


PINNACLES OF DEVELOPMENT

The present Government is leaving no stone unturned in taking the nation towards height of growth and prosperity, by initiating several step which were earlier lacking in the efforts of the previous Governments. Working with a zeal and enthusiasm to include the nation in the lobby of fully developed countries, there is not a single aspect on which the present Government led by Prime Minister has not worked with concentrated efforts. The matter of satisfaction is that all endeavours and initiatives taken by ruling dispensation are yielding expected results that too within just 8 years of working of Government. Recently, taking a significant step, in the first-ever disbursement under the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes, envisioned by the Prime Minister, the Empowered Committee headed by CEO, NITI Aayog recently approved incentive for mobile manufacturing under the 'Large-Scale Electronics Manufacturing' sector. The PLI scheme for Large-Scale Electronics Manufacturing, mapped to the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY), is expected to make India a competitive destination for electronics manufacturing and give a boost to Aatmanirbhar Bharat while creating more global champions. M/s Padget Electronics Pvt Ltd, a domestic company, is the first beneficiary approved by the Empowered Committee to receive incentive under mobile manufacturing based on its incremental investment and sales figures for FY 2021-22. Padget Electronics Pvt. Ltd is a 100 per cent subsidiary of Dixon Technologies Pvt. Ltd and has manufacturing facilities in Noida, Uttar Pradesh. Thirty-two beneficiaries had been approved under the PLI scheme for Large-Scale Electronics Manufacturing, of which 10 (5 global and 5 domestic companies) were approved for mobile manufacturing. For the quarter ending June 2022, the applicants under this PLI scheme had undertaken sales of Rs 1,67,770 crore, including export of Rs 65,240 crore. This PLI scheme has also generated employment of 28,636. Over the last 3 years, exports have grown by 139 per cent. The applications for incentives by the other beneficiaries will also be considered for approval soon. The proposal for disbursement of incentives presented by MEITY was considered by the Empowered Committee comprising NITI Aayog CEO Parameswaran Iyer, DPIIT Secretary Anurag Jain, MEITY Secretary Alkesh Kumar Sharma, and representatives from the Department of Expenditure, Department of Revenue, Department of Economic Affairs and office of DGFT. The Empowered Committee gave its recommendations for disbursal of incentive to the selected beneficiary under the PLI scheme. The PLI scheme on Large-Scale Electronic Manufacturing, which includes manufacturing of mobile phones and manufacturing of specified electronic components, was approved in March 2020, with a total outlay of Rs 38,645 crore. The scheme is expected to bring in additional production to the tune of Rs 10,69,432 crore and generate employment for 7,00,000 people.



OFF 'D' CUFF

Unfolding the stockings: Mystery behind Christmas Toys

Christmas has become one of those festivals which has been infused with the materialistic practice of gift-giving. While the children who have now turned into adults have long been slapped with the 'harsh reality' that Santa does not exist and even if he does, he has never shown up to them in their entire lifetime. If anything can be known for sure, it is tracing the practice of giving toys to children at Christmas.

One historian Joseph Wachelder in his 2013 paper has traced the origin of gift-giving and in particular, toys for children to early nineteenth-century England. Early nineteenth-century England was when giving toys for Christmas first became a thing.

The story or rather, the history goes like this: Christmas in England before the Industrial Revolution, as Wachelder terms it, was a 'public, exuberant, turbulent feast'. The celebration of Christmas as a festival was associated with harvesting. Harvest was a matter of celebration. The laborers used to get drenched with the spirit of celebration, marking a good harvest, and the patrons used to make fresh meat and plenty of drink abundant to them.

The Industrial Revolution brought about massive technological changes which also reflected in the socio-economic life of the people. One such outcome was seen in terms of earning the living through wage labor and that brought about a halt to the carnival-style holiday. Christmas had now become a family holiday from a public one. The practice of gift-giving also transformed.

