

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and his genre of leadership in India: Great, heady headways

Manan Dwivedi¹
Saket Bihari²

Abstract

Atmanirbharta is the bedrock of the conceptualization which the New Delhi dispensation rests upon. The paper proposes to zero in upon the succinct self sufficiency idiom of the governmental planning. The paper takes up the interwoven details of a scheme of the regime of the day in order to further delve inside the entrails of the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana. The paper attempts a broad based and detailed conceptual analysis and ruminations over the core tent of the Government of the day.

Keywords: Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, PMJDY

1. Introduction

Self reliance is a pet peeve and proud palaver amongst the Indian hoi polloi. India since the Vedic times and the post independence period has been harping upon the ideals of self sufficiency in all realms ranging from the societal, economic to the strategic perspective. Make in India has become the all emulated and all pervading motto of the New Delhi dispensation since the advent of the Modi denomination in May 2014. Mahatma Gandhi too based his entire theology of non violent struggle on the satyagraha of the self reliant and Atmanirbhar Bharat.

The journal, Print, reports that, “In the Indian context, self-reliance should not mean divorcing international trade. India will have to seriously engage with the region and the world, but at the same time strengthen its own domestic industry by streamlining the governance system and go far beyond mere amendments and announcements. Swadeshi does not and should not be interpreted as isolation. M.K. Gandhi’s Swadeshi movement and self-reliance were two sides of the same coin that would find currency in a globalised world.”³

¹. Manan Dwivedi, Assistant Professor, Indian Institute of Public Administration.

². Saket Bihari, Associate Professor, Indian Institute of Public Administration.

³. Seshadri Chari, “Modi’s Idea of Atmanirbharta same as Gandhi,s” URL: <https://theprint.com>.

The famed journal, *The Print*, further contends that, “Gandhi’s *Hind Swaraj* explains the “all Indian economic (and political) model” in detail. For Gandhi, *swadeshi* was the rejection of the colonial exploitation of India to add to British coffers, leading to the detriment of India’s poor and the downtrodden. Capitalism based on unrestricted industrial growth to feed insatiable crass consumerism became the norm of the *laissez-faire* (free market) Western economic model, which Gandhi criticised in *Hind Swaraj*. The British colonial model was passed on to the US and was touted as a panacea for economic growth, with technological materialism pitted against dialectal materialism as an inevitable operative instrument. It wasn’t, which is why we need Swadeshi economics back.”⁴ Thus, the Indian New Delhi denomination too rejects the crass and crony consumerism and opts for an idiom of, “Make in India.” Make in India exhorts on the self-reliant strain of development and progression within the larger ethos of nationalism and cosmo-patriotism which are the indelible mantras as propounded by the Modi denomination. The credo of negating the hegemonic ideas in the sphere of trade and human security concerns which are the primordial premise of the Modi Mantra which gets ample reflection in his personality which further gels with the larger doctrine of leadership prompting Bharat for a larger maxim and praxis of Atmanirbharta.

2. Leadership travails

Dr. Manoj Kumar Sharma writes that, “Leadership and management must go hand in hand. They are not the same thing. But they are necessarily linked, and complementary. Any effort to separate the two is likely to cause more problems than it solves. Still, much ink has been spent delineating the differences. The manager’s job is to plan, organize and coordinate. The leader’s job is to inspire and motivate. In his book, “On Becoming a Leader,” Warren Bennis composed a list of the differences: (a) The manager administers; the leader innovates. (b) The manager is a copy; the leader is an original.” Thus, innovation and originality are the twin intertwined credos of any corporate concern, governmental organization or may it be the nation in the larger context of Modi’s leadership in the political firmament of Bharat, that is, India.

Leadership is a process by which a person influences others to accomplish an objective and directs the organization in a way that makes it more cohesive and coherent. This definition is similar to others. “Leadership is a process whereby an individual influences a group of individuals to achieve a common goal. Knowledge and skills contribute directly to the process of lead-

in/opinion/modis-idea-of-self-reliant-india-same-as-gandhis/421820/ (Online: Web), Accessed on December 10, 2021.

⁴ Ibid

ership, while the other attributes give the leader certain characteristics that make him or her unique.⁵ In the context of Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi, his steely resolve, undaunted character and unstinting and relentless pursuit of values, ethics and morality have served as an ideal and staple buttressing in the larger context of his capaciousness and fathomless leadership potentiality all invoked for the development and progression of the toiling Indian nation.

