

WHAT HOLDS GOOD FOR INDIAN MILLENIUM AHEAD?



At Paris in Eiffel Tower, the seconds were ticking their way and the second millennium was to take its exit leaving behind and bequeathing to all of us its problems and portents, dilemmas and misfortunes, contradictions and harmonies. Knowing fully well of what and how we all performed in India and also getting curious to read between the lines the kind of international events and overtures, one can't further gamble but follow the strategies that ought to be formulated in days ahead.

A nation performs well when it is self-reliant and less dependant. It strikes well if it has strategic importance in all respects. The Chinese parallel of decentralizing its economic activities of production. Consumption and distribution in various pockets instead of being located in handpicked centers is a strategic pointer to theory of reliance. Indian with its multiple caste and community concentrations, variegated soil and climate diversities, and several socio-cultural sub-systems can well afford to synthesize its natural and human resource strengths and build up its economy's fortwall, so as to arrive at appropriate boundary management for optimum results.

We have a strong herbal history deep-rooted, herbal instincts and diverse knowledge based herbal systems. What we lack is marketing and patenting them. What we miss among all of us is our inability to decipher its strength and real value earnings from sale of our intellectual wealth.

Health care abroad is too prohibitive and insurance is a compulsion; while in India we hardly spend and that too grudgingly while insurance is too fragile a concept born probably out of herbal confidence and having reluctant takers.

This obversely has motivated India watchers at global level to locate a potential niche market for instilling mandatory health insurance at least, even with 26 percent entry. But we have been unable to provide cheaper

WHAT HOLDS GOOD FOR INDIAN MILLENIUM AHEAD?

health options, spearhead preventive health measures and propagate the positive spin-offs of health care of herbal systems across the world. Sometimes, I feel, that we are being used more as a server in IT only, but never been able to actualize its potency to become a doer-breeder or owner and not merely a propagator in this field.

Information Technology and IT related activities have value not in themselves but as a means to some sectors like industry, banking, pharmaceuticals and other service industries including medical science, engineering.

This IT should rather have the propensity to broadcast our materials, methods and applications in herbal, agri-business and softer fields and open up a new world of knowledge, cheaper road to health care and a preventive approach to life care than curative role for health care. If Japan can patent day in and out, and China can sell its Jin Sang series, our Sanskritised herbal ridden brand names can hold the fort and take world to ransom and effect a reverse flow of dollars to make the country's economy forming. Let the millennium of tomorrow be bestowed with this achievement, and let all of us be aware of what we possess and conscious of our traditional richness in herbal Medicare science which can revolutionize world health care with its simple economics, soft costs, preventive angles and a belief in Indian excellence as a cheaper model for future.

Secondly the agricultural scenario of the country needs a top to bottom osmosis in terms of our value systems and perceptions. We have hitherto believed more in self-sufficiency, food crops and agricultural possession as a traditional belonging of social value what we have ought to transform is our attitudes and mend acts and go away from self-sufficiency to surplus, food crops to commercial surplus and capitalize the land instead of accepting land as simple social capital in inheritance. This needs application of automation, high tech engineering solutions and a change in

WHAT HOLDS GOOD FOR INDIAN MILLENIUM AHEAD?

perspective to use the limited land as a golden capital to diversity, modernize and achieve dividends and surpluses etc., which are concepts familiar to industrial and secondary sectors.

We are born half-agriculturists but we can't risk to be any more naked agrarians. We have to build up a sophisticated commercial approach, and use limited water, soil and fertilizers in various agro-climate zones through a regulated and automated network of temperature heat and moisture factors to reach optimum results in all fields of pine agriculture or horticulture related food industries. Once we are able to grow fruits and flowers and produce goods of value or excellence and identify the world phenomenon of such consumer needs and products, we can strike a deal and for this. IT can be need as a tool to show the cursor on the needy landscapes and shed off our cursory approach to agriculture. This will also unify people in agrarian sector with a common object and make agriculture a promising avenue and not one to migrants from. We all know that Europe is sealed off six months a year due to snow cover while gulf and middle east basks in heat another six months during the summer slots of global climatic cycle. If we know this well, our job does get well done, to stimulate agriculturists to codify consumerism and hand out products of need and high value, by use of internet in trade and thereby dump and move our incurable needy things on their soils with a pre-determined commercial strategy. All these can be possible both by open and field cultivation of cash-rich seeds and grains which can all be grown from one dot to another spot of our geographically rich landscape and be further utilized for agro-food and food processing needs. We should not too much and singularly rely on IT for IT sake for its software exports alone since markets vanish and flourish all of a sudden. Similarly depressions and disasters can bring an end to software solutions but such solutions and exports when applied in herbal and agricultural sectors can never die out, rather make them high tech and fool proof economic sources of high magnitude earnings and thereby provide a vibrant cap to our indigenous strength which we have never cared to capitulate nor capitalize.

WHAT HOLDS GOOD FOR INDIAN MILLENIUM AHEAD?

One does not know whether IT for IT sake without an indigenous foundation and purpose and without a capacity to make one owner not server only is not a part of well thought of technological colonization process.

The naked colonization has no doubt ended in yesteryears followed by a colonization through religious route, but technological colonization is the worst if one is at receiving end alone without turning the table for one's sake and benefit based on own strength and resistance and closer to the people in general on the socio-cultural parameters.

Sudip Kumar Nanda
Civil Servant, Gujarat