

INDIA BEYOND 2020 CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

DIGITAL CONFERENCE



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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Dr. Y S Rajan has worked with Dr. Kalam and he was also the co-author of the books named 'Beyond 2020 A Vision for Tomorrows India', 'India 2020 A Vision for the New Millennium'. Dr. Rajan explained about the Vision of developed India by dividing the topic into the following four parts.

1. What has been achieved: good news
2. What has been not so good news.
3. What are the gaps
4. The way forward

What has been achieved- good news- is:

- The field of telecom ICT has gone up to 100/200 times or even more than what was expected during Vision 2020 exercise

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- India has remarkable achievements in the field of pharmaceuticals 70% of the world vaccine is manufactured in India, 40% (by volume) of medicines used in USA are Indian made. Indians benefit from availability of world class medicines at a very low price. Pharma industries have a great production capacity, scaling up capability is very good.
- Spread and reach of roads all over India as multilane national high ways (NHAI) and for rural connectivity (under Pradhan Mantri GramSadakYojana) have been excellent
- E-Governance, much beyond what was envisioned in 1995 for 2020; see how money gets transferred to Jan Dhan account of crores of poor Indians, and also various other platforms to help people
- Overall GDP (now currently around COVID situation it is not something which will be talked about much) but India had achieved in 2019 itself the position of 5th largest country in terms of GDP a year earlier than in the book)

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- Agriculture field has progressed massively; many positives for example India ranks first in milk production. The pain of marginal farmers is due to different reason, many of them have not been diverted to other sectors of productive incomes from their unviable marginal lands, an important recommendation in Vision 2020
- Services given by IT industry globally, the high incomes of IT professionals leading to high value domestic consumption of goods and services: leading to mass manufacturing of automobiles in India; massive growth of consumer goods and retail sector, with large growth of SKU's(Store Keeping Units), indicator of many options for users/consumers.

Not so good news as follows.

- In per capita GDP terms, milk consumption, or several other items not remarkable
- Manufacturing sector almost all the equipment in ICT sector, machine tools, electric power equipment, all important

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software, almost all equipment used in hospitals, even in bio technology etc. all are imported ones. As also in defence sector.

- Hardware and software production in India is low. Infact no software products of India available. Big IT companies pay high license fees to foreign companies.
- Security scenario is good on a few items; but heavy import dependence.
- The government rules which do not allow a bidder with India developed goods to quote for govt. tenders unless they have two years of export experience. These rules seriously hamper indigenous R&D.
- Agriculture is severely hampered by restrictions on marketing by farmers, contract farming which can bring technology inputs, etc. Agriculture needs to be liberated from clutches of govt. controls at various levels.
- Education sector is not skill oriented (not only in terms of IT skills) and is seriously controlled, with plethora of rules and

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regulations, hampering many Indians.

Dr. Rajan says we have to start manufacturing in India on a very large scale. That is very essential to provide employment to many youth and also for those marginal farmers and seasonal agriculture labourers who would like to quit from very low yielding work they do now. Also by indentifying the above mentioned drawbacks, India has to take steps against these drawbacks and in which the youth also can play a very crucial role. He also said that the migrant labourers who have returned are a great assets as skilled human resource, and economic activities around them has to be built by respective State govt.'s. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee National RURBAN Mission launched in 2016 may be accelerated in all States to increase productive local economic activities. 2020-2030 is almost the last window available to India to build up its technological, economic, and business strengths.

