and others but will also be disciplined. When you are clear now that yes, you are having this problem, let us come out with the solution, and the solution is, set your target. First set your goals and be disciplined with those goals all the time. And while doing so, you need to be very confident. Having sense of identity that what you are is truth and this is having a sense of self-work. I can do it and I will do it, this is what the self-reliance theory is. I put this self-reliant theory which has been there in the nursing sciences. So, I bring into how this modern theory of self-reliance has been used by India more effectively in this *aatmanirbhar* model. The first thing which has been there is being truthful to yourself. So, that is what the Prime Minister is giving all the time – Reform, Perform and Transform. You should know where your mistakes are and reform it and perform on it better and

then transform it. Then, when he talks about the aspects of it, he says, be responsible. By being responsible, he means zero defect, zero effect, that whatever you are producing, it should not affect the environment, it should not affect any other country, and that is what he gives all the time. And then being disciplined, he gives you a target. that we want to become a \$ five trillion economies. And not only that, what is the process for that, we need to go for Make in India and being confident, he talks about that let us go for Vocal for Local and all that. You should know what your strength is. That is the demographic dividend which you have. Why is the Prime Minister talking about this Reforming, Performing and Transforming? Because we believe in - that is what he talks about – *Sabka Saath, Sabka Vishwas* and *Sabka Vikas*, and that is what Indian philosophy is, *vasudhaiva kutumbakam*.. We do not believe in development of ourselves, we believe in development of the whole world. That is this modern concept of self-reliance which is there. It is not closing the doors of the economy, you are being open to everything but, at the same time, improving yourself all the time - reforming, performing, and transforming yourself. This is what this modern theory of self-reliance is.

Now, what action we have taken for policy reforms in Aatma Nirbhar Bharat in the last two decades? Although many reforms have been done in the last two decades, but I am just taking the last two years. I will not go into the details because of time limitation but I will just talk about top ten reforms which have been taken up by the Government and which are very important for all of us.

1. An important initiative which has been taken is production-linked incentive scheme for 'Make in India'. The scheme is not just for the telecom sector or for the communication sector, it is open for many other sectors also.
2. The second major reform which has been taken is agriculture and farm sector reforms. It is not about improving the market condition of the farmers giving a better marketing opportunity to the farmers by these farm laws but, at the same time, they have tried to strengthen the agriculture infrastructure and logistics and capacity building has been tried into this

- that infrastructure should be built to help these farmers to improve themselves. So, that is another focus area which has been reformed.
3. The third area is the leverage technology-based system, which is another pillar which the Prime Minister talked about. So, we brought this concept of leveraging technology to enable migrants to access the PDS system which is One Nation One Ration Card Scheme. So, that is where we are trying to help people and wherever they need, we become a socially responsible country also. Let nobody feel that he is dying hungry. Wherever they are, they will be given food and other things required for their life.
  4. Next is Defence Acquisition Procedure which has been reformed. There we tried to make the things easier and if Rs.200 crore things have to be purchased, no global tenders are required, and they can purchase them in India. Many other things are also seen in the acquisition procedure which make 'Make in India' more effectively possible.
  5. Another one is Corporatisation of Ordnance Factory Boards which has been recently announced. So, this is another step towards transforming the ownership and performing the task in the Defence production.
  6. Another major scheme is Asset Monetisation, utilizing your own assets which you have and making a National Monetisation Pipeline so that whatever asset is there, a land or an area, it should be improved more effectively.
  7. The next area of reform is this New Public Sector Enterprises policy for the Aatma Nirbhar Bharat which has been announced. We have restricted it to only five or six sectors, and not even restricted, it will be monitored by the Government, but the rest will be open for the people. Whereso ver they want to come and join with the people of India, it is open.
  8. Another major reform which I will talk about is the National Education Policy, which is the game-changer in itself, understanding the future needs of India and reforming the education accordingly. That footprint has been laid down in the policy reform.

9. New Labour Law Codes is another major reform, combining 29 fragmented labour laws into one and bringing in four laws which are strictly meeting the requirements of the people. So, that is another major area where hurdles have been removed.

10. Last but not the least is this whole of *Aatmanirbhar*, that is, MSMEs and bringing Ease of Doing Business, so that more and more FDI can come into India.

So, all these reforms which have been put forward by the Government have been taken up. We will be looking forward in the future years how we will be putting India into Aatma Nirbhar position.

I shift to the last portion of my discussion, that is, what are the challenges and the way forward for the Aatma Nirbhar Bharat. Let us see what challenges we have.

The first and the biggest challenge that we have is job creation and occupational transition. That is what is the major concern for all of us because as we know, we are a country which is having young population but, at the same time, the rate at which we are growing, by 2030, our population with over 15 years of age, which is the working population, will be 1.2 billion. The overall population will be touching more than 1.5 billion but out of this, the working population will be 1.2 billion. If this much working population will be there, there would be need for creating jobs for them. So, this many jobs we need to have.

Another challenge which has come across is that people are shifting from agriculture. If I come from a generation where my father was a farmer, I do not want my son to be in agriculture. That is what the shift is which is happening. If we look into the trend, from 2012 to 2018, 3.7 million people every year shift from agriculture. In 2018, 44 per cent of our population was in agriculture, and by 2030, this number will be 30 per cent, that is, only 30 per cent people will be there in agriculture. That means lot of people will be shifting to the non-farm jobs which they are looking for. If I count these two major shifts, it means we need to create at least 90 million non-farm jobs between 2020 and 2030. So, this is incremental.

Whatever be the exiting rate at which we are increasing the jobs, 90 million incremental jobs we need to create.

Another challenge n front of us is that female labour force's participation in India is just 21 per cent as against the global figure of 49 per cent. If I look into this particular figure, the Government has put in the last decade lot of efforts, such as, *Beti Bachao Beti Padao*, gender budgeting and improving the female role into the society. If those measures are working well, it is putting forward lot of expectation in the people. That means, this 21 per cent female participation will be increasing by 2030 to 30 per cent, and if it is going to be increased to 30 per cent, we need 55 million jobs for women also, which is incremental in nature. So, if I put together this 55 million plus 90 million, that means 145 million jobs we need to create, which is a big challenge for us. Where will these jobs come from? I have tried to give a way forward to this particular thing. To create these 145 million jobs, we need to focus on people who are working as farmers. What is the next best possible industry for them? T he next best possible industry for them is agro and farm-based food-processing industry. If a person who is into the milk production, why should he not go in for food processing, making *paneer*, making chocolate, and all those things and become a world factory for supplying to the world? I am saying for all agro-related farming which we are having, whether it is fishery or whatever, because as we talk about, by 2030, things will be changing and middle class will be growing. If middle class will be growing and if both husband and wife would be working, they will be having very less time for cooking food. So, if fast food or processed food is there, I can quickly come and make *chhonka* and other things as per my need. And that is what is the need for us because we love our taste, but the raw material, which is coming or the vegetable, which is getting rotten in their taste, if I increase the shelf life of it to 15 to 20 days or one month, that is where we can work out more effectively and that is where we can focus more. The second industry which can give immediate job is the construction Industry where not many skills are required. Just four to six months skill training you give and then finally people can be put into the work, and they can work effectively. But where should this construction be done? At present, we

are having MNREGA which is for the villages. This MNREGA is already there. But at the same time, we need to put them in tier-3 cities so as to arrest this population and not allow this population to come to the main cities. We already know that our cities are having a problem of urbanization and a lot of problems are facing. So, that will create another disaster. That is why we need to develop these tier-3 cities more effectively and more infrastructure should be created in those cities. That is where construction industry can play a big role. Thereby, you will be able to arrest the population nearby to the villages, rather than putting them into the big urban areas.

Last but not the least challenge would be in another area. If I am talking about all these things, then supply chain will be increasing. It will be needing a global supply chain and supply chain within the country. Then, we need the logistics sector to be very effectively working which will be supporting the logistics sector which will be supporting the manufacturing sector, transport, and all that. I think many jobs have been created by companies like Zomato which are there in Delhi or NCR or other places. These kinds of services or the logistics sector can go to the Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities. So, that is the future which we should look for.

Now I come to the second challenge which we have. The second challenge is the problem of employability because the unemployment rate among the youth, which we say is a demographic dividend for us, is 34 per cent among 20-24 age group. This is the most productive age and there is so much unemployment. Why this unemployment is there is because every year 11 million new job seekers are entering into the job market but only 5.5 million jobs are being created. So, that is where the gap is. This gap is because not only we are not able to create jobs but, at the same time, people do not have the required skills to be there. If I compare the Indian skill training data with the global data, in India, just 2.3 per cent population is having skill training as compared to Europe. In U.K. it is 68 per cent, in Germany it is 80 per cent, in USA it is 52 per cent, in Japan it is 80 per cent and in South Korea it is 96 per cent. The course curriculum which we are talking about is not aligned with industry-dominated skills. So, that is where the problem comes



in., and this problem leads to another thing. 48 per cent of employers reported hiring difficulty due to the skill shortage in the candidates. They say, we want to take the person, but he does not know what he needs to do. He is having all theoretical concepts in his mind, but he does not know what practically he needs to do. So, that question is missing with them. AICTE study has given a shocking result that 49 per cent of engineering graduates, which is a skill-based course, are unemployed and every year 60 lakh general degree graduates are passing out without job. This is the major area of concern for all of us. Why this is so is because education content is not aligned with the industry-demanded skills.

So, what is the solution to this problem or what action we have taken in this regard It is not that the Government is not knowing about this thing. They have done a lot of efforts in the last 6-7 years. We know that Skill India Missions have been launched and lot of effort has been done to create vocational courses, lot of ITIs were set up, polytechnic institutions were set up and then Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendras were established, Skill India We have taken up Skill India in the Mission mode. All these things are being done. But what is the main problem? The problem is, if I ask the parents of those children who are 10<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> passed, what are you looking for, do you want your child to start working immediately, they say: Sir, *woh 6 mahinay ka course to kar lega, lekin 6 mahinay ka course karne ke baad kam-se-kam graduate to hona hi chahiye. Tabhi to uski shadi ho payegi ya baaki cheezen ho payengi. Agar ek MBBS doctor graduation kar leta hai*, which is a purely skilled work, but he says, 'Sir, my value is nothing in the market. I need to do at least M.D.' When he does MD, after that if we ask him, 'Are you employable', he says, 'No, Sir. I need to do at least D.M. Because when I will be a super specialist, then only I will take a job'. So, this aspirational mind that we have in the people is something which is creating skill courses. Even if you create so many skill courses, these skill persons will not have demand. That is what we are facing. In Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendras, lot of skill courses are being done but people are not able to do the job after that because nobody wants that job. They say, *'gar maine electrician ka course kar liya to zindgi bhar electrician hi rahunga aur electrician hi retire ho jayunga kya?'* So, nobody wants

that job. He wants to change his profile after some time because he is aspiring for more and more value. But our university system is not ready to accept this thing that if he has done a skill course, if he has experience of one year or two years, he should be given some leeway to his graduation degree. *Agar uska ek saal ka experience hai to uski degree ka duration chaar saal ki jagah do saal kar diya jaye ya kuchh kam kiya jaye.* So, that is where we need to work out this thing.

So, what is the way forward for this? In the last 7-8 years, we have done a lot of work in the Skill Councils that have been established. These Skill Councils are headed by who's and who's of all industries and they are given the right kind of content they need for the students. So, these three months, six months capsule courses we need to merge together and do our educational degrees, and that is where integration of Ministry of Education and Ministry of Skill Development is required because otherwise education industry is having a divorce from the industry. So, this *beech wala aadmi jiske paas saari information hai ki exactly kya chahiye*, that is the Skill Development Ministry. Why not use that Ministry? The Skills Development Ministry is having shortage of funds, shortage of infrastructure, shortage of staff. So, if we bring all these things together, then it will be a win-win strategy for all of us that we bring trainer base. Because infrastructure is already there, teachers are there for teaching, everything is there, but there is need to reorient the teachers and that will not take time. If we do that, then this problem will be very much sorted out in the coming years and the content driven by the industry and service sector will be incorporated into the apprenticeship and compulsory internship should be there for the students.

Now, I come to the third channel which we have, which is competition for global supply chain and ease of doing business. This Covid has given to the world that one place, putting one egg in one basket, is not good enough, or you restrict all your production in China, that is not good. What we are looking at is, we should go out at other places also and prepare a local supply chain for supplying to the world. So, they are open but what they are looking for is what advantage China has given to them. China+1 should be given to them and this China+1 is what we need to focus on. We have done a lot of good work in the last 7-8 years that we

have reached from 45 to 63 rank in Ease of Doing Business. This is overall ranking where we have improved. But if we want to invite people to come to India, our ranking in terms of setting up of business is 136 out of 190 countries and 154 for registering the property and 163 for enforcing the contracts. This is the main area of concern where we need to work hard to improve our Ease of Doing Business and there, we need to play a major role. I will come to who is the players who needs to come to play a role here.

Another issue which has been flagged by the global players is data localisation policy of the Government of India, intellectual property rights, high tariffs which have been there, duplicative safety measures being asked, the security testing, price controls and even FDI restrictions are still there in the insurance sector. Though it has increased from 49 per cent to 74 per cent but still there are restrictions which people are facing.

We are facing big competition from Thailand, Mexico, Vietnam, and Indonesia. They are having what we have. They have population, we also have population, large population which China has opened to the world. So, similar kind of things they also have, but they have better ease of doing business ranking than us. That is where we need to bring this one+.

