

BOOSTING COMBAT CAPABILITIES

The rapid advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AI) is transforming modern warfare across the globe, with militaries increasingly integrating AI-driven systems to enhance operational effectiveness, strategic planning, and battlefield superiority. India, recognizing the immense potential of AI, is also moving swiftly to adopt these technologies to augment its combat capabilities, improve decision-making, and ensure national security in an increasingly complex threat landscape.

AI applications in defence are manifold-ranging from predictive maintenance of military equipment, autonomous vehicles and drones, enhanced surveillance and reconnaissance, to cybersecurity and real-time data analytics for battlefield assessment. By leveraging AI, armed forces can process vast amounts of data generated by sensors, satellites, and communication systems to gain actionable insights and anticipate enemy movements with greater accuracy and speed.

One of the most transformative areas is the use of AI in unmanned systems. Autonomous drones and vehicles can perform high-risk missions without endangering human lives. These AI-powered platforms can conduct surveillance, deliver payloads, or engage targets with precision in contested or denied environments. Similarly, AI-enabled robotics can support soldiers in logistics, rescue missions, or clearing explosive devices, thereby enhancing operational safety and efficiency.

In the realm of cyber defence, AI is proving invaluable in identifying and countering sophisticated cyber threats in real time. With increasing reliance on digital infrastructure, defence networks are prime targets for cyberattacks. AI algorithms can detect anomalies, recognize patterns, and respond to intrusions faster than human operators, thereby strengthening the resilience of critical defence systems.

India has already taken proactive steps towards AI integration in its armed forces. The Ministry of Defence has established a high-level Defence AI Council and Defence AI Project Agency to promote the development and deployment of AI-based systems. Institutions such as DRDO and the armed services are working on AI-driven combat systems, intelligence platforms, and decision-support tools tailored to Indian needs. The focus on indigenous development is also aligned with the larger goal of achieving self-reliance in defence technologies under the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative.

Ensuring that AI systems remain under meaningful human control is crucial to prevent unintended escalation or misuse. Moreover, AI adoption must be accompanied by strong data governance, secure infrastructure, and skilled human resources to avoid vulnerabilities.

Eroding values among youth is a threat for a civilize society: A moment for reflection

■ MOHAMMAD ASHRIF QURESHI

Our most basic institution of family desperately needs help and support from the extended family and the public institutions that surround us. Fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles, grandparents and cousins can make a powerful difference in the lives of children. Remember that the expression of love, affection and encouragement from an extended family member will often provide the right influence and help a child at a critical time.

Life is the noblest gift by Almighty Allah. It is fixed in term of every seconds. Allah made a plan for its creatures on the sky within the company of his angels. He is a creator's & much potent. He has bestowed a life & death to every individual & his hidden plan of life span for every one is really astonishing when we visualise death's around us. Some one left this unbelievable world during their blossom of youth & some noble childrens gave a proof of their innocence by death. Some experienced people's touched 100 years in this temporary world and should moved towards eternity. Actually, life is a venture & every soul will taste a death however it is a bitter reality but here a question arise in the mind of those whose belief is indelible in the life of eternity. Can living for themselves is a sign of success. I think no, life will become very beautiful, precious & a fruitful when it is for the sake of self vs society because we cannot forget the obligations of a society. The modern trend is working aganist the norms of humanity which creates a huge gap within relations & the stance of that disaster have experienced by everybody. we are readings, seeings, feelings & understandings the root causes of so many incidents on the basis of a daily reports with the help of media & social networking This is because of our valueless education which inbuilt the characters of insecurity, insensitivity, immorality in our blood. Education plays