Leadership is a sine-qua-non of the larger imprint of nationhood wherein, the larger idiom of effective and functional follow up of the sacrosanct national interest is the de-rigueur order of the day. PM Modi is much often ridiculed and astutely challenged for taking recourse to political sound bytes along with rhetoric, sloganeering and impeccable verbiage all amounting to a linguistic legerdemain. For an instance, Modi as a leader of India strutted like a true blue Indian hero and as a personage from Bollywood when he addressed the youth in the Madison Square Garden in the city of New York. He contended that, "A few years back I had been to Taiwan. That time I was neither prime minister nor chief minister. An interpreter was accompanying me. We had an acquaintance by spending few days together. One day he asked me, "If you don't mind I would like to ask you a question. I said go ahead, I won't mind. But he was still being apprehensive and hesitant. Then he said that I have heard that people in India practice black magic. It is a country of snakes and snake charmers. People still watch them? Is it so? I said no. Our country has undergone a lot of devaluation. Our ancestors would play with snakes whereas we play with the mouse. Our youth are able to shake the world with a click of their mouse."⁶ Thus, the technological and scientific advancement of the New Delhi denomination was effusively and determinedly brought to the fore by his near-to-magical words. The young Turks in New York were captivated boundlessly by the oratory and substantial intent behind the words and propagated deeds of the Prime Minister. The Indian youth holding a mouse became a metaphor and a much sought after symbol and masthead to reveal the welfarist and entrepreneurship of the nation at large.

PM Modi further addressed with equal and welcoming vigour that, "You all have earned a lot of respect in America through your conduct, values, traditions and ability. You have played an important role in creating a positive image of India not just in America but globally as well, since the world community lives here. Recently, elections were held in India. There might be quite a few among you who did not have the opportunity of voting in the elections. But you were all witness to the results. You surely must not have slept when

⁵. Northouse, G. (2007). Leadership theory and practice. (3rd ed.) Thousand Oak, London, New Delhi, Sage Publications, Inc.

⁶. "PM Modi's Madison Square Garden Speech," URL: <https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=136737> (Online: Web), Accessed on 1 December, 2021

the results must have been declared.”⁷⁷ Thus, PM Modi beseeched the imagination of the Indian Diaspora in the United States, where-in, the strength and the malleability of the Indian Diaspora was stressed upon which have turned United States into their novae play ground with their much famed thrift, tradition, hard work and with their loyalties being unflinching to the American homeland.

He further went on to add that, “ I do not think there is a single individual here who would have got a wink of sleep that night. The Indians in other parts of the world were celebrating much more than those within India. There were many of you who were a part of the election campaign, who had spared time and come to India. I could not even meet and thank them. But today I personally thank all of you for sparing your time and living in the villages for months. The Indian democracy witnessed an unprecedented turn of events and you played a crucial role in the final outcome.”⁷⁸ What needs to be prominently underlined and highlighted about the PM Modi’s emphasis is that the regime’s efforts do not merely adhere to the limelight, arch light and the chutzpah of the present day foreign policy proclivities. What has been more sturdily and robustly highlighted about the nation is the slew of welfare and development policies which have ushered a new found hope and positive imagination amongst the hoi polloi in the larger nation which can further serve as a bulwark to hoist India into the unpredictable and fast metamorphosis of the Global geo economic and geo political firmament.

3. Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana: The catalyst for change

As a micro level case study one can zero in upon the larger concern of financial inclusion and eradication of mass impoverishment and the incertitude of the market forces in the nation’s geo economic firmament. In order to carry out any such related analysis, as a sample one can deliberate about the fundamental characteristics of the PMJDY in order to shed light and highlight the larger than life visage of Prime Minister Modi, who very keenly, eclectically single mindedly and devotedly follows, an amalgamative and comprehensively large trajectory of human security.

The aforesaid Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana happens to be one of the key, steadfast and flagship welfarist scheme of the nation. Financial self sufficiency along with the currency and liquidity retention and utilisibility are some of the avowed objectives of the government of the day. Prosperity of the masses and the hoi polloi in the largest sense are the pointers of any

⁷⁷ Ibid

⁷⁸ Ibid 1

development and progression procession and the same is true of the Modi dispensation in New Delhi. Without veering on to the sobriquet of being a populist measure, the financial stolidity of the citizens happens to be the much accepted and all pervading objective of the day within the ambit of personalised planning and development strivings of the Modi denomination.