We have one+ in another thing. We are having a middle class which is ready to spend money because cashless middle class is there. So, this one+ is something which we should market more effectively to get into this and improve our position. These challenges which I have mentioned can be improved only with digitalization of business and Government processes re-engineering.

Another challenge which I will come to is low research and development expenditure, which is the major area of concern for all of us because if a nation wants to become self-reliant, to become self-reliant, nation needs to increase its expenditure on R&D. If we look into our last two decades, we are constantly declining in our R&D expenditure. Our R&D expenditure is 0.7 per cent of our GDP. Though in absolute terms we are increasing our R&D expenditure but in relative terms it is not increasing at all; it is almost stagnant for the last ten years. So, this is a major area of concern. Good news is that private sector is increasing

its R&D expenditure as compared to Government sector, but I do not think, though it is the good news that private sector who is the user of this, they are coming up with R&D, that will be more effective. But where do we need R&D? We need R&D into the sectors which are mainly coal, mineral, defence, manufacturing, airports and airspace management, power distribution, social infrastructure, space and nuclear energy. These are the areas where we need R&D and these areas are mainly controlled by the Government at this point. So, that is why I say at this point that way forward is that Government should also increase its R&D expenditure, and Government has committed this thing by setting up this National Research Foundation. But this National Research Foundation must work together with industry and academia partnership in universities. It is not only IITs which need to produce R&D, all universities are equally responsible for this thing to do this work, that is, where the integration of industry and academia is required.

Another good news which we have is that our research officers are not just here and there, our research officers are very focused. Our research publication, which is one of the major indicators for where R&D is going, our research publication looks into all emerging areas, such as agricultural production, health, sustainable energy, vaccination, maintaining genetic diversity and climate ready crops. Our publication is not only double the global average, sometimes it is even triple in some of the areas. So, that is the good news for us. We know where we need to do and that is where we should focus on now by making our R&D efforts which are not dependent on the outside world, it is basically promoting our traditional knowledge system which we have and we need to focus on indigenously designed technologies, and grass-root innovations can be promoted which would be focused on the coming years. New R&D Draft Policy is ready on that, and it is talking about all these points.

The last area which is there is, reforming the governance system. At present, this Make in India or Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Campaigns are at the national level. So, national sentiments are there, but, at the same time, States are also required to have an equal participation.

Will every State come forward and be able to do this effectively? Will every State bring industry to them? Will they be able to face the competition, competitive federalism which we are talking about? Will it happen in that way? It will not because some of the States which are backward, they do not have resources. They need to be given the resources. So, that is where we need to bring a balance between competition and the cooperative federalism where both will be existing together. This competition or cooperation is not only required at the State level, this has to go to the level of district as well as to the panchayat level also so that some panchayats which are doing good, let them be the frontrunners and fight for getting more resources. But those who are really in a very bad situation, they should be given the resources on compassionate ground so that they can also develop. That is what India believes in – *sabka saath, sabka vikas*. So, that is where we can focus.

Our decision making, which is there in the Government system, is presently more rule-based and what this Mission Karayogi has talked about I, we should go in for role-based, and not only role-based, we need to focus on taking decisions based on evidence, based on data analytics which is coming up very fast, based on technology, so that quick decisions can be taken rather than making our process such a long, responsive and people friendly governance should be there because the world is changing very fast. If we take decisions so slow, if we take so much time in approving or disapproving, that will not be good. Whether we approve or disapprove a power plant, let us finish it then and there so that it should not be hanging fire that okay, five years, and even after five years, nothing is moving. So, we have to move out of it and make the person responsible for not taking the decision.

And what is the role of the third sector, which is the NGO sector? They need to bring this social behaviour change communication to the mindset of the people that yes, we can do it and we can become Aatma Nirbhar Bharat and we can really do the best for the world, and we can be the world supply centre. *Sonay ki chidiya jo ham bolte hain, ham ban sakte hain. Jab tak ham mein aatmavishvas nahin ayega*, we will not be able to do this work.

It is not that we are going to make ourselves *aatmanirbhar*, we want to make the world self-reliant, and that is what we in India believe in. Thank you all very much for your patient listening.

## REMARKS BY DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DIRECTOR GENERAL: Thank you, Dr. Taneja, for a very passionate presentation. You quoted a Hindi couplet in the end, and I must say that it encapsulated the entire thought process of your Aatma Nirbhar Paper. I am happy that you linked it with the modern theory of self-reliance also. Of course, the object of how to deal with a drug edict is to be connected as well as separated. Same thing is true for *aatmanirbhar* also. You cannot be disconnected with the world while trying to stand on your legs. *Kisi ne kaha hai na ki—*

*Samandar ulta seedha bolta hai*

*Tarike se to pyasa bolta hai*

We are dependent on foreign capital, foreign innovation. You cannot go in my way. You have to have a very balanced approach and those who have listened to your Paper today, they must have got a very very good idea what is the thought behind this Aatma Nirbhar Bharat. Aatma Nirbhar Bharat campaign launched by hon. Prime Minister in the last two years is a culmination of series of steps taken by each one of us. ‘Male in India’ was launched, ‘Start-up India’ was launched, ‘Digital India’ was launched, ‘JAM’ was launched and many more such initiatives have been taken, including the legal reforms. Scrapping of 1,500 obsolete Acts was launched. Even Articles 370, 25 and 35A were taken. All these were tough decisions for any political system. The aspect which you were saying ‘reform’, it is essentially political. A lot of water has flown in the river Mahanadi as well as Ganga is getting cleaned. But the fact remains that all these reforms require a ready to buy the bullet type of bureaucracy and type of support system which will make these reforms successful, make them walk on the ground and, therefore, initiatives like Ease of Doing Business, initiatives like reforms in education policy, reforms in Skill India and skill Mission. all these things should be seen as a totality that how we are preparing our citizens to become *aatmanirbhar*. After all, political system is subservient to economic system and economic system is part of overall social system. So, we, in India have to deal with them, what we call design thing and system thing and all those things. I think many concepts you, as a

professor, have brought into the rare domain. Government is working on all these things. But the general impression is getting created that the leader is being defeated by his own army of bureaucrats. That means the system is not capable of rising to the occasion and that is where the role of institutions like IIPA, our intellectuals and thought leaders who are associated with us, becomes a little extra large because we are not theoreticians here, we are also practitioners. In fact, IIPA as such and other mid-career training institutions are trying to intervene in this area that you are not only bureaucrat where you are supposed to implement the rules. In case that is the job, then robots can do better. Therefore, you are a thinking head. Have the role-based approach, if your role is developing the people, then do that role, do not follow the rules only. That does not mean that you throw the rules to the wind because, after all, accountability and responsibility cannot be diverse to each other. In fact, the diverse will be unhealthy, but accountability does not mean only following and meeting the audit requirements, and responsibility does not mean doing nothing because you can be taken to task. Similarly, you have also highlighted what is the philosophy behind this *Swadeshi* or *Swaraj* or *Aatmanirbhar*. In fact, this is a continued story you are trying to build up, and right from highlighting from 1840. I think it must be news for many. We thought that *aatmanirbhar* is a fairly recent concept, but your presentation gives good insight that India has been attempting on all these lines because we have been a thinking head, we have been a thinking civilization, and this is not once upon a time. We might have been subjugated politically or colonized by foreign powers, but we never lost sight of a louder thinking.

One more aspect I would like to compliment you for bringing the concept of dignity of labour because if you think that only education will make you great and which will be devoid of *hunnar* or skill, then such days are over. These are days of too many jobs and too less employment. One life, one education, one job and one retirement life are no longer going to be true. The average life span of a job is becoming three years and 5 years. When my generation joined, and many people listening to me might have done one job for 25 years but my son and their kids will do at least two jobs a day or, maybe, five jobs in 10 years and maybe 30



jobs before they leave this world. Limited point is that jobs are increasing, employment is decreasing, and these jobs require future-ready skills, maybe something as you have highlighted, how Skill Council has meant a lot of difference, how we make policy preparing a social capital for the world so that we become the manpower supplier of the world. If the New Education Policy goes into the right direction, the role of teachers becomes important because you cannot say that first I will de-educate them and then let the country do the challenge. This challenge is self-repeating. Students must learn, teachers must teach, and they should never be devoid of commonsense. *Hunnar hai to kadr hai, agar hunnar nahin hai to* by only taking the degree, you cannot get a job. In private sector, Government sector, we are investing so much money in training. If you are hiring a trained manpower or trained person power, he or she should be able to hit the ground running. But today, every employer needs a lot of training. People do not know what they have been taught, people never realise what they have learnt, and they cannot do anything with their degrees, and it has become a mere certificate.

You have also highlighted what is the headwind and tailwind behind the development process of the Government of India. Some aspects have been taken care of, like liberating capital so that the unlocking of potential of public sector undertakings and taking Government works together. ‘One nation one ration card’ you have highlighted, New Education Policy you have highlighted, you have also highlighted PLI Scheme which will make India manufacturing hub. ‘China + 1’ strategy of global MNCs and PMCs also give good opportunity, but this requires that from DM to CM to PM, not only political and administrative aspect but whole mindset of people should be there. We have been nurturing East India Company mindset for too long. We think that wealth creators are destroyers of our freedom. We all want to become rich. *Hum Lakshmi aur Saraswati dono chahte hain, par Dono se do gaz ki doori banaye rakhte hain.* That is not the order of the day. To become wealth creator, you have to have respect for the wealth and wealth creator. That does not be a mindless pursuit but certainly needs a responsible activity, whatever you do.

You have very clearly highlighted ‘zero defect zero effect’ that if you are running a restaurant, it does not mean that you will throw the rest of the dirty things on the road. You should be a responsible manufacturer, whatever you do. Zero defect means top class, world class, global quality and zero effect means zero impact on rest of it. To recycle, reuse and all those things are concepts of sustainable development. Eco-friendly production is already there. But even otherwise also, like, if you see lot of telephones are there but electronic waste who will manage? They think that pests will eat all these things. This is not the best way of going. Why are we going for improvement every three months? Because market will require a new product every six months so that you can throw your previous things. Earlier, in our generation, two pairs of clothes were good for one year, today, you require two pairs of clothes every day and if tomorrow the design change, you have to hang those boots and shirts and pants and, maybe, go for something else. So, all these things require a sea change in our mindset and toolset and all these things have been very beautifully highlighted by you. I must compliment you for your hard work done in this area and the type of presentation that you made. In fact, one should feel pride and all those who have listened to you must have got a new wisdom, a new way of looking at *aatmanirbhar*. *Aatmanirbharta* is not a political slogan; It is resetting the mindset of the people of India. If the people of India feel that they will not become *aatmanirbhar*, they will become *sarkar nirbhar*, they will only become *padosi nirbhar*, they will never stand on their own legs, no power on earth can make them *aatmanirbhar*. So, this is a very subtle attempt on the part of Government and political leadership of today that let us look back. That does not mean look up and look down or look none, it is a question of balanced living and balanced production, manufacturing, services and all those things. That is why I say, somebody very clearly said that *pardesi samaan deshanukool ho, desi samaan yuvanukool ho, tab ja ke aap aatmanirbhar ban sakte hain*. That means hyper consumerism. Many more things which were not part of our Indian culture and civilisation, they have entered our market. Today, people say that *kitabein pado. Aaj kitabon ka matlab ‘book’ ho gaya hai*. Book means Facebook, not the written book. chips mean not the potato

chips but rather finger chips and many more things which are part of not our own system. With *bati-chokha* you are better-off, with burger and hamburger and hotdog, you are not better-off. I am not saying, which is good, which is bad, which needs the mindless pursuit of something, which is essentially foreigner, which is essentially not manufactured in India, you are giving a high value for that, ignoring your own local product. Why should we not buy local? Why made in China or made anywhere else? Why not made by our *kumhars*? Why not use earthen pot for tea? Why use plastic and create a huge problem in the system? All these things you have highlighted very beautifully, and I would like to sum it up. But one feels proud that one got a chance to listen to a very informed speech today.

One thing I would like to certainly point out here that today, Swaraj, Suraj and Aatmanirbhar, these three words need to be understood by the politicians, the economists, and the social scientists, including the academia in a right perspective. ‘Vocal for global’ and ‘Glocalisation’, the words you have used, are very relevant in areas where you have capacity to compete. Where you do not have capacity to compete adopting them, co-opting them is not a bad idea, and I think you have also highlighted that our *aatmanirbharta* is not a *koop mandook*, like safety from Corona is not that *ek ped par chad jao* and you are having *do gaz ki doori* from the rest of the world. You have to live in the world and still face Crona. Same is true for *Aatmanirbhar* or anti-globalisation or de-globalisation. We are too low in our per capita income that we can be away from the global system. On the other hand, we should join the GVM, global value chain and global value system, both regional and local, and that is the way forward you have highlighted. You have also highlighted one thing which we should be aware of that ease of doing business is not the only solution we should use against the wars attacking China and challenges of MNCs. We should be aware of who are our competitors. Vietnam, Mexico, Indonesia and many other Asian, *videshi* power you have identified. Everybody is wooing capital and capital is waiting for good return because ROY is no longer limited only to the private capital, ROY should be good even for the Government also. Why should Government waste its capital in

bailing out Air India when, at the same time, they can be run efficiently by any private group? You have tried to compliment privatization and you have appreciated the new PSE policy that why the Government should be there in the public sector. We are no longer living in the world of 1950s and 1960s where we needed to manufacture everything because nobody was giving us. Today, we have the value chain. When you wanted one Apple computer which was manufactured in 20 countries, we could not get a product of \$100000 in your hand. So, the competitive advantage and all those things are still relevant. They have not gone out of the textbooks, and they will never move out of the context. But they all need to be interpreted efficiently.

