

The Resurgent India

A Monthly National Review

January 2025



“Let us all work for the Greatness of India.”

– The Mother

Year 15

Issue 10

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SUCCESSFUL FUTURE

(Full of Promise and Joyful Surprises)

Botanical name: Gaillardia Pulchella

Common name: Indian blanket, Blanket flower, Fire-wheels

Year 15

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A Declaration

We do not fight against any creed, any religion.

We do not fight against any form of government.

We do not fight against any social class.

We do not fight against any nation or civilisation.

We are fighting division, unconsciousness, ignorance, inertia and falsehood.

We are endeavouring to establish upon earth union, knowledge, consciousness, Truth, and we fight whatever opposes the advent of this new creation of Light, Peace, Truth and Love.

– The Mother

(Collected works of the Mother, Vol. 13, pp. 124-25)

THE GREATNESS OF INDIA AND ITS CULTURE (44)

(Continued from the September 2024 Issue)

“10. THE FUTURE OF INDIA AND ITS MISSION IN THE WORLD

I. The Future of India

“This great and ancient nation was once the fountain of human light, the apex of human civilisation, the exemplar of courage and humanity, the perfection of good government and settled society, the mother of all religions, the teacher of all wisdom and philosophy. It has suffered much at the hands of inferior civilisations and more savage peoples; it has gone down into the shadow of night and tasted often of the bitterness of death. Its pride has been trampled into the dust and its glory has departed. Hunger and misery and despair have become the masters of this fair soil, these noble hills, these ancient rivers, these cities whose life-story goes back into prehistoric night. But do you think that therefore God has utterly abandoned us and given us up for ever to be a mere convenience for the West, the helots of its commerce, and the feeders of its luxury and pride? **We are still God’s chosen people and all our calamities have been but a discipline of suffering, because for the great mission before us prosperity was not sufficient, adversity had also its training; to taste the glory of power and beneficence and joy was not sufficient, the knowledge of weakness and torture and humiliation was also needed; it was not enough that we should be able to fill the role of the merciful sage and the beneficent king, we had also to experience in our**

own persons the feelings of the outcaste and the slave. But now that lesson is learned, and the time for our resurgence is come. And no power shall stay that uprising and no opposing interest shall deny us the right to live, to be ourselves, to set our seal once more upon the world.”¹

“India cannot perish, our race cannot become extinct, because among all the divisions of mankind it is to India that is reserved the highest and the most splendid destiny, the most essential to the future of the human race. It is she who must send forth from herself the future religion of the entire world, the Eternal religion which is to harmonise all religion, science and philosophies and make mankind one soul.”²

“One thing only we are sure of, and one thing we wear as a life-belt which will buoy us up on the waves of the chaos... the fixed and unalterable faith in an overruling Purpose which is raising India once more from the dead, the fixed and unalterable intention to fight for the renovation of her ancient life and glory.... She must alter her bodily appearance so that her soul may be newly expressed. We need not fear that any change will turn her into a second-hand Europe. Her individuality is too mighty for such a degradation, her soul too calm and self-sufficient for such a surrender. If again an economical revolution is inevitable, it is because the fine but narrow edifice of her old industrial life will not allow of Swaraj in commerce and industry. The industrial energies of a free and perfect national life demand a mightier scope and wider channels. Neither need we fear that the economic revolution will land us in the same diseased and disordered state of society as now offends the nobler feelings of humanity in Europe. India can never so far forget the teaching which is her life and the secret of her immortality as to become a replica of the organized

selfishness, cruelty and greed which is dignified in the West by the name of Industry. She will create her own conditions, find out the secret of order which Socialism in vain struggles to find and teach the peoples of the earth once more how to harmonize the world and the spirit.

If we realise this truth, if we perceive in all that is happening a great and momentous transformation necessary not only for us but for the whole world, we shall fling ourselves without fear or misgivings into the times which are upon us. India is the *guru* of the nations, the physician of the human soul in its profounder maladies; she is destined once more to new-mould the life of the world and restore the peace of the human spirit.”³

“A revival of Hindu intellectual faith in the totality of the spiritual aspects of our religion, whether Vedic, Vedantic, Tantric or Puranic, I believe to be an inevitable movement of the near future.”⁴

“The sun of India’s destiny would rise and fill all India with its light and overflow India and overflow Asia and overflow the world. Every hour, every moment could only bring them nearer to the brightness of the day that God had decreed.”⁵

“The future of India is very clear. India is the Guru of the world. The future structure of the world depends on India. India is the living soul. India is incarnating the spiritual knowledge in the world. The Government of India ought to recognise the significance of India in this sphere and plan their action accordingly.”⁶

II. India’s Mission in the World

“India has become the symbolic representation of all the difficulties of modern mankind.