4. The characteristics of the planning

Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana is a government scheme launched by the government of India to provide easy access to financial services such as Remittance, Credit, Insurance, Pension, Savings and Deposit Accounts to poor and needy section of our society.⁹ Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) is National Mission for Financial Inclusion to ensure access to financial services, namely, Banking/ Savings & Deposit Accounts, Remittance, Credit, Insurance, Pension in an affordable manner.¹⁰

Saksham Khosla stated that, “While a laudable effort by any standard, it was unclear whether increasing the supply of such accounts (introduced by the Reserve Bank of India in 2005) would guarantee that account holders, many of whom were taking first steps into the financial system, engage in financial transactions. Researchers have only recently acquired data of sufficient vintage from administrative records on the transactions in PMJDY accounts to individual and household-level survey data that yields preliminary findings on India’s progress towards genuine financial inclusion. Opening the banking floodgates, enhanced account use and brought marginalized groups into the financial mainstream.”¹¹ The upliftment of the non mainstreamed sections of the Indian population have really been ascertained by the characteristics and the progress of the Jan Dhan Yojana. It is a very effective exercise at financial inclusion of the marginalized classes of the social firmament where-in the citizens can feel the sense of participation in the nation’s progression along with the amelioration of their own financial ills and challenges.

An astute and determined pursuance and promotion of financial inclusion is the order of the day at the heady portals of the Government of the day. The absence of bank accounts amongst the unorganized sector had been always recognized as a pallor of gloom and poverty which aims to be ameliorated by

⁹. Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, URL: <https://finance.assam.gov.in/schemes/pradhan-mantri-jan-dhan-yojana-pmjdya> (Online: Web), Accessed on December 1, 2021

¹⁰. Ibid

¹¹. Saksham Khosla, “ The Admirable Success of Jan Dhan Yojana,”URL: <https://www.livemint.com/Opinion/wferrtnZlyGRTmGiyGnJLrI/The-admirable-success-of-the-JanDhan-Yojana.html> (Online: Web), Accessed on December 1, 2021

the Modian framework of the plan. It is a third world and developing nation's theme which serves as a major bottleneck to the paradigm of development and financial inclusion in the larger nation.

C Vishwanatha Reddy stated that, "Promotion of Financial Inclusion is a common developmental theme for developing a nation and is the key to inclusive and balanced economic growth. Providing the poor with improved facilities to save and to have better access to credit and insurance helps them to manage risk, build assets, increase income, and enjoy a better life. Various countries in the world have adopted different models, strategies and mechanisms to achieve the aim of inclusive financial growth. Despite the impressive achievements, half of the world's population is still without access to savings accounts, insurance, and other financial services, and about 95 per cent of the un-banked are in developing countries."¹² His book entitled "Global Financial Inclusion Environment: the Nexus to India" is a modest attempt and highlights the financial inclusion enabling environment across 55 countries, global financial inclusion and its nexus to India, 12 pillars' framework for successful financial inclusion in India. This book has been brought out to meet the requirements of students, researchers, bankers, policy makers, etc.¹³

The all inclusive, nativised-indigenous definition, intent, provisions and the subsequent performance of the Yojana happen to be the cornerstones of success and the fungibility of the feedback loop which the Jan Dhan Yojana imparts to the growth process of the larger nation. The mantras of financial inclusion and financial security are the harbingers in the nation for a future prosperous streak of the citizenry of the nation as postulated by the Prime Minister's mandarins in the context of development and financial security of the impoverished amidst the besieged masses of the nation.

5. More about it

Leadership refers to literally owning up to the developments and the state of affairs in the societal and the larger national context. The nation demands greatness sans superfluities which is a mantle of several leaders such as Ronald Reagan, Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Vladimir Putin. Our own Prime Minister Narendra Modi too falls in the great and giant halls of fame with his weberian Charisma and gung ho mode of executing legislations such as the abrogation of Article 370, the delimitation of the State of Jammu and Kashmir along with the Uri surgical strikes and Demonetization. Thus innovation and initiation have been the key factors which makes one instill

¹² Vishwanath Reddy, "Global Financial inclusion Environment: The Nexus to India," Lambert Academic Publishing, June, 2018

¹³ Ibid

his name in the pantheon of greats despite a few leadership glitches but to err is human and definitively in the larger frame of affairs, PM Modi shines forth as more of a “plus” assessment going his singular way.