Let me thank you, the listeners. We will have a three-minute break and then we will take up each State the way they have committed their Paper. We will start with Assam Regional branch, then go to Bihar, Burdwan, Delhi, Dharwad and so on and so forth. First one will be Assam Regional branch and then we will start our discussion.

Thank you, ladies, and gentlemen. This is a technical break for easing you out.

**(SHORT BREAK)**

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Good morning, friends. We are back once again. I will compliment each one of you for holding your prelude seminars and I invite you to share your considered views. We have prepared a list of branches who will be making their presentations, but we thought that those who are senior in the IIPA membership and those who are present, we will try to take them first. If all of you agree, we can announce the first four persons. First, we will take up Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh branch President, Mr. Sethi, followed by Shri Suresh Kumar of Kerala and Dr. Arun Rath from Odisha and then Mr. Chauhan.

Let me welcome each one of you once again for sparing your valuable time for being present on such an important occasion where each one of you will be sharing your thoughts with us.

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Now I will invite the Chairman, Kerla Branch, Shri Suresh Kumar Ji, in case he wants to speak. Please go ahead, Sir.

DR. G. RADHAKRISHNA KURUP, SECRETARY, KERALA REGIONAL  
 BRANCH: Good morning Tripathi Ji, Pawan Kumar Ji, Amitabh Ranjan Ji,  
 Mithun Barua Ji and other Regional Branches' office bearers. I am Radhakrishna  
 Kurup from Kerala Branch speaking today. Dr. R.K. Suresh Kumar will be  
 speaking tomorrow.

The Kerala Regional Branch organized the Prelude Conference on the  
 theme "Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan" on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2021 through online  
 mode. The conference was chaired by Dr. R.K. Suresh Kumar, Chairman of the  
 Branch and was inaugurated by Shri Surendra Nath Tripathi, Director-General,  
 Indian Institute of Public Administration. The Theme Paper was presented by Dr.  
 P. Suresh Kumar, an eminent economist.

Inaugurating the webinar, Tripathi Ji explained in detail about the various  
 steps adopted by the Government of India to fruitfully implement this program to  
 make India a 'Self-reliant country'. Presenting the theme, Dr. Suresh observed  
 that as an economic programme aimed at reorganizing production structure in the  
 economy, Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan is a unique vision and effort to gear up

the entire governance to face the calamity that devastated our economy and the life and livelihood of the people. The resilient economy that we had inherited from our previous epochs and the farsighted leadership of a statesman, Prime Minister, Narendra Modi has motivated us to reorganize the production under the principle of Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan. The gravity of the situation was such that we could not afford to drift back to the policy of business as usual. The crisis required agile decision making. The programme of self-reliance should unleash all the production potential of the country by appropriating all capabilities that are available inside and outside the country.

The experts who actively participated in the discussion were Dr. Reetha S. Prabha, former Additional Secretary of the Government of Kerala, Dr. Abram Mathew, Dr. K.C. Sreekumar and Dr. C. Rajasekhara Pillai, Dr. Muraleedhara Menon, Dr. R. Rajeevan, Dr. Ronie Thomas, Dr. S.L.Sreekuar and others. All these people and others who participated in the webinar discussed the matter in detail about the five pillars suggested in the Theme Paper.

### **1. The economy**

It refers to the total economic activities in its entirety. It is perceived in its integrated and interrelated fashion. It is not making any distinction as organized or unorganised, public, or private or any sectoral classification such as agriculture or industry. A total perception of the economy enables a comprehensive understanding of the potential economies of scale and strategies of its appropriation. This will produce spin-off effects and a source of X-efficiency which ultimately leads to higher growth and development.

### **2. Infrastructure**

It is a critical input for growth. The composite of infrastructure has tremendously changed from its traditional mode. It is not simply the roads, ports and the air strips. The modern infra include faster connectivity and extensive digitalization across all sectors and activities. A threshold level of infra consisting of all these critical variants will be a major determinant to create permissive growth impulses in an economy.

### **3. Technology Driven System**



The efficiency parameter in any productive activity is now more linked with the quality and the kind of technology that we use in the production system. Primarily, it is our capacity to absorb and develop the cutting-edge technology that enhances our economic leverage towards self-reliance.

#### **4. Vibrant Demography**

It indicates the availability of quality manpower which basically is determined by the quality of the education system, the skill development, cultural attitudes, and the welfare care ensured to the society by the system.

#### **5. Demand**

All these four determine the kind and pattern of demand which, in turn, influence the sustainability of the system. Once it is sustainable, it will be a self-reliant and a self-generating system.

These five pillars are interconnected and interactive. Appropriate policy framework can strengthen these pillars to ensure efficiency, equity, and resilience.

A lot of research scholars, faculty members, St. John's College, Anchal, P.G. students and IIPA members attended the meet. The biannual Newsletter was also released during this event by Dr. R.K. Suresh Kumar. I welcomed the gathering and Dr. P. Sukumaran Nair proposed the vote of thanks.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Thank you very much, Sir, for giving a brief account of all that happened. Since I was also a listener for a while, I convey my thanks for inviting me also for this webinar on prelude conference organized by Kerala branch.

May I request Dr. Arun Rath to speak something on this occasion. Next would be Rajasthan.

DR. ARUN KUMAR RATH, CHAIRMAN, ODISHA REGIONAL BRANCH: Good morning, Dr. Tripti, Dr. Taneja and friends. I must compliment Dr. Taneja for an excellent presentation and a very good report. I have gone through it. I must compliment Dr. Taneja and the IIPA team for this. Now, very briefly speaking, I will take about three to four minutes, not more than that.

We organized a webinar on Aatma Nirbhar Bharat: Various Dimensions on 6<sup>th</sup> of October 2021. We had participation by about 58 members and, of course, guests also. We began the event by paying tribute to Mahatma Gandhi who was the champion of Aatma Nirbhar Bharat by his Swadeshi Movement and then we realized, and we recalled, and we stressed that Aatma Nirbhar Bharat is a vision of a new India that is an on-going process. It is not going to end; it will keep on happening. What we did was, besides my own participation, we had invited Shri Ajit Pai, distinguished expert on economics and finance, Niti Aayog, we had invited Dr. Chukka Kondaiah, former DG of National Institute of MSME, Hyderabad and Prof. Niraj Kumar, Professor of Rural Management in XIM University, Bhubaneswar. So, a very good team of experts!

I will not go into the details because of limitation of time but what we realized is that entrepreneurship is key to building self-reliant India, and the biggest problem lies in entrepreneurship. When this start-up business comes, what problem they face, that must be understood and solved, otherwise self-reliant India cannot grow.

We also emphasized on the role of women entrepreneurs. Now, much research has been done on the role of women entrepreneurs. Unfortunately, they constitute only 14 per cent of business. In Odisha, we have formed one Odisha Corporate Foundation and women entrepreneurs are in the forefront. I have had lot of interaction, talks through this social forum for women and I am amazed what they want is, they say, ‘We want no support from you, don’t just create problems for us. What a great expectation! – ‘don’t create problems; we will compete with you’. In fact, research conducted by National Sample Survey has shown that only 14 per cent of business in India is run by women entrepreneurs. We are ignoring this very very important vital sector which has a great potential and great contribution. In fact, if I quote from the McKinsey Survey of 2015, it says: “With equal participation of women in the economy, India’s GDP can rise by as high as 60 per cent by 2025”, which translates to an addition of \$2,9 trillion to the Indian economy. The GDP growth of India can be achieved only if we encourage and promote women entrepreneurs and do not create problems for them

– problems of safety, problems of gender equality and other problems - give them a level playing field, and do not create hurdles, I think women entrepreneurs can contribute to Aatma Nirbhr Bharat Abhiyan.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Sir, kindly unmute yourself.

DR. ARUN KUMAR RATH: Oh, sorry, Sir. Women's entrepreneurship contribution is very very crucial. I was making a very important point. I do not know whether you could hear that or not. I was saying that the National Sample Survey says, only 14 per cent of the entrepreneurs are women and with an equal participation, McKinsey says that India's GDP can rise by 16 to 60 per cent by 2025 if women entrepreneurs are participating on equal basis. As I told you, we, in Odisha, have Odisha Corporate Foundation. We did a lot of events. We found out that women want no help from you. They say, 'Please do not help us, we will be doing on our own. Don't create problems for us. In fact, I was very amazed to see that women entrepreneurs say, 'Just do not create problems for us, we will be doing on our own. So, NEP, 2020 is very ambitious. It should be able to create the 21<sup>st</sup> century quality education among the youth. Dignity of labour, multi-discipline education, vocationalisation and self-employment, these are key issues which our system of education is not encouraging; job creation is our goal.

Now, friends, we had audience, and I will just tell you how our audience was enlightened in our branch. They asked about and participated about competitiveness of Indian products in world market, meeting challenges of Chinese goods, reforms in education in India, labour productivity, MSMEs' problems, credit facilities, plight of migrant labour, rural poverty, unemployment. In fact, we are not making enough progress in rural economy. If rural economy is suffering the way it is suffering, we are not going to become *aatmanirbhar*.

Lastly, before I finish, becoming *aatmanirbhar* is a continuing process. It involves adoption of multi-dimensional strategy covering all sectors of economy which are inter-dependent. Our economy can grow to a level of five trillion US dollar only if we take these steps that we suggested and many more.

Thank you very much for your patient hearing. I tried to cut short within the time allotted to me. Thank you, Mr. Tripathi and the entire team of IIPA.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Thank you very much, Sir, for your insight on empowering women and many other such insights, including your very healthy concern about NEP because if it is not implemented properly, it will create a chaos because one will not know who has become graduate, who has become PG and it will take a dating test that when did you do your first semester and when did you do your last semester. So, lot of issues are there. But change is always better for life, and I must compliment you. We have listened to you very carefully.

May I request our Rajasthan representative to give his presentation.

SHRI H. L. CHAUHAN, VICE-CHAIRMAN, RAJASTHAN REGIONAL BRANCH: Tripathi Saheb, Dr. Pawan Kumar Taneja and all other online participants. Let me congratulate Dr. Pawan Taneja for covering all the aspects of the theme in the report.

Rajasthan Regional branch organised a webinar on the theme 'Aatma Nirbhar Bharat' and its various aspects. This regional webinar was held on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2021. Dr. Devendra Kothari, Harvard-educated, eminent demographer, and former Director, IIHMR, and Shri S.S. Bissa, IAS (Retd.) were the keynote speakers. Prof. Ramesh Arora introduced the keynote speakers and I, H.L. Chauhan also welcomed the keynote speakers. I gave a brief detail of the theme and first invited Dr. Devendra Kothari to speak on the subject. In all, 42 online participants were there, including bureaucrats, technocrats and students.

Prof. Devendra Kothari mentioned that India could achieve self-sufficiency in food and milk products, but India has to make a lot of efforts for poverty alleviation. Still there are 66 per cent poor living in India as per the World Bank report. The world hunger index shows that India ranks 101 out of 116 countries, which is not a fair status, and this is due to low productivity. We want to decrease trade with China but, on the other hand, it has increased by 49 per cent because their products are comparatively cheaper. We have 40 per cent labour involved in agriculture sector but its production is only 15 per cent of the GDP. Then, he gave lot of examples of China, Shanghai, and all that.

Shri Bissa mentioned that several programmes already launched by the Prime Minister are in process and he mentioned that 4.5 lakh PPE kits per day are

being manufactured, which was zero initially, vaccinations target of more than 100 crores has been achieved and major production of the vaccines has taken place in India. Recently, IITs are going for manufacturing rolls for the Railway Board while HAL has made an agreement for Rs.40,000 crore Defence production. He also visited *kachchi bastis* of Jaipur and mentioned that remarkable improvement is there in the education sector. He also mentioned that several medical colleges are coming to improve the health infrastructure and we have been able to control coronavirus disease to a greater extent in comparison to the Western countries.

After the presentations were over, some students who participated also interacted with the keynote speakers and detailed discussion took place. Following major recommendations emerged out of the interaction:

1. We must frame detailed action plan for the Aatma Nirbhar Bharat, followed by an effective monitoring system.
2. Poverty alleviation programmes will be strengthened.
3. Productivity needs to be improved so as to increase exports and reduce imports and make the programme 'Make in India' a reality with zero defects.
4. The agriculture sector needs to be given special attention so as to be self-sufficient, with export-oriented strategy.
5. Human resource development needs to be given special attention
6. Health infrastructure being created needs to be strictly monitored so as to be useful.
7. Working conditions of the informal sector labour need to be strengthened with proper rules and regulations so that they feel socially secure.
8. Digital technology with advanced research and development should be planned so that low-cost sustainable products could be manufactured.
9. Production-linked incentives should be given.
10. Code on social security for all citizens should be framed.
11. National Education Policy should be redesigned so that it may be job oriented.

12. Employment generation-based small, medium and large industries should be established.

13. Self-sufficiency should be the prime motto in all programmes so that there is no gap.

Prof. Satish Batra, Vice-Chairman thanked all the participants for a meaningful discussion.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to present our Branch's report.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: *Bahu-bahut dhanyavad, Chauhan Saheb. Aapne Rajasthan ke barey mein aur bahut hi safal karyakram ke vishay mein kuchh muddhe rakhe. Kahan 4-1/2 lakh logon ko vaccine lagta tha, kahan 2-1/2 crore logon ko ek din mein ham vaccine laga rahe hain. Yeh svabhiman aur achievement, donon ke liye theek hai.* May I request Prof. A. Ranga Reddy to make his presentation. Over to you, Prof. Ranga Reddy.