India will be the land of its resurrection – the resurrection to a higher and truer life.”⁷

“India has in herself a faith of superhuman virtue to accomplish miracles, to deliver herself out of irrefragable bondage, to bring God down upon earth. She has a secret of will power which no other nation possesses. All she needs to rouse in her that faith, that will, is an ideal which will induce her to make the effort.... The ideal is that of humanity in God, of God in humanity, the ancient ideal of the *sanatana dharma* but applied as it has never been applied before to the problem of politics and the work of national revival. To realise that ideal, to impart it to the world is the mission of India. She has evolved a religion which embraces all that the heart, the brain, the practical faculty of man can desire but she has not yet applied it to the problems of modern politics. This therefore is the work which she has still to do before she can help humanity; the necessity of this mission is the justification for her resurgence, the great incentive of saving herself to save mankind is the native power which will give her the force, the strength, the vehemence which can alone enable her to realise her destiny.”⁸

“Of all the proud nations of the West there is an end determined. When their limited special work for mankind is done they must decay and disappear. But **the function of India is to supply the world with a perennial source of light and renovation.** Whenever the first play of energy is exhausted and earth grows old and weary, full of materialism, racked with problems she cannot solve, the function of India is to restore the youth of mankind and assure it of immortality. She sends forth a light from her bosom which floods the earth and the heavens, and mankind bathes in it like St. George in the well of life and recovers strength, hope and vitality for its

long pilgrimage. Such a time is now at hand. The world needs India and needs her free. The work she has to do now is to organize life in the terms of Vedanta...”⁹

“Her mission is to point back humanity to the true source of human liberty, human equality, human brotherhood. When man is free in spirit, all other freedom is at his command; for the Free is the Lord who cannot be bound. When he is liberated from delusion, he perceives the divine equality of the world which fulfils itself through love and justice, and this perception transfuses itself into the law of government and society. When he has perceived this divine equality, he is brother to the whole world, and in whatever position he is placed he serves all men as his brothers by the law of love, by the law of justice. When this perception becomes the basis of religion, of philosophy, of social speculation and political aspiration, then will liberty, equality and fraternity take their place in the structure of society and the Satya Yuga return. This is the Asiatic reading of democracy which India must rediscover for herself before she can give it to the world. It is the *dharma* of every man to be free in soul, bound to service not by compulsion but by love; to be equal in spirit, apportioned his place in society by his capacity to serve society, not by the interested selfishness of others; to be in harmonious relations with his brother men, linked to them by mutual love and service, not by shackles of servitude, or the relations of the exploiter and the exploited, the eater and the eaten. It has been said that democracy is based on the rights of man; it has been replied that it should rather take its stand on the duties of man; but both rights and duties are European ideas. Dharma is the Indian conception in which rights and duties lose the artificial antagonism created by a view of the world which makes selfishness the root of action, and regain their deep and eternal unity. Dharma is the

basis of democracy which Asia must recognise, for in this lies the distinction between the soul of Asia and the soul of Europe.”¹⁰

The Future Work of Indian renaissance: “The recovery of the old spiritual knowledge and experience in all its splendour, depth and fullness is its first, most essential work; the flowing of this spirituality into new forms of philosophy, literature, art, science and critical knowledge is the second; an original dealing with modern problems in the light of the Indian spirit and the endeavour to formulate a greater synthesis of a spiritualised society is the third and most difficult. Its success on these three lines will be the measure of its help to the future of humanity.”¹¹

“The world waits for the rising of India to receive the divine flood in its fullness.”¹² (The Greatness of India and Its Culture in the Words of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother, The Resurgent India Trust, 2016, pp. 393-98)

References:

- 1 CWSA 7: 707-08
- 2 CWSA 6: 84
- 3 CWSA 7: 905-06
- 4 *Sri Aurobindo Archives and Research*, Dec. 1984: 135
- 5 CWSA 8: 17
- 6 CWM 13: 353
- 7 CWM 13: 368
- 8 CWSA 7: 1017
- 9 CWSA 7: 1086
- 10 CWSA 7: 931-32
- 11 CWSA 20: 15
- 12 CWSA 13: 11

HIGHLIGHTS

DEVELOPMENTS IN RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR

As the Trump administration gains the levers of the United States administration signaling the end of the Russia-Ukraine war as one of its key priorities, the momentum towards starting negotiations is increasingly building up. There are several factors which have propelled a general outlook towards a settlement:

First, the rise of Trump in the US: The uncertainty brought about by the ascendance of Trump and his knee-jerk policies has put Europe on the edge. With Trump threatening tariff wars and portending a hawkish attitude towards European security visa-a-vis Russia, the realization in Europe is that the free flow of money that has aided the war machinery will now be diluted. In Europe, this has led to a realization that negotiating channels with Russia must be re-opened and the war ended. Major European countries like Germany have signaled as much. Europe also continues to procure LNG via Russia, and its companies continue to service the Russian ships.