The Indian national daily, Economic Times reports in a past tense analysis of 2014 May, that Prime Minister Modi has traits which make him stand out as a leader. The national daily reported that, “No contemporary politician has mastered the art of perception management so well as Narendra Modi. Despite the tension within the party and his many detractors in the Gujarat BJP, he was able to extract the most out of this situation and maximise his image as the biggest Hindutva hero.”¹⁴ The national daily further contends that, “Modi, the salesman and Modi, the statesman are the same public person There cannot be one script for Varanasi, another for Vadodara and a third for Red Fort on Independence Day. No ‘liberal’ leader could have pulled off anything close to what Modi did in his August 15, address. He admonished parents for not being able to control their sons when speaking about India’s appalling record on sexual violence against women He succeeds in doing so because he has already converted most of his audience, he knows their language, their deficiencies and most importantly he insists that he is one of them — a tea seller.”¹⁵

Still, one ought to eke out a following and not a cult of Narendra Modi where-in, the psychoanalysis of his personality factor assumes conveniently, a larger than life pedestal and much hailed and even castigated visage by the political opponents and also the acolytes which the critiques call as Modi Bhakts.

Satish Modh wrote that, “Mr. Narendra Modi, the Prime Minister of India, has been in news for his travels abroad and creating an impact by his mega rallies while addressing people of Indian origin. Many commentators have tried to compare his one year in office with that of Dr. Manmohan Singh who was the Prime Minister of India for a decade. In 2014 India voted in favor of Mr. Narendra Modi who offered a totally contrasting style of leadership to the people of India.”¹⁶ Leaders have followers who believe in them and in their capacity to achieve desired goals. When people are at peace, happy and satisfied there is hardly any discussion on the styles of political leadership. On the other hand, when the welfare of the people is at stake and the economic situation requires someone to initiate change, the

¹⁴. “Five Traits which make Modi Stand out as a Leader,” Economic Times, 28 August 2014

¹⁵. Ibid

¹⁶. Satish Modh, “Comparing Leadership Styles of Narendra Modi and Manmohan Singh,” New Delhi: Research Gate, 2015

need for leadership is high.¹⁷ Leaders are expected to have a vision of the future and formulate strategies to bring about changes needed to achieve that vision.¹⁸ Dependable and capable leadership is crucial to the success of any organization.¹⁹ Thus, leadership is a clearly delineated and crystal clear gameplay and role play whose attributes, that is, both the positives and negatives have never been hidden from the audience. It's the genre of spectator sport which is the heady sentiment behind the Leader's role play in the nation and the society at large. The palaver about leadership comes down to a twin pronged loop where-in the "Long term Vision" and contemporary tenet of "Way Forward" plays a key role in the firming up a leader's or a Head of State's visage on a stately pedestal. A view might be advanced that some folks are born with it akin to President trump or the German Chancellor, Angela Merkel.

6. Conclusion

The Leader ought to be the torchbearer of the high , mighty and all pervasive, "Zeitgeist" and the spirit of the epoch. The entire nation needs to seethe with fervor when the able leader orates or makes a crucial decision and ought to know both how to play to the gallery and be an astute and fervent professional manager when the crucial times are around and the scheme of things have attained an incisive criticality. Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi has attained a steady rostrum from where he has been convincingly communicating with the populace both as part of his political agenda as well as in the critical context of able and crucial decision making with appropriate stand up execution of his plans and visionary programmes. The critical test case for him amounted to settle a space for Hindutva in the political and societal discourse of the Indian narrative and "Act" decisively when it came to countering the menacing maneuvers of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and People's Republic of China. The jury is always out on a stand out leader to investigate cannily and castigatively as to comment on the performance of a leader who has ample of anticipations and expectations associated because of his past achievements and umpteen laurels. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is an apt case in point.

¹⁷. English, F.W. (1992). Educational administration: The human science. New York: Harper Collins.

¹⁸. Carson J.B., Tesluk P.E., Marrone J.A. (2007). Shared leadership in teams: an investigation of antecedent conditions and performance. *Academy of Management Journal*; 50:1217–34

¹⁹. Spinelli, R. (2006). The Applicability of Bass's Model of Transformational, Transactional, and Laissez-Faire Leadership in the Hospital Administrative Environment. *Hospital Topics*, 84(2), 11-18.

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