

A DECADE OF CHANGE IN INDIA



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FROM THE DESK OF CHAIRMAN

We have witnessed and are witnessing lot of changes happening and have changed in India in last decade, socially, economically and politically. A lot of things are changing for better and leading India as a country to new better, powerful, prosperous India, or say Bharat. Apart from the changes happening, the pace of change has also accelerated leading to benefits of change reaching to beneficiaries at a lot faster pace. The changes also demonstrate the very high caliber and potential of India and Indians to strive in the face of challenges successfully. E.g. who would have thought it that India will not only develop effective vaccines for the recent corona pandemic in very short time but also deliver the same to the world and its own citizens timely and at very economical price, and free of cost to most of the citizens. I am sure we all are happy to witness all these positive changes.

- **Leaping towards one of the largest economies**

With eye set on to India becoming 5 trillion USD economy in times to come, not a long time ago India has taken over French economy to become world's sixth largest economy in terms of real GDP. Introduction of GST, governments' push for digital economy, government's initiatives towards 'make in India' manufacturing push, ease of doing business initiatives, infrastructure push, and many other steps taken has expanded India's economy phenomenally with further tremendous growth potential. This has helped to uplift a lot of people out of poverty. Apart from being one of the largest economies, India is also one of the youngest too. With very large population being young has its benefits, it also poses challenges to provide employment, education, basic necessities to such large population. Growth does bring with itself various challenges like, inflation, economic divide in the society, etc. However, India's breadth and depth of growth has been phenomenal.

- **Fighting Corruption and Black Money**

Probably number of steps taken by Government in last few years is much more than taken since Independence to curb the black money and corruption. From demonetisation of then high value currency notes, to giving more teeth to the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, using Aadhaar and linking the same to income tax PAN, bank accounts, other social benefit schemes, making far reaching changes in the income tax law and introduction amendments of various other laws, digital push in compliance of revenue laws, etc, the government has shown its strong intent to curb the menace of corruption and black money.

- **Strengthening our security forces**

Though most of the security measures remain in secrecy, we have witnessed a lot of changes and measures taken to strengthen our security forces. From acquiring modern equipments, planes, safety gears etc for armed forces to change in policy decision making has put India in much better position to safeguard our borders and giving right signals to the world. Further, 'Make in India' policy has also enhanced our manufacturing capabilities in security equipments. Also our scientists have made significant progress in building warships etc. Another factor which has strengthened security measures is greater successes achieved by our scientists at ISRO in space technologies. All these factors are giving a fillip to our safe borders and internal security measures.

- **Leaping into digital future**

India always had an edge over other countries in the information technology arena; the digital push in various walks of life and government compliances / services is changing a lot of things. The recent digital push has reduced divide between urban and rural access to digital applications, the young demography is also helping to adopt and adapt to the new digital world. Digital application in India has taken a giant leap in last decade and it is helping and impacting people, economy and various aspects of our day to day life.

- **Gaining diplomatic clout in the international arena**

This is one more area, and very important one, where India has gained tremendously, with very consistently engaging diplomatically with world leaders. There has been change in diplomatic strategies keeping core of Indian thinking intact. India has probably given more aids than taken in last few years, notably to its neighbours and also in the recent pandemic by way of medical supplies to many countries in the world, rescuing foreign nationals from war hit zones and so on. This has also changed the way world looks at India and India's potential. Getting to preside over G20 summit has once again proved the increasing clout of India in international forum.

Above are a few of many things that have changed in last few years and those are impacting our lives, whether we realise or not. However, there are a lot of things that need change and earlier the better, where either the government efforts are not significant or the same are not effective. For example, civic life in India needs to be improved a lot, civic amenities needs lot of work, in spite of infrastructure development being made at faster pace, lack of road safety – road discipline and lethargy towards pedestrians is heart wrenching, judicial system needs probably a overhaul to see that the justice is delivered in time, internal law and order is pathetic with lack of modernisation and so on. These are the things on which urgent attention is required. As citizens also we need to change a lot. Let us hope for the better but before that choose your leaders wisely.

Thank you all..... Always in Gratitude

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