Now, the gifts were for children instead of servants. The natural choice of gifts for children was found in the concept of 'toys'. However, Wachelder has pointed out that the term 'toy' was not how we understand them today. It might be described as any small object which could help children exercise their senses of the imagination, their initiative and inventive power. Thus, the objective of giving toys to children was child development other than gift-giving on

Speech that changed global perspective

■ M R LALU

If someone asks what is September 11 known for; the sudden emotion pumps into the mind of an average person would be grief that the memories of a horrendous terror attack that American state was traumatized by. Thousands of people being thrown under the debris of the twin towers, America's hegemony propelled by its material success got shattered for a while in 2001. Destruction to a humongous magnitude takes time to evaporate from the sphere of memory. Tangential is its impact if lessons are not learned. But what about an initiative that appears to be minimal but enormous and consistent in its effect for decades and sure to stay for centuries? The visit paid by a saint to the land of affluence the US should be remembered for all positive reasons as India was known as the land of snake charmers and black magic among the western world, an epithet that it was sarcastically adorned with. The superstar saint Swami Vivekananda lived in India when the world was away from conceiving the idea of social media and visual media inventions. Still he became famous in America, the country that he chose to appraise his great thoughts of amity, compassion and intellectual veracity. Could a saint of his stature have planned such a journey with a purpose to emancipate a country that reeled under colonial rule with a spiritual churning as the task in hand? Vivekananda could do it with complete temerity. Vivekananda's visit to America and his historic speech in the World Parliament of Religions at Chicago on September 11, 1893 became a turning point in India's course of spiritual journey. His mission was to revive the ancient glory of India to a western audience in the language that they understood. Philosophy

can be presented at its best when words are aligned in tune with the impulse of the listener and spiritual values with metaphorical expositions hold the essence and presence of life in union. The speeches that Vivekananda delivered on a foreign soil had an electrifying impact on an audience that often had the habit of underrating thoughts that the eastern world held supreme. Vivekananda accentuated the idea of Universal Brotherhood that India propagated from the ages of sages and the confidence and exuberance with which he managed the stage was brilliant. To a rapturous audience who initially sat in contempt with a visible belittling intent stood up cheering the guest from the east in saffron robes as he presented his views in the first speech. The real game began there. He enjoyed the largest audience ever since the first speech he made in the parliament. Curious listeners thronged in large numbers to capture a glimpse of the young yogi and drink from his beaker of wisdom and he left no stone unturned to make his points count. Addressing the gathering as 'Sisters and Brothers of America', Vivekananda was giving a valuable insight on Universal Brotherhood to the hypocrisy that the colonial mindset of the west was enmeshed in. If the parliament of religions was held to superimpose the hegemony of the western semitic thoughts over other spiritual beliefs, Swami Vivekananda had unequivocally unseated the notion of western dominance in philosophy and spirituality. The speech that he began his intellectual fireworks with had a message to the world about a land and its religion that taught humanity toleration and universal acceptance. Of course, wonderful was his intellectual eloquence and his sparkling eyes reflected the penance that he strengthened his spiritual

personality through. The element of surprise that India offered in the field of spirituality was this; an ordinary saint with no academic credentials to showcase his scholastic brilliance could mould an ordinary boy to a spiritual giant. The story of Ramakrishna and Vivekananda (teacher and student) would astonish every genuine seeker of the truth. A patriot to the core, Vivekananda had influenced everybody who jumped into the pyre of freedom movement. For him, spirituality supported by a patriotic fervour was the key to open the path to independence; an elevation of the country into its potential self was its outcome. India, under colonial rule could not have heard words more powerful than those uttered by Vivekananda in a foreign soil. The brave monk said, 'I am proud to belong to a religion which has taught the world both tolerance and universal acceptance. We believe not only in universal toleration, but we accept all religions as true. I am proud to belong to a nation which has sheltered the persecuted and the refugees of all religions and all nations on earth.' Neither India nor its ancient religious beliefs could have been represented in words better than this. These statements in his opening speech could very well blow the lid of western hypocrisy. This was a goal half achieved for Vivekananda and the oratory he continued until the culmination of the Parliament of Religions gained tremendous admiration from students, intellectuals, philosophers and the western media. The storm that he created on a world stage got transmuted into a spiritual mission. Foreseeing the precariousness that the world religions are pushing humanity through, Vivekananda impressed upon the multiplicity that nature offered and the underlying unity of oneness that India, the ultimate spiritu-