Second, the turning tide of public opinion in Russia: While Putin continues to hold sway over the Russian public opinion, increasingly, the Russian public is also turning in favour of ending the war. According to a survey from the Russian Field Sociological Service, 60 percent of Russians favored an agreement to end the war, and only 30 percent favored continuing it. This is a significant change from 2022 when the war had started, and majority of Russians were in favour of it.

Third, insecurities of symbolic geopolitics: Developments

in Syria in December culminating in the unceremonious fall of the decades old Assad regime has created a sense of deep insecurity in Putin. There is a general thinking within Kremlin that any kind of favourable settlement with Ukraine will just be a mirage and will not really end the war. The same is the thinking in Ukraine. Both parties assume that the interim peace period will merely enable the adversary to re-group its military and proxy fighters. In Russia's case, this is especially so as the country now occupies vast swathes of Donbass region. For Ukraine, any peace will be illusory without some form of legal guarantees from the West and from Russia as an important part of the settlement. While such insecurities on both sides will make a smooth and early settlement difficult, it will also ensure that any settlement that finally takes place is foolproof.

Fourth, deteriorating Russian economic situation: The latest data bears out the deplorable state of the Russian economic and military situation. Between 2021 and 2024 – shortly after the start of the war – Russia's arms exports dropped by 92 percent due to redirected resources for the war against Ukraine, the effects of sanctions, and inflation. Even buyers like India have substantially reduced imports of Russian arms and have instead shifted to other markets. China has also emerged as a significant top exporter of arms and already challenging Russia by cornering many of its markets.

DEVELOPMENTS IN ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR: THE CEASEFIRE

With the coming of the Trump administration, Israel-Hamas war is witnessing an expected closure, rekindling hopes of regional peace in the Middle east. Trump's threats to annihilate Hamas appears to have worked as an effective trigger to bring

it to the table and make a successful ceasefire negotiation possible. Thus, even before Trump assumed office, his potential Middle east envoy worked with the Biden administration's envoy along with negotiators from Egypt and Qatar to broker peace between Israel and Hamas.

The phased ceasefire deal consists of three phases. During a 42-day first phase, Hamas decided to release 33 hostages, while Israel committed to release between 900 to 1650 prisoners. The deal also mandated Israeli withdrawal from areas like central Gaza and the Netzarim Corridor. This would be followed by withdrawal from the Philadelphi Corridor which constitutes the buffer zone along the Gaza-Egypt border.

The second phase was deemed as leading to full Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza strip and the release of all remaining hostage by the Hamas in exchange for a substantial number of prisoners held by Israel.

The third phase is expected to facilitate the full reopening of border crossings and the commencement of reconstruction in Gaza.

It is notable that despite the ceasefire deal in place and despite the military victories achieved by Israel against Hamas, Hezbollah and Iran over the past year, it has not been able to completely wipe-out Hamas. Recent statements by the US officials indicate that Hamas has been able to recruit as many members as it had lost to Israel since the start of the hostilities. These trends indicate that ceasefire is merely a temporary arrangement and that the western and middle eastern countries need to find a permanent solution to the Palestine question. With Israel abandoning the two-state solution, no easy path to resolution seems likely.

TECHNOLOGICAL HORIZON

In the last few weeks, the world of big tech has been shaken by the rise of a new generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) model, Deep Seek. The model was created by a Chinese company at a relatively cheap cost compared to similar AI models – like Chat GPT, Grok and others – created by American tech companies. Further, the methodology and process followed in creating Deep Seek has also been posted in an open-source format online for anyone to use and replicate similar AI models.

The introduction of Deep Seek into the AI market has come on the heels of Trump administration's green light to the Stargate initiative – amongst the largest AI initiatives based on a collaboration between Open AI, SoftBank and Oracle.

The two developments appear to have triggered an AI race – akin to the arms race – with US and China emerging as two poles of competition. The insecurity triggered within the US with the launch of Chinese Deep Seek was visible through the massive crash in the AI stocks in the US market, as investors perceived that generative AI was losing its value if it could be replicated at a much lower cost as was done with China and would now be done in many other countries. Deep Seek was developed in less than two years with merely 200 employees and less than \$10 million in capital, compared to Open AI's use of 4500 employees and \$6.6 billion in capital. Nvidia – which is the largest manufacturer and supplier of chips used in producing advanced AI models – saw a huge wipeout of its stocks in the American market crash. It is notable that the Chinese Deep Seek had used cheaper and older versions of Nvidia chips – imported during COVID pandemic – to produce an AI model that was much more advanced than its American

competitors like Chat GPT and others. That China was able to do so despite the export restrictions placed on exports of chips and other technologies by the previous Biden administration shows the failure of the US in preventing the rise of China in this field.