a key role for perceiving the actual meaning of life but the modern age is totally unmatched & unacceptable for the development of human relations it has no comparison with ancient times when the less educated people's took the pain of others and elated the humanity with love & affection. The eroding values from young generation alert us to protect them otherwise distrustful people will spread & flourish immoral education & put all of us in a painful trouble when we visualise the growth and development of science & technology then we can only imagine the journey to reach on moon, fly in a universe & a touched the lowest layer in an oceans because man has done excellent job in a various fields except providing strength to the values of life. Human beings reached on moon, discovered machinery, conferred with prizes & honours, touch the sky by hands, achieved glory & got much comfort in every spheres of life. Enjoying their journey with the help of aeroplanes, ships, trains, buses, cars & boats. They have collected many degrees & diplomas through out nationally and internationally platform's. Their networks throughout the globe is an outstanding example by using mobile phones in the form of social media like Facebook, WhatsApp, Twitter, Instagram, immo etc besides it they are unaware to know about the problems of their neighbours. This is a complete failure of humanity we need to achieve excellence in every field but the present situations alert us to curb the eroding values at an alarming rate & pay heed to inculcate religious, spiritual, morals aesthetics, ethics, cultural's & social values among youth otherwise the relationship with human beings & their social bondages will be recalling on the basis of name & fame only. Recalled when globe suffered to find peace, progress & harmony during covid-19 pandemic but there was no chance of any comfort because our connection with a divine power was not good.

India is a great democratic nation known for its universal brother-hood, a place of sufis & saints, a unique identity of customs & traditions, a belief in the area of a unity & diversity but now we the modern people neglect the culture of our elders in every walk of life this make us a corrupt, drug addict, offender, immoral, irresponsible toward society & nation. Its the outcome of the erosion of values in a large extent. Near about 50% population of our country belongs to youth so, its a dire need of time to curb the eroding values among youth.

Karl Marx a German philosopher tried his best to make a balance in the society by exploring & generating some good ideas to solve the problem of a class conflicts in between capitalist & working class but eventually he believed a workable superstructure is based only on religion from where we get values & understand the meaning of a true patriotic life. There is no religion which allow any body to do some brutal action upon others as I have faced a terrible scene due to the kindness of some dual-core people who were very closed to me. So, it's the prime duty of every individual to guide young generation for getting religious education in a real sense, read holy books, offer prayer for the betterment of life by improving the relationship among each others on the basis of principle & purity of values. It's the only way to fight with corruption, control on drugs addiction & a proper use of resources in a judicious way. Elders & Elders must knows the importance of helping hands & guide to young generation for doing this deed with poor & needy then the youth will understand the power of charity & behave humbly with others. Actually the progress of social bounding in a real sense is a progress of humanity without any discrimination on the basis of caste, creed & colour otherwise nuclear weapons are waiting to destroy us completely from this planet

because there is no alternate of peace except values. The erosion of extended family concept and losing out on values are the two things that are primarily responsible for the growing mismatch in the parent-child relationship. Home is the initial school where father, mother, elder brother, sister can play a pivotal role to identify the problem of growing children's because they need counseling and motivation then the prime duty of noble teachers who can change the life of young generation. As per the analysis of present age their are so many jealous people working with nobles in each and every department and their focused is only to degrade the personality of innocent and highly intellectual personality then there the work of administration play a key role to identify right and wrong for the creation of a balance environment which will laid a good impact on childrens personality otherwise delay will drag genius in a trouble and workless would gained sympathy by using instrument of flattery. I Mohd Ashrif Qureshi inclined the attention of every right person towards the real world where we feel with our true spirit about the presence of God otherwise our life become mission less if we adopt the policy of comfort-seekers and bond ourself with fraud. I request to all the noble parents to put keen sight on your children and also expressed your ideas with motivation, guidance by following the rules and regulations for a successful human being. Majority believed on post and power and eventually they kick-out their own parents and make unsolved hurdles for some reasonable people of society. If parents, teachers, social workers, prominent citizens from all sections come forward to support our administration then their is a chance of peace, progress, prosperity, growth and development of every individual in a society.

Keep your values positive because your values become your destiny.