al destination, discovered and propagated. His critical examination on the semitic exclusive propaganda warned the world of severe consequences and alarm bells were rung against the fight and bloodshed that religions with rigid spiritual ethos were bound to bring. Juxtaposing religious ideals of varying colours and trends and practices, Vivekananda could successfully prove the meaning of spiritual liberation. His direct attack on the Christian missionaries on their wayward and deceiving ways of proselytizing innocent Indians was the sign of a strong spiritual personality turning tables on a myopic yet belligerent western symbolism. Great was his effort and greater was its effect. The western mindset on India's spiritual existence had changed tremendously since Vivekananda interacted with it. While invoking Vivekananda's speech last year, Prime Minister Modi recalled the essence of his speech and its capacity to create a more just, prosperous and inclusive planet. When the world is reeling under religious fanaticism with bloodshed in the name of a single masculine almighty, throwing social coherence into perils, Vivekananda's views stand out seamlessly focused on compassion and ethics. His comprehensive spiritual representation on the multitude that the world is, and the cohesion that it is capable of, is visible in his metaphorical narration. Vivekananda's prayerful mind thus envisages, "As the different streams having their sources in different places all mingle their water in the sea. The different paths which men take through different tendencies, various though they appear crooked or straight, all lead to the same reality." September 11 should evoke feelings of religious solidarity in a world of intolerance and acrimony.

Engineers- backbone of a nation

■ ER PRABHAT KISHORE

In year 1968, Government of India has declared 15th September as 'Engineers' Day' as a tribute to the greatest Engineer Bharat Ratan Mokshagundam Vishveshvaraiya. Born on 15th September 1860, Dr Vishveshvaraiya went to become India's most prolific civil engineer, dam & bridge builder, economist, statesman and can be counted among the last century's foremost nation-builders.

Nation as well as society recalls the priceless and irreplaceable contribution of their engineers in nation building. Engineer's Day is observed in several countries on various dates having their own importance. UNESCO celebrates March 4th of every year as World Engineer's Day at international level to feel proud of our engineer's achievements in every field of Science & Technology. The history of engineers is as old as civilisation. Just as civilisation developed people began reshaping their environment with villages, farms, watersheds, roads, ships and eventually towns. With each advancement, came new challenges that required more complex and creative solutions, which were solved by experiments as well as experience. With the passage of time, there has been considerable overhauling in the system. The advent of computer & software has completely changed the scenario in infrastructure sector. Quality in construction, planning, scheduling, organising, coordinating, controlling, management etc has been improved and elapsed time minimised.

In religious scripture, Bhagwan Vishwakarma has been enshrined as an engineer & architect of the Devlok. In Treta Yuga, during departure of Shri Ram to Sri Lanka, two warriors of the Vanar Sena - Nal and Neel have showed their engineering expertise by constructing stone bridge 'Shri Ram Setu' across the ocean between present day Dhanushkodi in Rameshwaram (Bharat) & Mannar (Sri Lanka).

The bridge, having approximately 30-35 Km length & 3 Km width, is

the unique model of ancient engineering dexterity.

Engineers play a very important role in every walk of life. They are technically skilled professionals, who are responsible for solving problems through the use of machines, devices, systems, materials and processes.

They convert knowledge of basic sciences into products. Their main focus is on making things work efficiently and effectively by applying the theories and principles of sciences and mathematics to research, and develop economic solutions to technical problems.

The engineer differs from scientist by the nature of their training. While the scientists try to explore the natural world and discover new knowledge about the universe and how it works, engineers apply that knowledge to solve real problems, often with an eye toward improving cost and efficiency.

Their works are the link between the perceived social needs and economic applications. They are the bridge between science and art. Engineers are the backbone of nation building and the purpose of engineering is to innovate, design, create and maintain products, system and equipment for the benefit and wellbeing of humans.