PROF. A. RANGA REDDY, TIRUPATI BRANCH: Thank you, Tripathi Saheb. A very very good morning. I congratulate Taneja Saheb and yourself for your hosting this conference on Aatma Nirbhar Bharat.

Sir, we started this programme with Mahalanobis who started this programme of self-reliance in the Second Five Year Plan of self-reliance in the Second Five Year Plan. Now we are celebrating *Amrut jubilee*, but these things are not taken seriously even by BJP Government.

Our population is rising, and pollution also is rising. Even Delhi is unfit for living for a common man.

Third one is about poverty. We have not been able to remove poverty. Forty per cent people in India are in poverty. So, population we have not reduced, pollution is not reduced and presently the rank of the country in hunger index is rising. *Beti bachao, beti padao* is good. Everybody accepts that. But pollution is rising. Today, Covid-19 is there because of pollution. Too much pollution is there. All urban areas are turned into slums. So, the system needs to be changed. We have to invest more money on health aspect and education. These are rising alarmingly in the country. Specially, urbanisation is taking away the food security also. We have not given proper treatment to Abdul Kalam's object

of PURA – Providing Urban Amenities to Rural Areas bringing some *shauchalayas*, *Gram Swaraj* in Andhra Pradesh only, not in India. So, I humbly request all of you to take these problems of population and poverty seriously. Our rank in global hunger index is rising alarmingly. So, we have to reduce the rank. Especially, our tribal and Scheduled Caste people are suffering very much. So, food security should be provided first to the tribal people and then to the urban population.

**Empowerment of women:** 33 per cent reservation is pending in Parliament since decades together. So, we must give women more power and women are to be empowered. We have to give reservation to women, both in Parliament and also in State Assemblies, so that women can enter the legislature at the top level. We see how Germany is ruled by Angela Merkel. That way we can empower the poor people and middle-class people and women also in India. So, we have to give this opportunity to them so that we can upgrade those families, so that India can achieve equality. The income equality has not yet come. On one side, money worth billions of dollars is there with Ambanis, Adanis and others and, on the other side, because of poverty, people are suffering in the country. Though previously we have brought some reforms, but reforms are not reaching the bottom level. So, that is my humble request to all of you.

Thank you very much, Sir.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Thank you, Sir. Now, may I request Mr. Ghuman, followed by Mr. Baskaran and then Mr. Ashish Ray.

PROF. B.S. GHUMAN, HONY. SECRETARY, PUNAJB & CHANDIGARH REGIONAL BRANCH: Hon. Dr. S.N. Tripathi Ji, Prof. Pawan Taneja Ji, Shri Amitabh Ranjan Ji, Registrar, colleagues from IIPA and esteemed members of IIPA across the country. In the case of Punjab & Chandigarh Regional Branch, we organized a prelude conference in collaboration with the Department of Public Administration, Panjab University, Chandigarh on October 21, 2021. Prof. B.S. Ojha, IAS (Retd.), Chairman of the Branch and former Chief Secretary, Haryana, presided over it.

Prof. B.S. Ghuman, Hony. Secretary, Punjab & Chandigarh Regional Branch & former Vice-Chancellor, Punjabi University, Patiala, while welcoming the participants and introducing the theme, opined that Atma Nirbhar Bharat, i.e., self-reliant India has huge contemporary policy relevance for India, particularly in the context of Covid-19 pandemic. He referred to bold economic reforms initiated under this umbrella project. The roots of self-reliance are grounded in pre-Independence era. The Swadeshi and Gram Swaraj movements steered an aggressive campaign in favour of economic nationalism by appealing Indians to buy made in India products. During post-Independence era, in Five Year Plans, the rationale and philosophy of self-reliance became an integral part of the development process. In the beginning, import substitution strategy was adopted to realize the objective of self-reliance, followed by the export-led growth strategy and finally a blending of both the strategies. According to him, the globalization policies of the early 1990s acted as a severe setback to the policy of self-reliance. The advent and persistence of Covid-19 pandemic adversely affected the economic globalization and also economy of each nation. All the countries across the globe invented their own domestic policies to revive the economies and so did India on May 13, 2020, when the hon. Prime Minister of India announced Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan to revive the economy by providing an economic stimulus of Rs.20 lakh crores followed by three more stimuli announced by the hon. Finance Minister of India. He also stated that the outcome of Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan depends upon three things: (!) convergence of the various programmes which are part of this Abhiyan; (2) the quality of governance both at the Centre and State level and (3) the readiness of the Indian companies to reap the benefits of the Abhiyan, that do we think our companies are ready to take the advantage of the Abhiyan?

Prof. V.R. Sinha, Deemed University Instruction, Panjab University and Chairperson, Department of Public Administration complimented the Department for organizing the prelude conference. He said that the Atmanirbhar Bharat framework aspires to build on the inherent strengths of the Indian economy while collaborating internationally to make India a global player. He shared how India



has progressed since Independence and how the pharma-biotech industry braved the challenges of Covid-19 to develop innovative solutions, such as diagnostics, therapies and vaccines at speed and scale to save the country as a whole.

We were very fortunate, Director-General Saheb, that Dr. Pawan Kumar Taneja, the Theme Paper author very kindly agreed to be part of the prelude conference. He extensively, as we have seen already, examined the theoretical findings of Aatma Nirbhar Bharat. For the first time, we were very fortunate to enjoy the theoretical findings of Aatma Nirbhar Bharat. Credit goes to him, credit goes to IIPA faculty as well and no doubt, the Director and Registrar as well. Dr. Taneja identified the challenges the country will face in the implementation of the programme. He delved into the philosophical understanding - very interesting part - of the idea of self-reliance present in our history, particularly the ideas of Swadeshi as emerged in the Indian national movement and the ideas of Rabindra Nath Tagore, Mahatma Gandhi and Economist, Joseph C. Kumarappa. According to Prof. Taneja, it is the blending of these ideas - the ideas that have come from these philosophers and from these thinkers – that have informed the conceptualization of Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan. Our history was full of the concepts and the Prime Minister took the advantage and combined all those at one place and announced this Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan. The trends of the new economic order, according to him, in the last decade also showed the acceptance of self-reliance through introduction of innovative non-tariff barriers by countries all around the world which points towards de-globalisation. That was his major idea of de-globalisation. I think a very penetrating idea he floated for us to test in future. When referring to the Modern Theory of Self-Reliance, implying “be true to yourself, be responsible, be disciplined, be confident and be connected”, he showcased how the Indian Government has optimally used the philosophy and rationale of self-reliant India under the leadership of hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi Ji to reform, perform and transform all sectors of the Indian economy. He opined that the world is moving towards de-globalisation, particularly the emerging economies. He identified various challenges that come in the way of making India self-reliant, such as employability, job creation and

occupational transition. Finally, skilling and focusing on skill development courses which enhance employability should be adopted across educational institutions.

Prof. Ramanjit K. Johal, Professor, Department of Public Administration, Panjab University flagged various issues. She initiated the discussion related to self-reliance, sustainability, circular economy, and redefining development, particularly in the light of climate change and Covid-19. She highlighted the contradiction between foreign direct investment (FDI) and self-reliance wherein the paradigm shift of role of public sector towards foreign private capital needs to be deeply understood. It was followed by very lively discussion.

Shri B.S. Ojha, IAS (Retd.) & Chairman, IIPA, Punjab & Chandigarh Regional Branch and former Chief Secretary, Government of Haryana in his Presidential Remarks congratulated Prof. Taneja for his excellent Paper. While sharing ground level anecdotes from his rich administrative experience, he called for a more proactive Aatmanirbhar Bharat and stressed that we need to implement programmes and improve service delivery with continuous monitoring to lead more effectively than ever before.

Finally, a couple of policy recommendations. Very quickly I will go through it.

- (1) The outcome of the Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan depends upon the convergence of various flagship programmes which are part of the Abhiyan,
- (2) Quality of governance, both at the Centre and State levels, and readiness of the Indian companies to reap the advantage of these schemes In the light of this, it is recommended to:
  - Institutionalise the convergence process among the various programmes covered under the Abhiyan. There is need to involve institutions which can bring in togetherness of these firms.
  - Improve the quality of governance at the Centre and State levels so that benefits of Aatma Nirbharat Abhiyan trickle down to the company and micro levels.

- Continuous monitoring and evaluation should be made integral part of the Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.
  - All the Indian companies are not fully prepared to take advantage of the Abhiyan. Need of the hour is to market the idea of the mission extensively across the country and start some specific capacity building programmes for the companies and self-employed entrepreneurs for making them ready to take optimal advantage of the programme.
- (3) India needs to adopt a comprehensive strategy encompassing investment, R&D initiatives, promotion of exports, skill development and a strong entrepreneurship and start-ups culture.
- (4) Boosting Investment:** Boosting investment is essential for taking advantage and for this, we must start in the public sector. If we make investment in the public sector, then it will induce the private investment
- (5) Increasing R&D Investment:** It has already been proved.
- (6) Expansion of Industry and Policy to Boost Exports:** If we want to earn foreign exchange, then we have to boost our exports as well.
- (7) Focus on Skill Development and Promotion of Start-ups Culture:** Prof. Taneja has focused on skill development and promotion and start-ups culture. It is very essential that in the light of growing emphasis on knowledge emerging as a new and trusted source of development, we need to improve the quantity as well as the quality of skills developed by the educational institutions. With a view to align the skills formed in the educational institutions with skill requirements of the 21<sup>st</sup> century industry, each education institution should set up a Finishing School. That is a good idea which has come from IIPA Regional Branch, Chandigarh. The role of the Finishing School should be to mitigate the gap between the skills formed by the educational institution and the skills required by the industry. That mismatch should be done by this. In addition, incubation centres should be set up across the educational institutions to promote the culture of start-ups and entrepreneurship.

Thank you very much for your kind attention and patient hearing.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Thank you, Sir. May I request Mr. Baskaran to please go ahead.

SHRI K. BASKARAN, HONY. SECRETARY, MADURAI LOCAL BRANCH; Respected Director-General, Shri S.N. Tripathi, Sir, Assistant Professor P.K. Taneja, Sir, dear IIPA fraternity and respected participants of the Conference. I Baskaran, Secretary, Madurai Local Branch, have pleasure in presenting the report and recommendations of the Prelude Conference of the Madurai Local Branch.

Madurai Local Branch organized a prelude conference on 09.10.2021 at Mannar Thirumalai Naicker College Madurai at 2.00 PM. Dr. K. Alagusundaram, Director, MTN College welcomed the gathering, Mr. C.R. Patel, Chairman, Madurai Local Branch inaugurated the conference. Dr. B. Manoharan, Principal MTN College, gave Presidential Address, Er. S. Krishnan, M.E., Senior Vice-President, Ashok Leyland, Chennai delivered a speech with PowerPoint presentation on 'Atmanirbhar Bharath – In the Context of How COVID 19 And its Impacts Were Handled in the Past and how our Economic Self-reliance Would Help India to be an Economic Superpower'. The second speaker, Dr. B. Meenakshi Sundaram, Ph.D., industrialist/industrial management consultant, Bengaluru eloquently delivered a speech on 'Individual Self-reliance and Family Self-Reliance, thereby Society as a whole, Self-reliance in all Aspects of Life, Inclusive of Political, Social and Economic Compasses'. Thereafter, profound discussion was held and was concluded by Mr. K. Baskaran, who also gave Vote of Thanks. Guests from various fields, members of our Local branch, students and teaching staff of Mannar Thirumalai Naicker College and Sourashtra College, Madurai attended the Conference. A total of around 175 participants attended the Conference.

The following are the concluding points of the Conference:

1. Self-reliant individuals are the bedrocks of a vibrant society. Every individual of our country should be inculcated with divine, independent and prowess of our society, culture and thereupon our country. This will

- reassure our individuals to exert their knowledge, skill, and contribution to the advancement of self-reliant India.
2. India, meant for family-based social set up, should not compromise with any other model of 'living culture' or 'style of living' and ensure our family-based social structure by assimilating our individuals as part of our family tree. These family bindings form basis to develop togetherness among the groups of the society which will, in turn, strengthen integrated self-reliant Indian society.
  3. We should ensure, time and again, that our people are multicultural, multilingual, multi-religious etc. and accept the concept of 'university in diversity'. Our self-reliance goals should be planned region/area specific. skill and knowledge-specific, environment and ecology-specific, etc., based on the diversified nature of people and land.
  4. The self-reliant economic model should be focused on the local area or region-based, availability of natural resources, skilled manpower, etc., then only sustainable, everlasting, standard growth may be anticipated to work out national level progressive economy.
  5. To increase the competitiveness of indigenous business, industrial and trade players at par with international competitiveness of indigenous business, industrial and trade players at par with international competitors, we have to concentrate and invest on our people as a whole, to increase their capability, networking skills, regular updating of technology, change in their attitude towards collaborative approach with foreign players, facing open competition maintaining high quality and quantity in manufacturing of product and supply of services.
  6. Our people still require role model employer to follow and practice. Hence, Government has to play a vital role in building, constructing, running big public sector enterprises and investment in research and development in essential fields of manufacturing and services.
  7. In the name of Atmanirbhar Bharath, everyone should avoid nepotism, regionalism, favouritism, etc. (avoid moving towards monopolistic,

altogether privatization, one-upmanship in all fields). Everyone should ensure that we are not driving the country away from democratic and socialistic means to achieve development and self-reliance, instead, we must upkeep our democratic and socialistic principles, policies and practices in letter and spirit, as enshrined in our Constitution.