Sustainable Tourism, Shared Prosperity

■ GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT



Tourism is not simply the act of travel; it is a bridge between peoples, a generator of livelihoods, and a channel through which our culture is shared with the world. On this World Tourism Day, dedicated to Tourism and Sustainable Transformation, it is important to recognise how under the decisive leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India's tourism story has been reshaped. What was once a seasonal and scattered pursuit has become a planned, inclusive, and sustainable driver of national development.

This change is measured not in abstractions but in lives touched. By June 2025, inbound tourism reached 1.65 million visitors, outbound travel 8.44 million, and foreign exchange earnings from tourism touched Rs 51,532 crore. In 2023-24 alone, the

sector contributed Rs 15.73 lakh crore to GDP - more than five per cent of the economy - and supported over 84 million jobs. Behind these figures are artisans finding new markets, families opening homestays, and guides, drivers, and small businesses enjoying steadier demand.

At the heart of this progress lies the Prime Minister's conviction that tourism must serve as a national priority, not a fringe activity. Infrastructure and connectivity were expanded through new airports, modernised railways, newly built highways and inland waterways. The UDAN scheme brought air travel within reach of smaller towns. Better last-mile links to heritage sites and pilgrim circuits have made journeys possible for millions who were once excluded by cost or distance. Tourism has thus become an instrument of balanced regional development, not an urban luxury.

Destination development, too, has been guided by this vision. Programmes such as Swadesh

Darshan 2.0 and PRASHAD place sustainability and cultural integrity at their core. The introduction of Destination Management Organisations brings together government, private players, and local communities, ensuring that resources are managed wisely and benefits flow equitably.

The Prime Minister has also re-imagined how India presents itself to the world. A revitalised Incredible India portal, partnerships with global travel platforms, and new forms of digital storytelling have given the smallest operators - village hosts, homestays, cultural entrepreneurs - access to global audiences. Technology has become a tool not only for marketing but also for protecting fragile sites through data-driven management.

Sustainability, however, is the most distinctive hallmark of this transformation. Building upon his wider LiFE movement - Lifestyle for Environment - the Prime Minister launched "Travel for LiFE", embedding stewardship into

tourism itself. From low-impact rural experiences to eco-sensitive infrastructure and responsible pilgrimage management, the emphasis is on ensuring that travel nurtures rather than depletes. Under India's G20 Presidency, the Goa Roadmap was advanced to align global tourism with the Sustainable Development Goals, placing green growth, skills, digitalisation, and support for MSMEs at the centre of global discourse.

Fiscal reforms have reinforced these structural shifts. The most recent - the reduction of GST on hotel rooms priced between Rs 1,000 and Rs 7,500 to 5 per cent - was a conscious step to encourage the middle-class traveller whose pilgrimages, weekend trips and rural stays sustain much of the sector. While debate continues over the withdrawal of input tax credit, the larger impact is clear: affordability has widened access. More travellers mean fuller hotels, greater demand for local services, and new opportunities for artisans and entrepreneurs.

As Prime Minister Modi has emphasised, affordability is not merely an economic lever but a democratic principle, making travel the right of the many rather than the privilege of the few.

Yet the Prime Minister has consistently reminded us that policy alone is insufficient. Transformation demands community at its heart. That is why programmes train local youth as guides, incentivise eco-friendly hospitality, support artisans to reach wider markets, and protect the sanctity of pilgrim circuits. Tourism, in this vision, is not imposed from above but built with those whose lives it most directly shapes.

Challenges remain - infrastructure bottlenecks, the vulnerabilities of climate change, the rising expectations of modern travellers - but India today has the tools to respond. Under Modi's leadership, we have forged institutions, financing models, and governance frameworks to meet these tests.

Looking forward, three priorities will guide us. We must deepen sustainability, ensuring growth always yields eco-

logical dividends. We must democratise benefits by investing in MSMEs and mid-market enterprises that create local jobs. And we must strengthen governance and data so that flows are managed wisely and assets preserved.

