



“THE VISION FOR A NEW INDIA: What we're meant to be”

The world has always marvelled at the 'land of unity in diversity.' The values that India has upheld are acknowledged across the globe since time immemorial. Since our independence in 1947, India has travelled a remarkable journey consisting of both ups and downs. However the nation ought to undergo tremendous changes to constitute a new India.

To begin with, secularism is a fundamental to the very idea of India. India the nation, being the abode of millions practicing different religions, has also been the stage of numerous religious conflicts and riots. Although our leaders have been advocating this even prior to our independence, it was added to the preamble of Indian constitution with the



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42<sup>nd</sup> amendment. Scandalisingly, even political leaders seldom remember to uphold this value. In most parts of Northern India, leaders exploit the religious feelings of the common mass and focus on religious issues during their election campaign to muster up votes. Recently a popular leader suggested that Hindu gods and goddesses be printed on currency notes and coins. For India to remain as a nation that ~~is~~ it is today, the state must be wary to stay aloof from religion. Moreover, data from states where religion is not significant shows ~~sh~~ indicate that these states ~~sh~~ are at a better position economically and socially in comparison to with states where religion does play a major role. A new India should seek to manifest to the world that religious tolerance and harmony can be achieved even if <sup>the</sup> state exhibits little to no intervention on religious matters.

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One of the most discussed topic in this era is undoubtedly 'gender inequality'. Indian society had always given respect for women. But this respect is confined to her role as a mother. We have failed to approve her as a leader or a warrior even though Indira Gandhi is one of the best prime ministers India has ever had. ~~or~~ A girl child is not as warmly welcomed into the world as a boy child is. The Gender Gap Index, 2022 published by World Economic Forum revealed a poor ranking for India; the nation was ranked 135 out of 146 countries. A poor ranking would reflect on our society's inability to deem and treat all genders equally. Schemes such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY), 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' sought to bring women to the limelight. However, ~~so~~ a large portion of working women

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are employed in low paying, income, low status jobs. Women taking holding major political positions are much lower considering the fact that the head of the state is a woman. Post the Madhya Pradesh elections to local self government, conducted not so long ago, the path was taken by husbands of female elected representatives. Taboos regarding infertility, marriage, virginity and menstruation remain the major re. obstacles that thwart women's progress. Our society fails to accept that women can be strong, men can be weak and that transgenders are humans too. This is contradictory to the fact that our ancestors have been even sculpted transgenders on their temple walls in Odisha's Sun temple and have been ~~open towards~~ open-minded towards homosexual relationships. Building a novel India should imply that diverse groups are equally ~~resp.~~ accepted, respected and given

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the opportunities that they deserve. This would subsequently culminate in an India where everyone feel safe from discriminations and harassments irrespective of their gender.

Poverty is a curse lurking in all across India, prior to and post the independence.

Concerted efforts from both the central and state governments have not yet been able to abolish eradicate this evil from our land.

Income distribution shows large disparity.

The NITI Aayog report unveiled that states like Bihar has high rates of poverty; more than 50% of the population of Bihar are poor.

Quite recently, the government announced to give free wheat or rice to the poor. Around 75% of rural people in rural India are eligible to avail this. This points to the fact that such a large number of people cannot even afford to buy meals to sustain their lives.

When Adani had emerged as one of the

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the richest man in the world, millions of Indians are plunged into leading a miserable life. The skyrocketing of fuel prices and decline in the value of Indian rupees further worsens the already worsened scenario. We should give emphasis to a socialist India where wealth is socially earned and equally shared. The current circumstance can be abated to some extent by the development of public sector because much of the ~~root~~ cause of the present situation is the exponential growth of private sector. Reducing the gap between rich and poor to forge an economical equality should be the prime concern.

India has always witnessed a number of dramas that ~~was~~ are results of the superstitions to which India has ~~had~~ seems to have the best soil. When computers became part of our daily life, we have put it to use to generate horoscopes! Despite ~~menstru~~

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ation being part of the school ~~ex~~ syllabus, it is considered as a taboo. Menstruating girls are considered impure although it is an ~~an~~ imbecile thought. Amniocentesis, ~~is~~ which is originally developed to for the pre-natal diagnosis of chromosomal disorders and to analyse the foetal development, is misused in various parts of the country to determine sex. This has unfortunately resulted in female foeticide in large numbers. A boy from Plangana captured the best ever photo of the moon. B. Yet moon is the part of a many a superstitions. India should ~~too~~ break this shell of superstitions and myths to to by promoting scientific temperament and humanitarian thoughts.

Our nation has all possibilities to be the role model for the entire world as it once used to be. But we need a

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paradigm shift from the methodologies that we follow today in every field. The many evils such as drug abuse, poverty, illiteracy, religious conflicts etc that pervaded our nation must be eradicated once and forever. The change might be gradual but it is inevitable. We must identify our weaknesses and seek improvement in those areas. The society as a whole must be uplifted through education. India must forge a society where every individual is equal irrespective of their gender, religion, caste etc. India must manifest its ~~pro~~ <sup>and reflect</sup> prowess and advocate the values it has always cherished.

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