They help improve living conditions for the common people. If a country fails to realise the role of engineers in her nation building and the engineers are leaving for better opportunities abroad, then the country will continue to experience collapsed buildings and bridges, substandard products, failed roads, communication failures, environmental hazards, epileptic power supply etc. Engineers contribute to the nation's technological & industrial progress. As nations in the world are undergoing reformation and the economy is getting more modernised, consumption patterns have expanded and demand is constantly on the increase.

There is therefore a growing consciousness of quality control at every level of production. The engineers have to realise their responsibility and play an effective role in

tackling today's complex issues in the nation building. To build a nation is to make it habitable for the citizens by providing social amenities, infrastructural facilities, job creation and security and many more; the engineers therefore have a very important role to play.

Thus, they are duty bound to design products, machineries and plants to manufacture these products, and systems to ensure quality and efficiency. They are to design, plan and supervise construction of buildings, and ensure their safety and stability against hazards; design highways, bridges, railways and transit systems, dams, irrigation canals, power systems, ports, harbours as well as off-shore structures. Engineers should equally know that it is their duty to develop and implement improved ways to extract, process and use raw materials; develop new raw materials that can improve product performance and take advantage of advances in technology to harness the power of the sun, the gas, the earth, atoms and electricity to supply the nation's power needs; analyse the impact of the products they develop or systems they design on the environment and the people; design ways of managing the nation's waste, converting or recycling them to useful products. Parts of their functions also include determining the cause of component failures, estimating the time and cost of completing new projects as well as maintaining the existing ones. Engineers are pivotal not only in infrastructure, but can act a catalyst in the field of trade and commerce too.

In sales and management, an engineering background enables one to discuss the technical aspects of projects/products and assist in the planning, installation and product use. With such a vast and varied nature of their job, the engineers are really the foundation stone of a nation's building and their role cannot be neglected in a nation's all round progress. The engineers on their part should be proud of what they do and contribute effectively towards the growth of their country and the world at large.

YOUR COLUMN

Bridging gap between schools & colleges

Dear Editor,

A holistic development model is needed at school level to smoothen the transition of students from school to college. Schools focus on academic proficiency and the curriculum and pedagogy are designed to get the students to score good grades. Students transitioning to college are often underprepared for the demands and find it difficult to cope. To make this transition smooth, they must be equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge. This requires policymakers and educators to address the gaps between school and college education, as the former's outcome does not meet the latter's expectations. Schools focus on academic proficiency and the curriculum and pedagogy are designed to get students to score good grades. Counselling students about possible career pathways is sidelined. At the end of high school, students may have the grades but unaware of what to study in university. Thus, they enroll in courses unaligned with their interests and skills, which negatively impact their futures. What is required is a more holistic approach, which can be achieved by the following ways:

Focus on fundamentals: A strong base that provides students with knowledge and skills will help them identify their areas of interest and passion, build their profiles, and chalk out a path to excel in college and professional careers.

Developing life skills: Preparation for college and

career success requires more than exposure to a dynamic curriculum. Life skills can be developed through socialisation and learning values and attitudes through interactions with others. Middle-school is a perfect place to incorporate and develop soft skills such as communication, leadership, creative thinking, and collaboration, among others.

Introduce research in high school: Apart from marks and grades, qualitative opportunities like research projects have become popular for students applying to colleges abroad. Research is a great way to explore areas of interest more deeply and develop academic passions in all fields. Students who have been a part of research programmes can use their projects to showcase their passion and the depth of their abilities.

Internship programmes: This allows students to explore their interests and various career fields before taking the leap and committing to a specific programme. The focus should also be on transferable skills. Internships are an excellent way for students to gain work experience, learn about professional opportunities, and network with like-minded peers.

Vocational training: Skill-based training can prepare students better for their future career options; whether it is their enrollment in colleges/universities or decision to join the corporate world. To help students make a smooth transition from school to college, there is a need to develop a model that takes a multi-faceted approach and considers all the essential aspects of education, including its social, economic and cultural tenets.

Vijay.