India's experience proves that when coherent policy, fiscal prudence, and community engagement converge under visionary leadership, transformation is real. On this World Tourism Day, let us pledge to travel responsibly, to support local livelihoods, and to keep alive the promise of Viksit Bharat in every itinerary. Tourism, rightly nurtured, will not only be a pillar of our economy but a living testimony to India's civilisational ethos - open, resilient, and hospitable. The road ahead is long, but under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, we have built the vehicle. Now we must steer it with care, courage, and a shared sense of purpose.

(The author is Union Minister for Culture and Tourism, Government of India)

‘From criticism to growth: shifting the focus from destruction to self-improvement’

■ SHONIMA MALHOTRA

Just ask yourself a question, 'Are you perfect?' I am cent percent sure that your answer will be in negative. Isn't it? Then what gives you the right to pass a comment against others and criticize them? But still we do that considering it to be our birth right. The matter of fact is that instead of working on self-improvement, we are more inclined towards criticizing others. To criticize or condemn others is a very common trait prevailing amongst us. In fact for some people criticism acts as a tonic which boost their physical and mental energy level. But have you ever realized what is just simply a time pass or a means of amusement for you, how much pain this might inflict on others and to what extent this might affect their physical and mental health? It hardly takes a second to open your mouth and utter a comment against someone, 'Do you know A's daughter or son has fled with someone or do you know B's son or daughter has become a drug addict?' and a lot more..... Being inconsiderate towards those person's troubles and pain, we enjoy making fun of them by making them a subject of gossip. Come on, just try to put yourself in their shoes and realize their condition instead of speaking ill of them. Moreover imagine if someone criticizes you, how would you feel? Certainly, you won't be happy with

it. So why do something to others when you cannot tolerate it on your own. I remember when I was in school one of my friends who had participated in an extempore had to speak on this topic. Though it has been long but I still remember one of the examples she gave. She said that when we point a finger at someone do remember that the other three fingers are pointed towards our own selves. So, instead of focusing on that one pointed finger towards someone, better pay attention to the other three fingers which are pointed at you. It will undoubtedly upgrade you as a person and help you become a better version of you. Don't you think this should be your priority?

I don't say that criticism is always wrong. The phrase that 'every coin has two sides' is applicable in case of criticism also. In consonance with this phrase, healthy and positive criticism is constructive rather than destructive side of criticism. Undoubtedly, by doing so one is doing no harm to anyone physically, mentally, emotionally or spiritually, rather one is helping other person to grow and improve. So if you want to indulge in criticism indulge in constructive rather than destructive aspect of it so that at least you will be able to do some benefit to others and also maintain your own purity. By resorting to unhealthy criticism don't play with

other's feelings and emotions and degrade your level. It has been very aptly said, 'Only the wearer knows, where the shoe pinches'. It is something very natural that when our lives are going on smoothly, we don't realize the bad and tough times the other people are going through, rather it becomes a kind of news for us which we enjoy circulating to others adding our own spices to it. We tend to forget that time never remains the same and one day we might fall in the same situation which the other person is facing today. So, beware of this before targeting someone and stop poking your nose in other person's lives unnecessarily. We are fortunate enough to have ample sources of recreation, so why resort to this petty unhealthy praetice.

I would also like to add that we cannot change others way of thinking or stop them from criticizing, but if we are at the receiving end, we have the power to decide how to react to this criticism. We need to demareate and draw a line regarding which criticism is to be taken seriously and which one is to be avoided. Never forget that no matter how hard we try, we cannot always satisfy everyone. We will always be right for some people and wrong for others. Always remember that the glass will always be half filled for few and half empty for others. It is all about perspectives. Nothing else. So, if we know in our hearts of hearts that

we are correct on our part and our conscience is clear, we simply need to let go off unjust criticism without paying pay a heed to the unhealthy remarks and judgements of others. But if someone is suggesting us something which we know is for our good we should not feel offended, rather we should be grateful to that person for helping us tread on the path of self improvement. We should welcome such suggestions with open minds and hearts and put them into practice without a delay. I strongly feel that if someone is genuinely concerned about you he/she would never make fun of your situation and would tell you about your short comings directly on your face instead of talking behind your backs. Believe me, you are lucky and fortunate enough if you have someone in your life that criticizes you and gives you sincere advice for your betterment, rather than someone who falsely flatters you.