With the AI race now emerging as a decisive factor that will shape the future of world politics, India appears to be readying itself as a close third to the US and China. Presently, India has 420,000 AI professionals – a number larger than the service professionals in many countries’ entire tech sector – and a \$17 billion market potential. The country also has a 92 percent AI adoption rate among companies, which is again the highest in the world. India’s developer community is also the second largest in the world, after the US, with more than 240 generative AI start-ups already catering to a host of industries spanning education, healthcare, agriculture etc. To mobilize these resources, the Indian government has also launched its India-AI Mission.

With these developments, AI has been firmly cemented as the new permanent frontier in the field of technology. The mad race towards technological superiority, driven by motives of utilitarian comfort, commercial interest and national insecurities, has captured collective psychology in an irreversible manner. The changing scenario portends further deterioration in collective psychology.

TRUMP’S STRING OF EXECUTIVE ORDERS

As soon as he assumed office, Trump has started implementing his policy agenda by bypassing the Congress and passing a string of executive orders, some of whom are

now facing challenges in the courts. This included revoking many unique mandates imposed by the previous Biden administration, such as promoting equity, enforcing COVID-19 vaccine mandates, climate initiatives, and protections for homosexual couples.

Security-focused:

Many of the executive orders appeal to the security narrative of American nationalism that appeals to Trump's core vote base. These include:

- **Ending Birthright Citizenship:** An attempt to deny citizenship to children of undocumented immigrants, despite constitutional challenges. This has particularly created unease among the Indian Americans. For, many immigrants come to US in the hope that even if they do not get citizenship here, their children born on American soil will get American citizenship. In their old age, the same children will bring their parents and families to the US. Many Indian professionals who travel to US for skilled work on H1b visas avail of such loopholes in the system. They are now facing a backlash from white Americans for cornering their jobs through cheap, skilled labour by exploiting the system of 'legal immigration'. The issue of birthright citizenship closely adds to this volatile mixture, thereby making it an important issue for Americans. If Trump succeeds in implementing this, it will curb substantial immigration into America.

- **Designating Cartels as Terrorist Organizations:** This initiative targeted Mexican drug cartels for sanctions and military action. It is another notable initiative which will impact the commerce of drugs across the US borders.

- **Creating the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE):** The department, outside the realm of formal administration, functioning under Elon Musk, has already set about bringing more leanness to the federal departments. Among its most notable steps is paralyzing the formerly independent USAID (United States Agency for International Development) by bringing it under the control of the state department and axing its funding. Much of the USAID funds have allegedly been channelized for interference in domestic politics of other countries. It has been revealed by DOGE that at least \$21 million was earmarked for “elections in India”. USAID has also been linked to the anti-Hasina protests in Bangladesh.

- **Energy and Environment:** In terms of energy and environment, one of the first things that Trump did was to withdraw from the Paris Agreement which is a central climate treaty, and which mandates the emissions reductions and other rules that countries to the agreement need to follow to combat climate change. Since US is one of the biggest historical emitters and a large current emitter, its withdrawal will make the agreement useless for all practical purposes. There is also a strategic reason behind the withdrawal of the US. With the launch of the Stargate initiative, as the US now starts building massive data centres and AI infrastructure, it is set to consume a lot more energy. US’s energy emissions have, thus, started increasing. It would be diplomatically and politically penalizing for the US to remain in the agreement. Other countries will likely follow suit. It is also notable that the agreement, in its current voluntary form, has been reduced to a eyewash even as the global emissions have continued to consistently increase. Apart from withdrawing from the agreement, Trump has also ended the Electric Vehicle mandate and the incentives to transition to clean energy.

With this start to his administration, Trump has already signalled the structural changes that will be seen within America and in its relations with the world.

NO ACTION DONE FOR SELF

“I have seen life, and it is all self – life is for self, love for self, honour for self, everything for self. I look back and scarcely find any action I have done for self – even my wicked deeds were not for self. So I am content; not that I feel I have done anything specially good or great, but the world is so little, life so mean a thing, existence so, so servile – that I wonder and smile that human beings, rational souls, should be running after this self – so mean and detestable a prize.

This is the truth. We are caught in a trap, and the sooner one gets out, the better for one. I have seen the truth – let the body float up or down, who cares?”

– Swami Vivekananda

(Complete Works of Swami Vivekananda, Vol. 6, pp. 398-99)