

## Insight

### Shining India — Dream of A Monk

Jyotirmoy Pal  
*Hony Secretary, JIMA*



Nearly a decade before Independence, in December 1937, while addressing a meeting of the National Academy of Sciences at Calcutta, Jawaharlal Nehru, the then President of INC, revealed his vision and faith in science: **“Politics led me to economics, and this led me inevitably to science and the scientific approach to all our problems and to life itself. It was science alone that could solve these problems of hunger and poverty, illiteracy, superstition otherwise vast resources running to waste.”** Thus the fact that science and modern technology could play a bigger role in building nation was realised by the Congress under Nehru long before Independence.

As India’s first Prime Minister, Mr Nehru, on the eve of the country’s independence on 14 August 1947 in Constituent Assembly addressed that- **“when the world sleeps, India will awake to life and freedom. We end today a period of ill fortunes and India discovers herself again.”**

In next 70 years, India discovered herself as of same potential as Western world in several fields of Technology such as Information Technology, Space research, Defence technology etc. but advancement in medical sciences from Land of Charak and Susruta was need of century and dream of our Country.

Wheels are gearing up, vibrations have been set in motion, Prime Minister called for rising India, Self-reliant India. **“In this decade, we will complete 75 years of our independence. In this decade, we all have to work together with new energy to give impetus to the making of a new India in this century,”** he said.

Covid-19 outbreak gave it a push and Covid-19 pandemic came as a curse to an unprepared India. Having a huge population with massive number of immigrants, India’s inadequate public health system faced a unique challenge. Indian leadership from Centre to State showed their brave face in this time of crisis. Medical professionals and scientists accepted the situation as opportunity to prove their capability and talent. India largely depends on import from outside for pharmaceutical production and thus diagnostic technology faced crisis of resources at the beginning. But India felt that the Covid-19 crisis needs to be made

into a turning point for India’s economy and an opportunity to be “self-reliant India”. Decades ago

Swami Vivekananda wrote, **“The simplest method to be worked upon at present is to induce Indians to use their own produce and get markets for Indian art ware in other countries”**. This path shown by Swami Vivekananda is an inspiration for India in COVID era. Every citizen of India is determined to convert the **“coronavirus crisis into an opportunity”** to build new vibrant India, that can not only save herself but also her neighbour countries as well. Swamiji’s India is dreaming to be torchbearer of entire humanity through her wisdom, endeavour, efforts and intellect.

Around a 125 years back, Swami Vivekananda in his speech, which was held in America, told – **“This is your century right now, but coming century is India’s century”**. We must strive to make the 21st century to be India’s century. We have to consciously make efforts to realise that vision. Swami Vivekananda’s concept of “oneness” and **“self reliant”** is what we want today and thus we all would need oneness of the vision, oneness of the mind and effort as has been nicely said through his wise words **“Arise, awake and Stop not, till the goal is achieved”** .

Swami Vivekananda focused on the idea of ‘Man Making’ and, according to him, through this process of “Man Making” India will arise and awake once more and the ancient mother will be sitting on her throne rejuvenated, more glorious than ever. Swamiji’s visit to Chicago in 1893 was one of the most important events in India’s history, where Swami Vivekananda represented Indian Darshan, culture and civilisation at the first World Parliament of Religions held at Chicago, USA on 11th of September 1893. In eyes of West, India was considered to be a country of snake charmers, land of superstitions and slaves, which was being ruled by foreign invaders from centuries. Swamiji (1893-97) with his speeches changed the outlook of West towards India. Swamiji says **“If we only adopt Western Ideas, Western language, Western Food, Western Dress, and Western manners, we shall be as strong and powerful as the Western nations; By imitation of other’s idea it never become one’s own; nothing unless earned, is your own.”** We can learn from West but should not imitate their ways

blindly. We have to look across the globe and take ideas but absorb them in our own way.