The essence of true wisdom is in understanding and improving oneself. Instead of judging and criticizing others, we should emphasise on introspection and acknowledge and improve upon our own flaws.

Bura Jo Dekhan Mein Chala, Bura Naa Miliya Koye, Jo Mann Khoja Apnaa, To Mujhse Bura Naa Koye.

(The writer is Assistant Professor of Sociology, GDC Sidhra)

Police personnel's along with the staff of other departments earned a good name. A friend in need is friend indeed. Similarly the state sponsored Basohli Utsav coinciding with the world famous was acknowledged as the most successful venture of the UT cultural department, District administration. The entire arrangements made during the Basohli Utsav were lauded by His Excellency. But for the unfiring dedicated and sincere efforts of the Basohli administration the Basohli Utsav would not have registered success.

Shiv Kumar Padha
A social activist of Basohli

36% of the Nifty 100: The Rising Dominance of India's Business Houses

■ RISHI GUPTA



The theme of investing in the conglomerates is fast gaining traction in India, driven by their enduring edge in sunrise sectors-industries that are capital-intensive, technology-driven, and often offer limited near-term profit visibility.

Financial strength gives conglomerates a dual advantage-smooth entry into new ventures and a higher probability of long-term survival. With expansive balance-sheets, robust operating cash-flows, and disciplined capital management, these groups can fund the expansion, sustain heavy capex, and manage working capital with remarkable agility.

During downturns, the conglomerates transform adversity into an opportunity. Their deep pockets enable them to pursue mergers, acquisitions, and government divestments-consolidating market share while the others retreat. Backed by scale and diversification, they navigate volatility with resilience and often emerge stronger from any economic slowdowns.

This trend is most visible in India's next-generation industries. In semiconductors, the top two manufacturers are large conglomerates. In electric mobility, diversified business groups dominate both the two-wheeler and the four-wheeler segments. Even in pumped hydro storage, three of the top five players belong to the conglomerates. High capital intensity forms a formidable entry barrier-but for these industrial giants, that very barrier becomes a strategic moat.

Their advantages extend well beyond finance. Captive financing arms-a hallmark of major business houses-create integrated ecosystems, offering affordable credit to customers purchasing the group's products. Control over financing terms enhances customer loyalty and conversion. Meanwhile, forward, backward, and adjacent integrations strengthen the cross-selling potential as well as the operational efficiency.

Investor confidence in this theme is unmistakable. As of July 2025, conglomerates account for 36% of the Nifty 100 up from 26% in 2013. The shift reflects a growing recognition that in capital-heavy sunrise industries, financial strength is the ultimate competitive edge. Conglomerates, armed with scale, diversity, and balance-sheet power, are not just participating in India's next growth wave-they are leading it.

Against this backdrop, investors who wish to invest in the conglomerate theme can consider the ICICI Prudential Conglomerate Fund. As the name suggests, this is an open-ended equity scheme investing in conglomerate theme and has the flexibility to invest across sectors and market capitalisations. The New Fund Offer (NFO) is open from October 03, 2025 to October 17, 2025.

(The writer is Mutual Fund Distributor, J&K)

YOUR COLUMN

Commendable performance of Basohli administration during Basohli Utsav and disaster

Dear Editor,
The last two months have been witnessed as the days of merriment (Basohli Utsav) and dejections due to the

national calamities as a result of heavy rains and landslides. Salute to the entire Basohli administration and the public representatives who spared no efforts in reaching out the disaster affected population at the higher and inaccessible reaches of thee sub district. The Basohli administration along with the HODs of all the departments at Basohli rendered full cooperation to the administration in the matters of supplying and arranging for the basic necessities to the families rendered homeless due to the sinking of land and sliding of the lands.

The decision making caliber of the ADC, Tehsildar,