Thank you all. Best wishes to you, Sir.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Thank you very much, Sir, for sharing your experience. A vibrant society only can have a vibrant aatmanirbhar people. May I request Shri Jeevan Kumar Ji from Karnataka Branch to go ahead with his presentation.

DR. D. JEEVAN KUMAR, SECRETARY, KARNATAKA REGIONAL BRANCH: Tripathi Saheb, Dr. Taneja, faculty, members of the IIPA, colleagues from the Regional and Local branches of IIPA and my dear friends. I will take a few minutes to present the report of the prelude conference that we organized in Bengaluru. It was held on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September 2021. We did this programme in collaboration with JAIN (Deemed-to-be) University. The Vice-Chancellor of the JAIN University, Dr. Raj Singh made the lead presentation. He referred to the various dimensions of the Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan of the Government of India evolving eco-system under which it is operating the specifically highlighted the need for developing, what he called, SEIZ zone in every university. SEIZ, according to him, stood for skill, entrepreneurship, innovation zone. He wanted SEI zone to be created in every university.

Dr. Raj Singh identified five current issues that needed to be addressed: Governance and Policy; Cost Competitiveness, Skill Upgradation; Research Focus; and Financing. Quoting Maharishi Patanjali, Dr. Raj Singh said that the lofty objectives behind the programme do provide the inspiration to galvanize the eco-system.

We had Dr. Sowmya Prasad from the Faculty of Economics at Karnataka State Rural Development and Panchayati Raj University, Gadag, who looked at the concepts of Swadeshi and self-reliance in Aatma Nirbhar Bharat. Her major findings were as follows:

Aatma Nirbhar Bharat is similar to *Poorna Swaraj*, the five pillars of Aatma Nirbhar Bharat are in tune with Gandhi Ji's constructive programme; the scheme comes within the ambit of Gandhi's vision, strengthening of the Indian economy would simultaneously strengthen the Gandhian village economy, the scheme focused on technology-driven and not technology-dependent systems, and there is co-existence of cottage industries along with big industries. However, she said, its success would depend on factors like ensuring self-reliant, holistic, and sustainable development, creating a conducive environment for 'Ease of Doing Business', focusing on bilateral trade agreements, stimulating innovation research and development, respecting competitive federalism, creation of infrastructure and by ensuring the required cultural shift.

Ladies and gentlemen, we were privileged to have with us Dr. Pawan Kumar Taneja, the author of the Theme Paper and we just began this programme by his brilliant exposition Dr. Taneja was the Guest of Honour at our prelude conference and we were delighted to have him with us. I would not go into what he said because he has gone extensively into his Theme Paper, but I would like to flag a couple of points that he made, which were appreciated very much by the audience when he said that the scheme "Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan" is to be understood in terms of the concentric circles – Reform – Perform – Transform – Zero Defect – Zero Effect. This was the point that was appreciated very much by the audience.

Dr. Taneja also stated that the Government of India has put into practice almost every feature of the modern theory of self-reliance and all the reforms that are currently being carried on. He referred to as many as ten major areas where *Make in India* and the policy reforms are currently underway. He also ended his Paper by highlighting the challenges and the way forward. We had the privilege of listening to him once again this morning. Thank you, Dr. Taneja Saheb.

In the discussion which followed, we had Dr. A. Ravindra, former Chief Secretary of Karnataka, who referred to three big questions that need to be addressed in the context of the theme of the conference. These are:

- (1) Can globalization be wished away?

(2) How easy is it to restrict consumption in the market economy?

(3) How can rural migration be prevented?

Of, course Dr. Taneja has several points, very valid points, that he has made here, which we need to take into account.

We had another distinguished life member of IIPA, Mr. Trivikram Pai from Kumta in North Karnataka who said, “Ancient and medieval India is a reassurance house of Knowledge in Public Governance and Administration, which mahatma Gandhi had utmost regard for, and which has been acknowledged by global icons like Peter Drucker and Albert Einstein.” This too, according to Mr. Trivikram Pai, needs to be at the forefront of *Atmanirbhar Bharat*

Others who participated in the discussion included Prof. Jos Chathukulam – he is also with us this morning – and Mr. Jagannatha Venkataramaiah.

The Chairman of our branch, Mr. S. Ramanathan presided over the deliberations, Dr. Priyanca Mathur, Associate Professor at JAIN University welcomed and introduced the speakers and anchored the event, and me, as Secretary of the IIPA, proposed a vote of thanks.

This is, in brief, is what we did, Sir. Thank you very much.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Thank you very much, Sir, for giving a very elaborate presentation. Nobody can dispute the Karnataka model that skill, entrepreneurship and innovation are the ways to success.

I would also like to thank the Punjab branch for highlighting the role of good governance and quality of governance, including the readiness of Indian companies, India Inc. and take advantage of these. In fact, any threat is an opportunity also and we have to convert it to achieve success.

Over to Dr. Madan Babu.

DR. MADAN BABU, CHAIRMAN, KARIMNAGAR LOCAL BRANCH: First of all, my respectful regards to all panel and, I cannot say colleagues for those who are elder to me, my respects and regards to all members participating in this programme.

We conducted a prelude seminar on 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2021 in Karimnagar Film Bhawan by following all the protocols of Covid. The seminar was presided



over by Dr. Madan Babu, Chairman and instead of having a routine programme, we had a discussion on Aatma Nirbhar Bharat, including Aatma Nirbhar State. We took mostly Telangana by discussing all the self-reliance programmes which are going on in Telangana State. The panelists were consisting of Mr. Prakash Holla who is from Loksatta, Mr. K. Ramchanda Reddy who is from Consumer Council from Karimnagar and Shri R. Venkateshwarlu from Jana Vignana Vedika which is another well-known organisation in the State of Telangana. The programme was coordinated by Mr. Gangadhar, Secretary of the Local branch, Karimnagar. He coordinated and he also presented the vote of thanks.

Apart from IIPA members, the members from Elders Club, Jana Vignana Vedika and RTI Vedika also participated in the programme. We have already sent a report to the head office.

With this, I conclude my small report on this. Thank you very much.

**DIRECTOR-GENERAL:** Thank you, Dr. Madan Babu. May I request Shri Ravindra Kumar Verma to share his thoughts, followed by Dr. Dhanapallan.

**DR. RAVINDRA KUMAR VERMA, HONY. SECRETARY, BIHAR REGIONAL BRANCH:** Thank you, Sir. Hon. Director-General, Shri Tripathi Ji, very learned and enlightening speaker, Shri Pawan Taneja Ji, Registrar, Shri Amitabh Ranjan Ji, Deputy Registrar, Shri Mithun Barua Ji, and all the IIPA members participating from different branches across the country. I will take not more than four and a half minutes.

The prelude seminar was organized on 24<sup>th</sup> October in Patel Bhawan, Bailey Road, Patna. Patel Bhawan is a part of police building of Bihar Government. Hon. Speaker, Bihar Vidhan Sabha, Shri Vijay Kumar Sinha was the Chief Guest and Shri Vijoy Prakash IAS (Retd.) presided over the function. Prof. Jitendra Narayan, Head, University Department of Political Science, Lalit Narain, Mithila University, Darbhanga delivered the Keynote Address, Dr. K.K. Singh, IPS, ADG, Police, Bihar, and Dr. O.P. Roy, former member of Bihar Public Service Commission were the Guests of Honour on the occasion. Dr. Henna Tabassum of A.N. College, Patna delivered the Welcome Address, Dr. R.K. Verma, that is myself, introduced the theme and presented the annual activity

report and accounts of the Branch for the year 2020-21 and Dr. Rajesh Kumar, the Joint Secretary of the Branch proposed the Vote of Thanks. A book written by Dr. Veena Sinha, another Member of IIPA on “*Nari Ek Astitva*” was released on the occasion.

In his Chief Guest address, hon. Speaker said that India is moving upwards in all spheres under the leadership of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi Ji, which is evident from the fact that we have created history by crossing the 100 crore mark in Covid vaccination drive. He further called for the people to contribute to the venture of Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan by creating opportunity amidst crisis with full vigour. In his Keynote Address, Prof. Jitendra Narayan dwelt upon preservation and protection of Indian culture and using our traditional wisdom in managing the indigenous resources for self-reliant India. In his presidential address, Shri Vijay Prakash summed up the discussions and emphasized that there is urgent need to introduce skill and vaccination-based education system right from school level and priority to socially relevant original research at higher education levels to achieve the goal of self-reliant India.

Dr. Ghanshyam N. Singh Chairman, Patliputra Local Branch of IIPA and Dr. Bakshi Amit Kumar Sinha of Asian Development Research Institute, Patna discussed various aspects of economy, Dr. Madhuprabha Singh, Principal, J.P. Mahila College, Chapra and Dr. Kavita Kumari of Takshshila Teachers Training College, Phulwari dwelt upon making women self-reliant first and only then the goal of Atmanirbhar Bharat could be achieved. Other speakers discussed the issues like perception of Atmanirbhar Bharat, social and psychological aspects, administrative and policy concerns, science and technology and strategic self-reliance. Important among them were Prof. Archana Kumari, Prof. K.H. Siddiqui, Prof. Sadhna Thakur, Prof. Ram Ranbir Singh Dr. Baidya Nath Singh, Dr. Fazal Ahmed and Mr. Adweetiya Sinha.

After great deal of discussions, we have come down to the following points that I would like to highlight:

1. It was considered that Atmanirbhar Bharat should be perceived in its spirit.

Hence, the concept has been given prime importance. It involves self-

reliance in two perspectives, that is, individuals and the country as a whole. It has been discussed in Prof. Taneja's Paper. The individuals should be self-disciplined, responsible for social cause and apply one's abilities at the optimum level. A country should be self-reliant in terms of meeting the needs of the people, like health, education food, infrastructure, and technology. Besides, it should be self-reliant in different sectors. It should not only be self-reliant for its own needs but give helping hands to other countries. In this context, the guiding principles of ancient literature, ideas of Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya are relevant.

2. The Indian culture and traditions do not only teach lessons for self-reliance but suggest ways to achieving the goal. Hence, we should preserve and flourish our culture which has been ruined by foreign invaders and colonial rulers.
3. The gender issues emerged in the discussion. It was strongly argued that unless women of India are made self-reliant, empowered, and safe, the country cannot be self-reliant.
4. Education system needs revamping thoroughly as it carries colonial legacy. For achieving the goal, we should overhaul and revise our education system and introduce learning of skills and vocation as major part of curriculum, right from school education to higher education.
5. For improving our economy, special attention should be given to agriculture. In view of climate change, there is need for adaptation in cropping pattern and use of technology. For remunerative agriculture, there is urgent need to commercialise the agricultural produce and establishing food processing industries and marketing mechanism proliferated in remote areas.
6. The fiscal management should be so revised that it increases the purchasing power of common masses. Efforts should be made to facilitate employability among youth and opportunities for farm and non-farm livelihood in sustainable ways.

7. India should strengthen science and technology to meet the needs of its security. In view of the growing tension in South Asian region, India should be firm and prepared for massive retaliation to maintain peace in the region.

So, these are the points that emerged in the discussion in the prelude seminar.

One thing I cannot resist myself to say is that I wish I was there to have a *nashta*. Thank you, Sir.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Thank you, Dr. Verma for such an elaborate presentation about the event that happened on that day. You have highlighted the fiscal discipline which will give the resources for all these aspects. *Nari Ek Astitva kitab ka bhi aapne vimochan karaya hai, uske liye sadhuvaad.*

Now I will request Dr.R.R. Dhanapall to give his remarks, followed by Mr. A.R. Jagatap and Awadesh Kumar Singh. Dr R R Dhanapall could not be connected.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Can we request Dr. A.R. Jagatap to go ahead?

DR. A. R. JAGATAP, DHARWAD LOCAL BRANCH: Thank you, Director-General, Surendra Nath Tripathi Ji and Registrar, Amitabh Ranjan Ji. At the outset, I would like to compliment Dr. Pawan Kumar Taneja, today's resource person, a very nice young gentleman. Thank you, Sir, for your nice presentation. At the same time, I would like to congratulate all the faculty members of the IIPA and IIPA fraternity members. Because of your involvement, it has been possible to make a very successful prelude seminar.

Sir, we conducted this prelude seminar on 22<sup>nd</sup> of this month at Dharwad in one of the prestigious colleges, that is, Anjuman College and P.G. Centre, Dharwad. For this prelude seminar, we had invited two resource persons. One was from Karnataka University, Dharwad who was Professor, S.T. Bagalakoti. He is also member, Academic Council and also Director of IQAC Cell, Karnataka University, Dharwad. At the same time, we had invited another resource person

from Higher Education Academy, Dharwad. He is Dr. A.R. Jagatap, that is, me. I am working here as a Dean in the Higher Education Academy.

This session was presided over by Dr. N.A. Makanadar, Principal of the College because our chairman is not well. Recently he has undergone bypass surgery. So, on his behalf, I am presenting this report today.

Actually, in this seminar, Prof. S.T. Bagalakoti, being the main speaker, spoke on Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan for Resilient Recovery of India. His talk was designed with organization in responses to Covid-19 pandemic by the Government of India's Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan. He explained about the term SR (Self Reliance). He also emphasized the trends o involve education, training, innovation, dissemination of research and knowledge for reviewing the policy making. At the same time, Dr. Jagatap talked on Amrit Gram Panchayat Yojana of Karnataka because it was very recently launched. It was launched on 15<sup>th</sup> of August 2021 on commemoration of 75<sup>th</sup> India's Independence Day. Dr. Jagatap opined that requirement for preparedness for systematic implementation of this scheme is necessary. The panchayat should ensure provision of piped drinking water to every household under the Jal Jeevan Mission. He strongly recommended for fully digitizing the panchayat administration to undertake solid and liquid waste management.