Dream of self reliance is not new. This dream started from the period of Renaissance in nineteenth century. Self reliance in education, self reliance in health, self reliance in industry, self reliance in thinking. In the 19th and 20th century Indians stood against British exploitation and set up their indigenous enterprises to make Bharat a self reliant Country. Sir Prafulla Chandra Roy inspired our youths to leave their jobs and to start own business. He established Bengal Chemicals, Jamsetji Tata established Tata Steel at Tatanagar. Dr Radha Govinda Kar made a medical College in Kolkata entirely by contribution from Indians. Against the decision for partition of Bengal made by Lord Curzon in 1905, Rabindra Nath Tagore called for Swadesi movement. As a part of this movement, he urged countrymen to avoid clothes from Manchester and to use Indian self made clothes – '*khadi*'. In the movie "*Ghaire Baire*", Satyajit Ray nicely presented this sentiment against the background of that time India. Dream of being Atmanirvar was in heart of Patriotic India even in Colonial Period. Democratic India needs to fulfil the dream of our ancestors who sacrificed their life to make today's Bharat.

The whole world is waiting eagerly for an effective vaccine to fight the coronavirus pandemic. It has not only claimed lives, but also impacted people, both physically and mentally. There are more than 250 vaccines in progress right now, but India is among first 6 countries being close to final approval of vaccine in market. Already India is the proud producer of largest number of Vaccine and supplier to UNICEF and WHO. Export of the vaccine now depends on how a country maintain standard of production and quality control. India have a strong regulatory committee, which meet all criteria laid down by WHO. So also Indian Manufacturers have long tradition of vaccine research and production. This Pandemic has given the opportunity to prove India's capability as a world leader. Immediately after imposing Lockdown, national Task force for Vaccine development and research was formed in April, 2020. ICMR, NIV and Bharat Biotech have proudly taken indigenous project of producing Vaccine, with technology being entirely Indian. On the other hand Zydus Cadila along with Dept of Biotechnology, India also is in progress of making DNA vaccine. There are no licensed vaccines of this kind till now. If this is successful it will put another feather in the cap of Indian Vaccine research. Serum Institute of India already stockpiles 50 million doses and is likely to produce 100 million doses by March 2021. Whereas Bharat Biotech already have 20 million doses in stock and is

committed to produce 700 million doses by year end, which is quite unthinkable by any superpower. India also committed to Covax Facility, an initiative by WHO to provide vaccine to poor and middle income Countries, which is an International commitment.

We are proud with India's capability as innovator and producer of best quality of Vaccine. But there is some concern. There are controversies, criticism on COVAXIN. Some say phase III trial is not completed, some have pointed fingers on inadequate safety data, some say trial reports are not being published in public domain. Question was raised as why government was in such a hurry to give emergency authorization. I agree every citizen have right to put question in a democratic country like India. Safety concern is definitely priority to our leaders. But we have to remember we should not criticize in such a way that may damage international reputé of the country. But politically motivated or keeping political mileage in mind or out of Political pull-push glory discovery should not be in lost Bhul Bhulaiya.

Upon approval of Vaccine Dr Samiran Panda, Head Department of Epidemiology and communicable disease ICMR told "**I would say scientifically Covaxin offers much better antigen presentation (and a consequent immune response) than a vaccine developed as a specific part of the (viral) protein.**"

We as an Indian should be proud that vaccines, which are being approved, are made in India.

After two of our vaccines received emergency approval, Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated the hardworking scientists in India.

"A decisive turning point to strengthen a spirited fight, DCGI granting approval to vaccines of Serum Institute of India & Bharat Biotech accelerates the road to a healthier & a COVID-free nation. Congratulations India. Congratulations to our hardworking scientists & innovators. It would make every Indian proud that the two vaccines that have been given emergency use approval are made in India! This shows the eagerness of our scientific community to fulfil the dream of an Aatmanirbhar Bharat, at the root of which is care and compassion."