PROGRESSING J&K

Govt creates system serving everyone equally across UT

Several key interventions made in Education, Tourism, Industrial sectors to boost growth, economy

Jammu and Kashmir administration is creating a system that serves everyone with equal opportunities besides endeavours to mobilise all the resources to improve the standard of living of people which have been deprived of progress for decades. Several interventions were made in the education sector of the Union territory in the last three years, and efforts were being made to provide quality education to children. Educational system of the UT has been overhauled and aligned as per the recommendations of the National Education Policy, 2020. Through 'Aao School Chalein Campaign', lakhs of students from disadvantaged sections have been brought back to the class rooms. With a view to provide quality education to the youth in remote areas of the UT, 25,000 additional seats at graduate level have been provided by setting up 50 degree colleges. This is the biggest addition in the Higher Education sector in the last 70 years. Uniform academic calendar has been introduced in all higher educational institutions. The present LG-led administration is giving prime focus on the education of Tribal children which can be gauged from the fact that the department of tribal affairs, for the first time, initiated an exercise to assess the state of education viz a viz tribal education and literacy levels prevalent among the tribal population. Based on such surveys, a comprehensive education plan was formulated to address specific educational needs of tribals besides efforts are being made by Education department to upgrade the educational institutions across J&K. The priority of present Government is to secure the future of tribal children. Smart schools in tribal and remote areas are being equipped with modern facilities which can develop scientific temper in children and make them future-ready, besides arresting the dropout rate. The prospects for the tribal community in Jammu and Kashmir are bright as a number of schemes have been launched for its benefit. Never before have tribal community prospects been as bright as they are today. The Forest Rights Act, PM Van Dhan Yojana, healthcare, transport facility, hostels, tourist villages, skill development - every initiative has been aimed at ensuring progress of J&K in an equitable, fair and just manner. Every sector in Jammu and Kashmir is witnessing a trajectory of growth and progress. Regarding the tourism sector, Millions of tourists who visited Jammu and Kashmir this year; testify the overall development and change that has taken place in the Union Territory as the current year touched the highest-ever visitor figure. The long-pending demand of night-flight operations of the residents of Jammu and Kashmir has been fulfilled. 75 off-beat tourist destinations are being developed in Jammu and Kashmir as a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations. Jammu and Kashmir has been a favoured shooting destination for Bollywood. A comprehensive Film Policy was launched last year to attract film-makers after decades and within a year of the notification of the policy, film-makers began to seek shooting permissions for films and web-series in huge numbers from the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), nodal department for implementation of Film Policy. Government is planning to launch a film studio with state-of-the-art facilities to provide new opportunities to the young talent of Jammu and Kashmir besides boosting the business ecosystem of the Union Territory. The Centre deserves credit for overseeing this very welcome industrial and economic resurgence that is dramatically changing J&K since the latter half of 2019. In the last two years, investments from India and abroad have facilitated a sharp improvement in development and socio-economic parameters. Major initiatives have allowed for strides to be taken in key sectors that drive the development engine. J&K is well on its way to becoming one of India's leading UTs. Development benefits were not allowed to reach the last man in the queue. By removing divisive and discriminatory policies all sections of community have been made effective partners in process of development. For women empowerment, Government is making proactive intervention to create facilities to encourage women's participation in governance, business, and other sectors. A gender-inclusive ecosystem in the union territory is being created so that women have a better access to education and economic growth. J&K government is creating an ideal, gender-inclusive ecosystem where they have better access to education and economic growth, putting them at the heart of our development initiatives and making those on the margins aware of their rights. Government is stressing on proper implementation of policies and the need to focus on skill training and re-skilling of women so that they have an equal share in future economic opportunities, an official said. Meanwhile, due to seriousness of Government, an overwhelming response was received for investment under recently announced new Industrial Policy which will create lakhs of employment opportunities for the youth. As per the policy, all Industrial units coming into commercial production from April 1 as well as the existing units undertaking substantial expansion shall be entitled for incentives under this policy while the existing units eligible for incentives under the erstwhile Industrial Policy 2016 shall be allowed to avail the same under the old policy till March 31, 2026. The government would act as facilitator rather than regulator. All UT related services, consents and permissions required to set up and operate an industry in J&K are being provided through Single Window Portal.