In this prelude seminar, we came to realization about the Aatmanirbhar Bharat, and we have made 18 points for the Government, especially the IIPA, New Delhi as a sort of recommendations. I would just go through the important recommendations.

1. Vocal for Local is an integral part of Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan and it gives huge scope for domestic marketing.
2. 'Make in India' and 'Make for India/World' would create the manufacturing hub for increasing the global value of chain. Consequently, the youth population and demographic demand would be increased.
3. It enables for continuity and stability in policy making and reforms – steady improvement in the 'Ease of Doing Business Index'.
4. It empowers the fiscal discipline in the tax rates and incorporate reforms.

5. It enables the governance, Good Governance and E-Governance for aspirational goals and gearing up for attaining the same.

So, these are some of the recommendations for Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

Coming to the weaknesses, some of these are:

1. Low investment, illiteracy and low human capital formation hampers the reach and spread of online learning.
2. India's investment is hardly 0.7 per cent of GDP, awfully low - out of pocket expenses too high.
3. Transport optimization, elimination of intermediaries, crop diversification and setting up of an agri-business bank could be some other immediate steps that can strengthen Indian agriculture.
4. Long pending reforms, viz., land reforms, labour reforms, legal reforms and fiscal reforms should be resolved immediately.
5. The Black Swans like terrorism, climate change, social disruptions, re-emergence of pandemics have to be taken into priority list to resolve them systematically in future.
6. At the same time, IIPA has to come to generalization with minimal political interference. Minimal political interference in day-today's administration is highly appreciated.
7. Free flow of information about fund, plan and technology has to be strictly ensured.
8. To ensure confidence among people for success of participatory democracy and good governance is necessary.
9. Utmost care has to be taken to resolve power issues to transform good governance for digitally fit India, that is, rural India.
10. Last but never the least, Atmanirbhar Bharat is difficult under high poverty, increasing joblessness and stark inequality.

Thank you one and all for your patient hearing. Thank you, Sir, for giving me an opportunity.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Thank you very much, Sir, for bringing all the issues, including joblessness and transport optimisation. May I request Mr. Awadesh

Kumar Singh Ji for his presentation, followed by Shri Ashish Ray and Shri Bijoy Chand.

SHRI AWADESH KUMAR SINGH, HONY. SECRETARY, MUZAFFARPUR LOCAL BRANCH: Respected Director-General, S.N. Tripathi Ji and Rev. Taneja Saheb, respected members of the Conference and all participants.

Prelude conference on Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan and its various aspects was organized by Muzaffarpur Local branch on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2021 in the Theosophical Lodge. The Chairman of the Branch, Prof. R.P. Srivastava, former Vice-Chancellor, B.N. Mandal University, Madhepura presided over the conference. Dr. Awadesh Kumar Singh, Hony. Secretary of the Branch, that is, me, welcomed the participants and introduced the subject.

Prof. Prabhakar Sinha, life member and former National President of the PUCL expressed his view about the subject and said that our country progressed towards self-reliance since Independence, but the present policies of the Government contradict the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, restricting freedom and autonomy of educational institutions specially. Prof. Anil Kumar Ojha, former Secretary of the Branch, opined that the topic of the conference has no conformity with public administration. The present development theory is quite contrary to Gandhi Ji's Gram Swaraj. Self-reliant Bharat may be our aspiration, but it is difficult to be true. 'Hire and Fire' policy cannot be applied in India. He also said that the farmers are not ready to accept the present policy regarding reforms in the agriculture sector due to their traditional mindset. Moreover, Prof. A.K. Ojha said that banking and finance should not be taken under non-strategic sector. Dr. Dhananjaya Kumar Jha appreciated the National Education Policy for its emphasis on education by the medium of local languages and making it inclusive.

Dr. Harendra Kumar, life member, expressed his opposition to the self-reliant Bharat Abhiyan that diminishes village, facilitating towns and cities. Prof. Shail Kumari lamented for giving importance to English in different national seminars and conferences. Dr. Sunil Kumar, Head, University Department of Economics said that entrepreneurship is necessary for self-reliance and more employment opportunities should be created.

In his presidential address, Prof. R.P. Srivastava opined that the word ‘Aatma’ is a philosophical terminology that is rooted in our culture. ‘Aatma Nirbhar’ may be ideal but difficult to come into practice. The Treasurer of the Branch, Dr. Dhananjaya Kumar Singh proposed the vote of thanks.

Some of the policies decisions that emerged after the deliberations among the members are—

1. Economic policies under the Aatma Nirbhar Bharat are appreciable but there are so many obstacles in the path of their implementation. India does not possess authoritarian system. So, persuasion is needed before formation of policies.
2. Farmer’s traditional mindset is not ready to accept the agriculture and farm sector reforms. Proper deliberations in Parliament and amongst people are needed for making them acceptable.
3. Research foundation should not have interference in choosing the topic for research. Educational institutions must be given proper autonomy.
4. Research and Development lacks adequate expenditure. Though India’s gross expenditure on Research and Development has been increasing but in comparison to its counterparts in the fastest growing BRICS nations, India has one of the lowest gross expenditures on Research and Development. Ratio of expenditure on Research and Development and Gross Domestic Product is declining in intensity since 2014. For achieving the goal of Aatma Nirbhar, India has to lay greater emphasis on grass-root innovations with public sector Research and Development support.
5. A gentle suggestion to Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi is that topic of conference should have ‘Obstacles in the implementation of the policies relating to Aatma Nirbhar Bharat reflecting administrative orientation.

Thank you, Sir.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Thank you very much, Awadesh Ji. *Aapne bahut achche nishkarsh nikale hain, khas taur se ki farmers are not willing to accept reforms, people need to be persuaded to become aatmanirbhar.* Economic



policies *kitni bhi achchi hon, agar log usko svateh sweekar nahin karei to,uska result bahut achcha nahin hota hai. Bahut saare binduon par aapne charcha ki, bahut-bahut dhanyavad.*

May I now invite Mr. Ashish Ray, followed by Dr. Bijoy Chand, to make his presentation. No response from Mr Ashish Ray due to connectivity issue.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Well, we will take up Dr. Bijoy Chand.

DR. BIJOY CHAND, HONY. SECRETARY, BURDWAN LOCAL BRANCH:  
Good morning, everybody. I am Dr. Bijoy Chand from Burdwn Local Branch. Due to connectivity problem, I could not join earlier.

Respected Director-General, Tripathi Ji, our hon. Registrar, Amitabh Ranjan Ji, Prof. Taneja and all the esteemed members from various Regional and Local branches. First of all, I must thank Prof. Taneja for his very excellent presentation.

The prelude seminar/webinar, on Aatma Nirbhar Bharat of our Burdwan Local Branch was held on 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2021 at 7.00 p.m. on Google Meet platform.

After the welcome address by Prof. Bijoy Chand, Hony. Secretary, IIPA, Burdwan Local Branch, who also narrated the brief history of the Burdwan Local Branch, the webinar was inaugurated by Dr. Soroshimohan Dan, former Vice-Chancellor, Burdwan University and Chairman, IIPA, Burdwan Local Branch.

While introducing the theme, Prof. Dan outlined the purpose of the Aatmanirbhar Bharat programme which was declared in May 2020 by Prime Minister Modi Ji. It was aimed at making India self-reliant in various fields – economy, infrastructure and bringing about reforms in agriculture, tax system etc.

Prof. Debashis Sur, Professor in the Department of Commerce, University of Burdwan delivered the keynote address. Prof. Sur opined that in order to rescue, revive, rejuvenate our economy in face of the Corona pandemic, certain corrective measures were urgently required. Indian business was severely affected, healthcare system was on the brink of collapsing, jobs were lost. Prof. Debashis

Sur divided the measures initiated by the Union Government to meet the crises into five parts.

In Part-I, he outlined the liquidity measures/schemes offered to institutions to cope with the crisis.

In Part-II, he pointed out schemes for the welfare of migrant workers, affordable housing complex under the PPP model and some positive measures for afforestation were initiated by the Government.

In Part-III, Prof. Sur pointed at the various schemes to revive agriculture (e.g., P.M. Kisan Fund Transfer, P.M. Fasal Bima Yojana, and this type of schemes).

In Part-IV, policy reforms in various sectors were initiated by the Central Government to strengthen the administration, according to Prof. Sur.

In Part-V, Prof. Sur outlined the supportive measures for the State where borrowing limit was increased for various welfare activities, and we know that New Education Policy was also initiated.

Prof. Sur concluded by offering suggestions for the successful implementation of this ambitious programme. Lack of awareness and training, both among officials and elected representatives at all levels, was felt. Collective efforts and cooperation by all stakeholders were needed.

The webinar was attended by members of the Local branch, students, teachers, scholars and representatives from the Howrah Local branch.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to all.

**DIRECTOR-GENERAL:** Can I request Dr. Meenakshi Hooja to share her views? Most welcome, Madam. We are grateful that you have joined.

**DR. MEENAKSHI HOOJA:** Thank you, Sir. I congratulate the IIPA for this wonderful conference on a very relevant and important topic of Aatma Nirbhar Bharat. I must also congratulate Mr. Taneja for his exposition and very detailed analysis which gives us correct perspectives and issues and the challenges that we face. There was very good response by all classes as the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan will provide the platform for citizen participation and to remove various

obstacles in the path of good governance. This is a platform where you can donate and contribute to whichever sector you want. Some of the problems that we are facing today are cleanliness, hygiene, sanitation, research, development...So, what are the issues and how can people contribute? I think we had a very good discussion, putting things in perspective and we need to now go forward with the action on research and development, including issues of empowerment, employability and how to give the women opportunity so that they can contribute according to their best profile.

Thank you, Director Saheb, for this opportunity.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Thank you, Madam. Has Dr. Dhanapall joined? Otherwise, we will take up Paper Presentations.

DR. R.R. DHANAPALL, CHAIRMAN, PUDUCHERRY LOCAL BRANCH: Thank you very much, Sir. It is a very nice programme you have launched in our Annual Conference today. I want to particularly mention about reforms, reforming the governance system connected with the problem of employability and particularly Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan. The way forward has been very nicely presented in the Theme Paper. It has covered almost all economic areas. We are really thankful to our Director-General and IIPA and also to Dr. Pawan Taneja. Thank you very much, Sir.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Thank you very much, Sir, for your kind views.

DR. GHANSHYAM N. SINGH, CHAIRMAN, PATLIPUTRA LOCAL BRANCH:

This is to say that I am, right now, on my Apple Laptop with the HiFi Tower is ok still being not connected, may be some problem because of my inexperience. It is, in that context, **my request is to kindly record my presentation, sent through this mail.**

Hon'ble Director, Shri Surendra Nath Tripathi with his team with Sri Amitabh Ranjan and others, the author of the Theme Paper, Dr. P.K.Taneja and all other participants. I am here to present the report of our IIPA Local Branch, Patna as its Chairman.

At the outset, I would like to appreciate the present dispensation with its able Director, Shri Tripathi and his Team with dedicated Registrar, Shri Amitabh Ranjan, as also whole of the fraternity of IIPA, New Delhi who have dedicated with full energy to make it going with its activities even during this Pandemic Covid-19 catastrophic situation.

In the Prelude Conferences of IIPA Regional Branch and our own Branch, I expressed my views stated here and our IIPA, Patliputra Local Branch resolved and approved to express our thanks and appreciation to the present dispensation of IIPA, New Delhi.

It is time to express our thanks and appreciation to the Theme Paper author, Dr. P.K.Taneja for preparing a Paper on 'Atmanirbhar Bharat and its various Aspects', which was discussed in great details at a round table meeting of our Branch on Oct. 25, 2021 under the Chairmanship of a former member of Judiciary, Shri Bajrangi Sahai, District and Sessions Judge, in participation of Professor Ran Vijay Singh, Col. Keshab Sinha, K.P. Singh of Police Service, Er. Munindra Kumar, Dr. Kanti Singh and other members of the cross sections of society. The consensus emerged in the meeting that education, health, administration capacity needs to be strengthened for reaching to height of Atma Nirbhar Bharat of the Twenty-first century. It is to be noted here that for discussion at our Branch, the title of the theme was reframed as, 'Atma Nirtbhar Bharat - Does it Lead to New India?'. The consensus of the meet was, yes, Atma Nirbhar Bharat initiative undertaken by the Visionary Team of the present dispensation with PM Modi-Team is sure to Lead to New India.

At the end of discussion, the Chairman, Professor Ghanshyam N. Singh spelled in details and quoted the example of Covid-19 Vaccination production, distribution, monitoring etc. etc. as a burning example of Atma Nirbhar Bharat as '@PM Modi', in spite of all odd criticism by various political outfits, did all from production level, visiting its Production centers, Pune and Hyderabad, more than once and later its success to get one billion people across the society, has been acclaimed by all others at global level. The recent initiation of Gati Shakti to have a centralised coordinated approach through Digital Technology may achieve

yet another milestone in achieving New India. Launching Health Infra Project is expected to bring positive result in Health sector to stand the citizenry in the line of Happy Healthy India of the present century.

The meeting was concluded by vote of thanks presented by Dr. Kanti Singh.  
DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Now we will take up the presentation of Papers. There will be a break for one minute and then we will rejoin.

**(ONE-MINUTE BREAK)**

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Now, after this small break, we will start the presentations by our Paper presenters. Each presenter will get about ten minutes time on such an important theme. The order would be like this. First, Dr. Kanhaiya Lal, followed by Dr. Rajesh Kumar Kundu, then Dr. Nittam Chandel and then Dr. A.V. Narsimha Reddy. I will request others to remain muted so that the person who is speaking, only he speaks. So, right now we are starting with Dr. Kanhaiya Lal. He has written on *Aatmanirbhar Bharat Yojana*. Please go ahead.