World Health Organization (WHO) welcomed India's decision giving emergency use authorization to Covid-19 vaccines. Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh, Regional Director, WHO South-East Asia Region said, "**World Health Organization welcomes India's decision giving emergency use authorization to Covid-19 vaccines.**"

AS per latest news more than 60 countries representatives have visited vaccine manufacturing site

at Hyderabad. There is lot of appreciation and enthusiasm regarding Indian vaccine in South East and East Asian countries. As a responsible member of Asia, India has a firm commitment to the small countries who are lacking production capability. Some might say there is political intention, there is business intension, but history of Indian trading is to help poor countries. In Indian history there is no evidence of Indian invasion with arms. But, India can conquer hearts of the furthest countries with love, charity and brotherhood. In this century India is following the same pathway what Mahamoti Ashok had set.

The poor Asian countries like Australia and South Africa also shown their interest to procure vaccine from India. This is possible because the Indian technology

is able to produce the best quality vaccine with lowest cost. After COVID pandemic India has emerged as a country that is full of possibilities in the race of development. India is ready to take the challenge, with a power that emerges from spirituality of India. **“Trust Yourself”** – was mantra of Swamiji to the youth. If you have faith on yourself, you can achieve. From India every Indian should be Vocal for Local.

So, it is the duty of our countryman, politician, bureaucrats, media person and definitely the leader and members of Indian Medical Association to stand behind the scientists who are dedicating their lives, working day and night to save us. I am sure there they are on the right track and will come out with all transparency and huge success.

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*We, at Indian Medical Association, appreciate the contributions of all Indian Scientists and Researchers who have relentlessly spent their time in making this dream a success and contributing to develop Self-sufficient India.*

*— Dr. J A Jayalal, National President, IMA*

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*The scientists across India in particular are pressworthy to great extent as in spite of the dreaded pandemic around, have done their best performance in record time.*

*They have proved beyond doubts that India is always a front-runner in the field of not only vaccine but in research capabilities.*

*We are proud to have them .*

*We thank their sheer hard work and consistent efforts in getting the vaccine ready in just under 9 months.*

*Thank you friends*

*We owe them a lot.*

*— Dr. Jayesh M. Lele, Hony Secretary General, IMA*

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*Self reliant India, which was actually the dream of Swamiji, can only be achieved through true education, strong public health system, skill development and innovation in science and technology.*

*During this Covid pandemic, the frontline warriors like doctors, nurses, health workers, scientists, police, corporation workers etc must be congratulated for their relentless effort towards the mankind.*

*Success in the field of Covid vaccine goes to the scientists of our country.*

*The fight is not yet over and presently we should follow the saying of Swamiji:*

*"Arise, awake & stop not, till the goal is reached".*

*Let's stay focused, safe & healthy.*

*— Dr. Santanu Sen, MP, Rajysabha & Past National President, IMA*

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*Dear JIMA Team,*

*Congratulations for highlighting the Covid Vaccine developed in our Nation. Your Shaping of the article looping in the statements of our First Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru ji & Swami Vivekananda, Making India awake till go in achieved is laudable.*

*Complementing 21<sup>st</sup> Century as India's Century will Strengthen the hands of our Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji.*

*Our Scientists & Innovators of Serum Institute of India & Bharat Biotech made true the dream of our Honourable PMji, " Make in India, to a Self Reliant India"*

*The Vaccine invented by our Indian Scientists & approved by DCGI & ICMR has received illustrative appreciations from WHO & Global Healthcare Leaders. Our India Developed vaccine is going Global to serve the Humanity. Earlier we were dependent on other Nation for our needs; now the situation is reversed.*

*We, API, the largest Professional body of Physician in India, Congratulate, appreciate & salute the Scientists & Innovators of Covid Vaccine India.*

*Best Wishes,*

*— Dr S Arulraj, National President API*

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**JAI HIND.....VANDE MATARAM**