DR. KANHAIYA LAL: *Aadarniya Nideshak mahodaya, Kulsachiv mahodaya, Conference aayojan samiti ke sadasyagan, delegates evam is conference mein upasthit sabhi atithigan, aap sabhi ko mera pranam. Main Dr.Kanhaiya Lal, Sahayak Pradhyapak, Rajniti Vigyan Vibhag, Suraj Singh Memorial Mahavidhyalaya, Ranchi Vishvavidhyalaya, Ranchi, Jharkhand. Aaj ki is mahatvapurna conference mein, main aap sabhi ke samaksh apna Paper prastut karne ja raha hoon jiska shirshak hai 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat Yojana'.*

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DR. RAJESH KUMAR KUNDU: Good afternoon one and all who are present in this conference. Respected Tripathi Sir, Dr. Taneja, Registrar Sir, IIPA faculty members as well as the member dignitaries who are present at this conference. I am going to present my PPT for more clarifications.

First of all, we have to take up the issue of concept of self-reliance India: Micromanagement of individual requirements. So, micromanagement of individual requirements is the simple meaning in case of Aatmanirbhar Bharat. So, community development participatory approach is the most appropriate approach in case of supporting the concept of self-reliant India. We have three questions in this regard to explain every dimension of that concept self-reliant India—

1. What is the concept according to the discussion, debate discourses among the faculties, among the academic system?

2. Why is importance of that particular topic or particular self-reliant India?  
India was self-reliant, is self-reliant or will be self-reliant, but we need to take up the issues for conceptual clarity; and
3. How or through which process we can deal with the concept of self-reliant India?

Again, we have three aspects of discussion and debate among the different stakeholders to be clarified more —

1. Functional system, functional approach or the operational issue, the behavioural issue. Ch. Chhotu Ram, as Agriculture and Development Minister of undivided Punjab was the person who operated all these things according to the requirements of the society.
2. Second aspect of exploration is structural system. Both these aspects, functional and structural are highlighting the different dimensions of academic as well as operational issues. So, institutional or organizational aspect deals with the departmental or governmental efforts as per the requirement of the plan.
3. The third aspect we can take up according to discussion and discourses of different academic aspects or, we can say, the philosophical or study and research aspects. Academic system is the most important issue to verify, to justify exploring the different dimensions of operations as well as the institutional dynamism. So, Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya and Ralf Waldo Emerson, they are the philosophical persons, according to different issues of governance and development in case of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

Our country is also following the different goals or the United Nations goals, that is, the Sustainable Development Goals. But before that, the MDGs were taken up; Sustainable Development Goals were adopted in 2015 as a part of the resolution ‘Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development’. India is committed to achieve the objectives of these 7 SDGs through various associated targets which comprehensively cover social, economic and environmental dimensions of development and focus on ending poverty in all



its forms and dimensions. At the Central Government level, NITI Aayog has been assigned the role, the duty of overseeing the implementation of SDGs in the country. Agricultural development and Panchayati Raj institutions are the basic instruments for achieving the desired objectives of sustainable development goals. So, every goal is directly or indirectly related to the agriculture sector as well as the Panchayati Raj institutions because they are the grass-root governance agencies with us for managing every scheme or programme of every particular aspect of governance and development.

### **Recent efforts for Aatma Nirbhar Bharat**

The ambitious project of Indian Government to promote self-sufficiency and self-reliance through 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan' has mandated special provisions for agricultural growth and development. Agriculture sector being the largest employer, with more than 50 per cent, even today in this pandemic time, and a major contributor towards the GDP share, presently, according to the Report of 2020-21, that is near to 20 per cent - needs to be strengthened with gradual withdrawal of Governmental support in the form of market regulations and massive subsidies. This process requires concerted efforts of each, and every stakeholder indulged in production, marketing, processing, value addition and policy regulations.

### **Covid-19 and Aatma Nirbhar Bharat**

This is also an opportunity with us to evolve the things according to the time or according to the requirement of our system and structure of governance as well as development. So, agriculture sector contributed nearly 20 per cent to Indian GDP and sustained the positive growth when every sector is trending negatively during this lockdown period. Even the Reserve Bank of India Governor also believes that our economy has seen an increased area of agriculture or depending upon the agriculture sector and asks for policies that will improve the income in consonance with the agriculture sector. Determination of Indian farmers is clearly visible from the fact that every other sector or, you can say, industrial sector was closed but the Indian farmer was working hard in the field to provide food to the country. Most of the political parties have been seen as making

false promises to gain vote from these farmers and then side-kicking these promises and policies once the election is over. Not only the Reserve Bank of India but the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance has realized that our agriculture will play a big role in the revival of the economy affected by the pandemic.

### **Establishment of Panchayati Raj Institutions as Catalyst for Aatma Nirbhar Bharat**

Still agriculture sector is struggling due to deliberate ignorance of farm sector or governmental efforts since Independence. If any political party truly intends to reform this sector, then the best approach will be to explore the grass-root realities by adopting the appropriate methodology in case of data collection, data analysis and data processing, followed by right analysis for designing a workable policy. Due to huge diversity in climatic conditions, crop cultivation, irrigation channels and difference in productivity levels, a single national level agricultural policy is not an ideal approach to move forward. Agriculture and Panchayati Raj Institutions being State subjects under Seventh Schedule of Indian Constitution, both of these can be amalgamated so that the farmer can play a proactive role in agricultural planning and policy formulation. Under 73<sup>rd</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act, agriculture and its extension are the first subject for Panchayati Raj Institutions provided in Article 243G and the Eleventh Schedule. This responsibility given to Panchayats itself shows the importance of local participation in agricultural policy and planning. A capable panchayat can work out for contemporary issues related to agriculture, development agriculture, tourism agriculture, education, use of solar energy, development of different skills, local markets/haats, organic farming, subsidy management, agriculture credit facilities, land conservation, soil health, environmental protection and other farmer welfare activities.

One of the most endorsed schemes of Central Government, i.e., Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayi Yojana has the provision for articulating State level irrigation plan by accumulating block and district level irrigation plans, but village level plan is not included in it. That is a must. Panchayats can play a positive role

in developing and regulating village level irrigation plans. A village level irrigation management committee can be constituted at Panchayat level to collect data and resources to analyse a better plan for irrigation. This committee can have representation from each ward and these members from different wards must have the data of farmers from their respective wards about total land which is irrigated and cultivable. So, Panchayats have firsthand knowledge of its traditional sources of water and these sources can be reactivated with the aid of State and Central Governments. Modern practices of water conservation and irrigation, like micro-irrigation, drip irrigation, sprinkles and mulching techniques can be promoted by giving incentives through these Panchayati Raj institutions. The committee system should be strengthened through panchayat level agricultural development committee, irrigation management committee, etc. GPDP – Gram Panchayat Development Plan – should be prepared by consulting the concerned committees and its official resource persons and stakeholders, that is, Gram Sabha members. Proper arrangement for forest functioning should be made at the panchayat level. So, State and District Institutes of Public Policy should be established in these respects for managing the plans as well as the policy measures of that particular area or particular village or district. So, there is a need to amend the Indian Constitution for creating a local list to empower the Panchayati raj institutions in real sense for achieving the goals of Aatma Nirbhar Bharat and different governance and developmental schemes of Government of India as well as State Governments.

So, there should be a proper coordination between Central Finance Commission and State Finance Commission. Funds, functions, functionaries should be provided to Panchayati Raj institutions for management of self-reliant India Abhiyan at grass-root level. So, glocalisation, that is, global + local concept should be articulated as per requirement of the national development. Rural or farm tourism may be an effective programme for coping up with the unemployment programme.

So, thank you very much, Sir, for giving me the scope for this presentation. Thank you very much.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Thank you, Dr. Kundu for a very elaborate presentation. May I request Dr. Chandel to go ahead.

DR. NITTAM CHANDEL: Respected S.N. Tripathi Ji, Dr. Pawan Kumar Taneja, keynote speaker, Shri Amitabh Ranjan, Registrar, other officials from IIPA and all respected IIPA participants. I am Dr. Nittam Chandel from Swami Vivekananda Government College, Ghumarwin (Himachal Pradesh). First of all, I would like to thank the IIPA for selecting my Paper and giving me this opportunity to speak on the topic ‘Self-Reliant (Aatmanirbhar Bharat) Campaign for Sustainable Development: Challenges and Future Prospects.

The COVID-19 outbreak has severely affected the global economy, hampering industries across various fields around the world. The transmission of the disease has forced countries into lockdown, anticipating the economies of a deflation. The Corona virus, wave-1 and 2, has negatively impacted the businesses and economy of India too. Various sectors of Indian economy got squeezed during this pandemic, for example, financial and real estate and professional services saw 20 per cent decrease, mining saw 17 per cent decrease, electricity and allied utility services saw 16 per cent decrease and so on and so forth. However, in the background of this suffering, India bounced back and bounced back with a view or vision for converting the crisis into opportunity and by strengthening the fight by becoming aatmanirbhar or self-reliant. Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan or self-reliant India campaign is the vision of new India foreseen by our Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi Ji. The very objective of the campaign was explained by Prime Minister, and I would like to quote him:

“Self-reliance will prepare the country for tough competition in the global supply chain, and it is important that the country wins this competition. The Crisis has taught us the importance of local manufacturing, local market and local supply chains. All our demands during the crisis were met ‘locally’. Now it is time to be vocal about the local products and help these local products become global.”

In fact, the focus of the campaign is on investment and also reforming various policies related to land, labour, liquidity and laws. On 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2020, our Prime

Minister kick-started the Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan with a package of Rs.20 lakh crores, which is equivalent to 10 per cent of the GDP, with the objective of strengthening Indian businesses, financial support to poor, including migrants and farmers, developing and modernizing agriculture sector reforming and increasing investment in manufacturing sector. In fact, manufacturing sector of our country is lacking in comparison to countries like Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Taiwan, Philippines, Korea and China, where manufacturing is contributing 30 to 50 per cent to their GDP.

The Indian manufacturing sector's contribution to GDP has moved from 16 per cent to 18.32 per cent in the last ten yrs. Make in India initiative is designed to take manufacturing to 25 per cent of GDP. Now, the Atmanirbhar Bharat campaign of the country is being supported by various other schemes or incentives of the Government of India, like production-linked incentive scheme, which is commonly known as PLI scheme, which focuses 13 vital sectors of Indian economy with an investment of Rs.1.97 lakh crore for boosting infrastructure sectors in the country. Similarly, Prime Minister Gati Shakti Plan, a national infrastructure master plan worth Rs.100 lakh crore would lay the groundwork for the development of holistic modern infrastructure in the country.

In short, all these initiatives are cornerstone of the Government's push for achieving an Aatmanirbhar Bharat which eventually is vital for the economic revival and progress of the Indian economy. If implemented effectively, it can help achieve the dream of India being economically stable, technologically superior, self-reliant and a five trillion-dollar economy. Thank you very much.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Thank you, Dr. Chandel. May I request Dr. Reddy to go ahead with his presentation.

DR.A.V. NARSIMHA REDDY: Respected Chairperson, Shri Tripathi Ji, Registrar, Amitabh Ranjan Ji, Dr. Pawan Kumar Taneja who presented the Theme Paper. Good afternoon to you all. Today, everyone is discussing about the Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan. Really it is meant for developing the economic growth policies which are implemented by the Government of India. So, I am highlighting some issues about this. The title of my Paper is 'Decoding the Atmanirbhar

Bharat: Are Reforms in Agriculture sector Lifeline to Corporate Companies or Farmers?’

In the pandemic situation, Government of India has launched Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan said to be quantum jump in economic reforms package 2020 in eight key sectors. Particularly, it is the extension of economic reforms of 1991 and promoting private investment in the economic growth. Today, technology, capital and resources are globalised, thus undermining the local technology and resources and causing hindrances to self-reliant India. The major concern of institutions of governance is how to ensure accountability and transparency in the private sector; and protect the lives, livelihoods and rights of people over the resources and institutions, as well. The Paper concludes that policies that look fair and just at first sight, often end up hurting the very people they were supposed to help.

In India, the novel Corona virus (COVID-19) has had an uneven impact across the States, within sectors and communities. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji has addressed the nation six times since the onset of COVID-19 and announced safety net measures to safeguard the lives, livelihoods of people and also stimulate the economy. The measures can be broadly categorised into two; one incremental/immediate relief to people and two, quantum jump or structural economic reforms to stimulate the economy. The first one consists of two economic packages (one in March, Rs.1.70 lakh crore, and two, in July, Rs.90,000 crore) to ensure food security (immediate relief) to nearly 80 crore beneficiaries up to November 2020 across the country. The scale of the scheme, according to PM, is the biggest food security programs in the world – almost everyone has appreciated the Government of India’s efforts, particularly as the scheme could feed 2.5 times the US population, 12 times the UK population and twice the European Union’s population. Nobody expected that much of help from the Government of India.

Second, Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan (ANBA) is said to be a quantum jump approach to make India a self-reliant country. It emphasizes on the five pillars of self-reliant India - economy, infrastructure, system-driven technology, demography and demand, particularly in these sectors, along with the eight

previous sectors— power, coal, minerals, defence, space, civil aviation, atomic energy, social infrastructure among other areas. He also announced reforms in land, labour, rules or laws and liquidity to give stimulus to the economy. Prime Minister also urged the members of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) to focus on the five Is - intent, inclusion, investment, infrastructure and innovation for making India self-reliant. The economic package consisted of Rs. 20 lakh crores amounting to ten per cent of India's GDP to stimulate the economy. However, the Finance Minister clarified, "Self-reliant India does not mean cutting off from rest of the world"; and "does not aim to be protectionist in nature". In her five-part serial, mostly focused on the reforms in the areas of MSME, agriculture and allied sectors. In nutshell, the thrust of the Abhiyan is to bring structural reforms to stir Indian economy towards a self-reliant economy and promote its competitiveness globally. This Paper examines the concept of self-reliance during post-Independence period and present reforms in the agriculture sector and its self-sufficient evidence and implications for marginalised farmers as well.

### **The Self-reliant India: Paradigm Shifts**

The historical account of self-reliant India, in brief, would provide insights into the present Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan. The phenomenon of self-reliant India has been a paradigm shift and it can be broadly categorized: from whole community welfare orientation to dynasty/kingdoms; dynasty to company welfare, and public investment to private investment orientation the present Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, to a large extent, falls under the last category, that is, public investment to private investment orientation. In fact, the term self-reliant has several connotations but the primary meaning is dependent on one's own powers and resources rather than those of others.

### **Phase of Pre-Independence Period:**

With regard to Indian communities/society, it has had abundant resources – natural and human resources – and it was a self-reliant economy for centuries together. However, Mughal, Gupta Dynasties practiced feudalism in India which made rural community, particularly peasants, to live on their kin /landlord's land and give his homage, labour and a share of the produce notionally in exchange for

military protection. The feudal lords – zamindars/jagirdhars – across the country had established hegemony over resources and lives and livelihoods of people in their respective regions. The entry of East India Company to Indian soil during 1600's (1608-1857) further accentuated the exploitation of natural resources and expanding its trade in the country. It was basically formed as monopoly on trade, later increasingly took on governmental powers with its own army and judiciary till 1857 and later it was British rule from 1858 to 1947. Both the regimes exploited India's resources and people's life, livelihoods and economy. However, the discourse on the subject has undergone change during the post-Independence India.

### **Self-reliant India – Dominance of Public Institutions and investment (1947-1990)**

The concept of self-reliance (nationalism) has changed during post-Independence India. Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, addressing the nation in 1952, declared: "We want to develop a balanced economy and, as far as possible, promote self-sufficiency. The first one is that of food. We must become self-sufficient in food and not be dependent on other countries for our most essential requirements." During the mid-1950s, rapid expansion of industrialisation was the thrust of self-reliant India and public sector undertakings were in commanding heights of the economy, and the same view was continued till late 1980s. The investment in growth sectors was largely generated from public fund; and was less dependent on foreign and national investors. This has enabled us to protect the local resources, technology, and market as well, and after that, a lot of changes have been seen in India.

### **Self-reliant India – Dominance of Private Institutions and Investment (1991-2013)**

However, New Economic Policy, 1991 has reversed the situation and India's dependence on private capital, particularly foreign direct investment (FDI) in core sectors – industry, trade, banking and insurance, among other sectors – has become the order of the day. The reforms, though contributed to the availability of capital, modern technologies, goods and services to the people, are mostly



accessible to middle and upper classes, expansion of multinational companies and global market in the country. The technology, capital and resources are globalised, undermining self-reliant India

### **SELF-RELIANT India: Dominance of Private Institutions and Foreign Direct Investment (2014-2020):**

The National Democratic Alliance (NDA), during its first term of the regime, launched several programmes, such as, (i) ‘Make in India’, ‘Swadeshi Movement’ covering 25 sectors of the economy to encourage companies to manufacture their products in India and enthrust with dedicated investments into manufacturing; (ii) ‘Stand-up India’ to support entrepreneurship, particularly among marginalized communities; and (iii) ‘Start-up India, to build a strong ecosystem for nurturing innovation that will drive sustainable economic growth and generate large scale employment opportunities. NDA Government, during the second term, has identified eight crore sectors open for private investment/foreign companies, whose capital and technology are far higher than the local companies/investors. These measures cause threats not only to the local resources, environment and sustainable development but also threat to the very existence of India’s nationalism.

### **Reform in Agriculture Sector**

Reform in agriculture sector is another reform we have seen. Government of India, during COVID-19 scenario, has announced ‘agricultural reforms package’, introducing major changes in the investment and statutory frameworks governing agricultural produce and marketing in India. The reforms include: three Ordinances announced on June 5, 2020 – later on, they have been enacted by Parliament - redefine the legal landscape of accessibility to essential commodities, farmers’ price and services assurances and farmers’ produce, trade and commerce, one nation one market for agriculture produce; promoting agro-industries, concessional credit to the farmers to boost farming activities under P.M. Kisan Credit Card, among others. Of these reforms, the three enactments have wider

implications for the consumers, farmers, traders, and corporate sector in the country.

### **The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2000**

The Act has taken other essential commodities like cereals, pulses and other essential commodities, including onions and potatoes, out of the essential commodities list. It allows the traders to procure the commodities and give them freedom to sell the commodities, including cereals, pulses, and onion in the open market. This Act is contrary to the original Act and puts consumers and farmers under strain. The thrust of Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and subsequent amendments (1986 & 2010) by Central and State Governments was to protect consumers against irrational spikes in prices of essential commodities and cracks down on hoarders and black marketeers of such commodities. It is pertinent to note that there are several instances of hoarding and black-marketing of the essential commodities by private traders, despite the Essential Commodities Act being in operation across the country. Further, the prices of the commodities are fixed based on the whims and fancies of commission agents/traders than the principle of supply and demand. The present amendment invariably makes the consumers, particularly poor at the mercy of opportunistic traders and shopkeepers, which is the major drawback.

### **The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2010**

According to the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, the Act provides for a farming agreement (contract farming) prior to the production or rearing of any farm produce, aimed at facilitating farmers in selling farm produces to sponsors. A sponsor includes individuals, partnership firms, companies, limited liability groups and societies. Such agreement may be between: (i) a farmer and a sponsor or (ii) a farmer, a sponsor and a third party; and the agreement could be for a period of 1 to 5 years. The Act prohibits sponsors from acquiring ownership rights or making permanent modifications on a farmer's land or premises under a

farming agreement. However, the Act exempts the produce under contract farming from stock limits under Essential Commodities Act. The provisions of the Act will override all State Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) laws, undermining the federal structure of the country.

The experience of the formal contract farming (written agreement) system, which was in operation since 2003, unfolds that the corporate companies (both processors and retailers, particularly in the seed production or poultry) are making use of the services of middlemen – named as organizers to enter into formal contacts with hundreds of farmers so as to avoid legal action and unnecessary intervention of political system and parties in the event of any default, such as payment on time. These are counterproductive to the interests of the farming community, particularly tenants, marginal and small farmers.

### **The Farmers' Produce, Trade and Commerce (Promotion & Facilitation) Act, 2020:**

The main objective of this reform is to regulate the exploitation related to price fixing, actual payments, grading-related exploitation, procedural and transactional opaqueness, cheating in weight, etc. The Act will give freedom to farmers to sell their produce anywhere in the country. The Act specifies 'farmers' produce' and 'scheduled farmers' produce'. For the latter – scheduled farmers' produce – only those traders who have a PAN number allotted under IT Act or such other document which may be notified by Central Government can take up trading. It also specifies that farmers have to be paid on the same day or within a maximum period of three working days, with a receipt of delivery that mentions the due payment as paid to the farmer from whom they purchase. Added to these, inadequate market yards and infrastructure in the market yards, transportation of products are the real challenges to the farmers for selling their products in the entire country, wherever they want to sell.

### **Lifeline to Corporate Company or Farmers or Whatever the Reforms**

The reforms perhaps are useful to increase productivity and foster rural development. The Government acclaims that the reforms under the new Acts etc. are a move to transform the farm sector and help raise farmers' income. India has become surplus in most agri-commodities, farmers have been unable to get better prices due to lack of investment in cold storage, processing and export, as the entrepreneurial spirit gets dampened due to hanging sword of Essential Commodities Act. This will also remove fears of private investors of excessive regulatory interference, Union Minister, Prakash Javadekar said. The terms of the trade in agricultural sector are in favour of private investors. It is not surprising that reforms, given scale of investment, technology and networking of large farmers and corporate companies or big traders, invariably serve their interests (lifeline) than the small peasants. The marginal and small farmers have fragmented and unfertile land, and are inaccessible to inputs such as irrigation, technologies, credit, and market. There are serious concerns about how the proposed reforms ensure protect the interests of the small peasants from the unhealthy competition and also the onslaught of corporate companies/private agents and ensures food security to the poor. This situation undermines self-reliance of rural community.

### **Rural Concerns**

The foremost concern is the duality of the ideological foundation (protectionist and private investment/FDI) of self-reliant India. The concepts – protectionist and FDI – are contradictory to each other.

The other concerns are: Is it possible for India to be self-reliant in the context of globalization? Whether Abhiyan is an extension of New Economic Reforms, 1991 or a different trajectory of new Indian economy? Whether present reforms would reduce the gap between the better endowed and backward regions or States, rich and poor, and bring inclusive development? Whether Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan economic package (Rs.20 lakh crore) would be adequate to make India self-reliant?

To sum up, the precious fact that policies that look fair and just at first sight, often end up hurting the very people they were supposed to help. The Government is contemplating to bring 'New Horizons of Growth' (the phrase that epitomizes Finance Minister's fourth part of serial) by opening key sectors of the economy to private sector/foreign capital and promote its competitiveness globally and thereby to stir Indian economy towards a self-reliant economy. If we go by the past record of farmers' accessibility to financial institutions and quality of resources at their disposal, one will not expect self-reliance of farming community from these reforms. The reforms, instead of embracing well-being of farmers, are likely to promote stark inequalities. Historically, socio-economic inequalities have been in existence but the present reforms in agriculture and eight key sectors would further accentuate the problem manifold.

Thank you, Sir, for giving this opportunity.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Thank you very much, Dr. Reddy, for a very elaborate presentation. In fact, I have no words to thank each one of you for being with us and sparing your valuable time. I know, some of our members who are attending, like from U.P., like from Patliputra, from West Bengal and most of the branches, could not speak today. So, we regret that we could not enable them to speak. Some of them have sent their e-mails to me, like Patliputra has said that Gati Shakti should also be understood as a part of Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan. So, friends, those who could not speak today, if they have done the prelude conference and there are some recommendations, they can still share it with us and we will collate it, compile it and do all that was being done earlier also. Thank you very much.

Would you like to add something as concluding remarks, Dr. Taneja?

DR. PAWAN KUMAR TANEJA: Thank you very much. I thank all the members and all the presenters who have shared their thoughts with us on this issue of Aatma Nirbhar Bharat. I love the additional points which have been coming, which we are not able to talk about, just like D.G. Saheb has just

mentioned about Gati Shakti. We have not considered it as one of the important aspects. In the same way, inclusion, innovation, and intent at the lowest level is one of the most important aspects. We will try to incorporate it. Innovation is the future at the grass-root level. We will try to incorporate all these points in the coming days.

Thank you very much once again for sharing all your knowledge thoughts and ideas with us. All points which you have mentioned, or we have received in the form of recommendations, we will try to incorporate them. Thank you very much.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Thank you. In fact, *aatmanirbharta* is like malnutrition. Anything you miss is essential and how much is essential, nobody knows it. It is an ongoing journey, what you call, work in progress. So is the policy making. Policy making either by political actors or by bureaucrats or academia or through various options, is a combination approach and we must listen as much as we could, absorb as fast as we should and convert all those suggestions and ideas in the public policy. That is the purpose of organizing such a conference.

I must thank each one of you for being with us. Over to you, Mr. Amitabh Ranjan.

### **Vote of Thanks**

SHRI AMITABH RANJAN, REGISTRAR, IIPA: Thank you, ladies, and gentlemen. Today we have witnessed a very very useful interaction on Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, its various aspects. Members' Annual conference is a regular annual feature of IIPA's activities. Today, I want to thank Dr. Pawan Kumar Taneja, our faculty member, for presenting a very very elaborate

presentation with facts and figures. He has been working very hard for the last few months for polishing his presentation and publishing the Theme Paper, and he has brought out a very very good publication also in the form of Theme Paper on this topic. It has been a real treat to watch and listen to the presentation of Dr. Taneja today. Thank you, Dr. Taneja from the bottom of my heart. I want to thank him for this hard work. Thank you very much.

My thanks are due to all the office bearers of Regional and Local branches who have joined us today, who have done the prelude conferences at their respective branches, who have participated in the meeting and listened and presented their reports on the prelude conferences. Thank you very much.

I want to greet all the four Paper presenters who are with us, like Dr. Taneja, Dr. Rajesh Kumar Kundu, Dr Nittam Chandel and Dr. A.V. Narsimha Reddy for their hard work and presentation of their Papers. Thank you very much.

My sincere thanks are due to all our members who have joined us today and participated in this annual feature of IIPA. Thank you very much.

My sincere heartfelt thanks to all our faculty members who have joined us in this very very important feature of IIPA activities.

My thanks will not be complete if I do not mention our Director-General, Shri Surendra Nath Tripathi Ji for mentoring IIPA and marshalling all our resources in these difficult times also and making this event happen in these trying times. Thank you very much, Sir, for your kind hard work towards IIPA.

My thanks are reserved for our Deputy Registrar, Shri Mithun Barua, Superintendent, R.C. Unit, Shri Rakesh Joshi, Computer Section, Publications Section and all others who have supported for making this event a very hugely successful event.

Thank you all very much.

**(END OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE)**