

INDIA AS A DEVELOPED COUNTRY

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Before knowing, whether a country is developed or developing, one must know how the countries are classified as developed and developing. Countries are classified either as developed or developing based on the gross domestic product (GDP) or gross national income (GNI) per capita, Human Development Index (HDI), the level of industrialization, technological infrastructure etc., among several other potential factors. Usually, Nominal and Human Development Index (HDI) Method are used for determining whether a country is developed or developing. This Paper is an attempt to study whether India's 'path of development

Keywords: *GNI, HDI, Income Inequalities, Poverty, Scams, Corruption, Political Commitment, Cast System, Reservation System, Brain Drain, Policy Measures.*

INTRODUCTION

The US has classified India as a developed nation, eliminating the preferential treatment it received in countervailing duty investigations. On 26 July, 2019 Ex-US President has said "The WTO is BROKEN when the world's RICHEST countries claim to be developing countries to avoid WTO rules and get special treatment. NO more!!! Today I directed the U.S. Trade Representative to take action so that countries stop CHEATING the system at the expense of the USA". Trump made this remark referring to India and China, because according to him his country is put in loss in the world trade. But Classifying India as a 'developed nation' by the US is not an indicator of progress, but it defines India's future trade relationship with the US. The reclassification does not indicate a rise in India's Gross National Income (GNI) or other social development indicators such as healthcare and education. Before knowing, whether a country is developed or developing, one must know how the countries are classified as developed and developing. Countries are classified either as developed or developing based on the gross domestic product (GDP) or gross national income (GNI) per capita, Human Development Index (HDI), the level of industrialization, technological infrastructure etc., among several other potential factors. Usually, the following two popular methods are used for determining whether a country is developed or developing.

Nominal Gross National income (GNI) Per capita Method is a useful tool at-a-glance to estimate a country's overall standard of living. Countries whose nominal GNI rises above a certain threshold (which changes slightly each year) are classified as developed, while those whose GNI falls below that amount are considered still developing. According to the World Bank (2022) - Any country with Gross National Income (GNI) per capita

\$12,536 or higher is considered as a developed country. The rest of the countries are considered developing – as they haven't yet reached this threshold.

Human Development Index (HDI) Method is used to determine whether a country is fully developed or still developing. The HDI considers a broad range of factors, including economic growth, life expectancy, health, education, and quality of life. United Nations uses Human Development Index (HDI) to determine whether a country is developed or still developing. The highest possible HDI score is a 1.0. A country that scores less than .80 is considered developing. Hence, let us examine whether India is still a developing country or a developed country in view of the above two methods.

According to Developing Countries World Bank (2022) Data, if we observe the recent data, it is clearly evident that India is still a developing country as per the above said two methods, because its GNI Per Capita is 1900 USD. This is far below the 12,536 USD prescribed by World Bank. Regarding HDI it is 0.645. This is also less than the prescribed 0.80 by United Nations. Now, let us analyze the factors which are holding back India to become a developed country even after 74 years of independence.

POPULATION

Often, so many people including some economists attributes that huge population of a country is the hurdle for development process. Is it really true? Let us analyze. Actually, "population is no demon" (an asset) to a country, but in our country the supply and demand equation has always been highly unbalanced, the latter far exceeding the former thereby creating imbalances in the standard of living, resource utilization, employment, education, opportunities, healthcare, almost in every sphere. We get per capita income by dividing national income by population. Hence, high population growth leads to lower per capita income. As our Government is unable to provide the required basic needs at the population growth rate, the growing population is becoming burden on our economy. Hence, the Government of India started Family Planning Programme in 1952. We are the first country in the world to launch National Programme for Family Programme. In 1977, Family Planning Programme was changed to Family Welfare Programme by extending its scope by covering maternity and child health services (MCH). In 2016, Mission Pariwar Vikas has been launched to lay special focus on high fertility districts of Bihar, UP, Assam, Chhattisgarh, MP, Rajasthan, and Jharkhand. Despite all these efforts of our government, due to some section of people's non-cooperation @population is growing steadily in our country. Ours, being a democratic and non-religious country, we cannot force them. It is clear that Government's efforts alone are not sufficient for the development of any country but, public support and participation is vital. But one silver line in our population growth is seen that is "Demographic Dividend" i.e., the economic growth potential that can result from shifts in a population's age structure, mainly when the share of the working-age population (15 to 65) is larger than the share of non-working-age population (Below 15 and above 65). In other words, "a boost in economic productivity occurs when there are growing numbers of people in the workforce relative to the number of dependents". United Nations Population Fund (UNPF) stated that, "A country with both increasing numbers of young people and declining fertility has the potential to reap a demographic dividend. A 2011 International Monetary Fund Working

Paper found that substantial portion of the growth experienced by India since the 1980s is attributable to the country's age structure and changing demographics. The U.S. Census Bureau predicts that India will surpass China as the world's largest country by 2025, with a large proportion of those in the working age category. Over the next two decades the continuing demographic dividend in India could add about two percentage points per annum to India's per capita GDP growth. Hence, the Government of India has to exploit this "Demographic Dividend" and take care of jobs, future basic minimum living standards including food, water, shelter and energy. As per Population Reference Bureau (Non-Profit NGO), India's population in 2050 is projected to be 1.692 billion people. Islam is the fastest-growing religion in India. Growth rate of Muslims has been consistently higher than the growth rate of Hindus, ever since the census data of independent India has been available. For example, during the 1991-2001 decade, Muslim growth rate was 29.5% (vs 19.9% for Hindus). However, Muslims population growth rate declined to 24.6% for 2001-2011 decade, in keeping with the similar decline in most religious groups of India.

INCOME INEQUALITIES

In India, there are high income inequalities. According to the "World Inequality Report 2022"- Top 10% and top 1% in India hold 57% and 22% of the total national income respectively while the bottom 50% share has gone down to 13%. It says that while the top 1% has largely benefitted from the economic reforms, the growth among low and middle income groups has been relatively slow and poverty persists. In 2021, the wealthiest 10% of the population own 65% of total household wealth in India.

CORRUPTION

India is ranked 85th among 180 countries in Global Corruption Index, 2021. Last year India's ranking was 86. Today, in almost all government offices works are pending for want of bribe. Common man is suffering a lot due to high corruption. We cannot blame the government officials alone, because for want of urgency sometimes public are paying money to the works get it done fastly. Due to this attitude of the people, some of the government staff are addicted to the bribe and keeping the files pending till the concerned people approach them for their works get it done.

LACK OF POLITICAL COMMITMENT

In our country, all political parties makes false promises to win the elections. But, after winning the elections, they forget and make the same promises again and again to win next elections. For example, BJP president Amit Shah has said Narendra Modi's 'promise' as the party's PM candidate that each Indian would receive Rs 15 lakh when black money would be repatriated from abroad was an 'idiom' and should not be taken literally. Although the 'promise' was never realistic, the new interpretation suggests that BJP was looking for a way to wriggle out after being accused by political opponents of reneging on its poll promise. Most of our politicians are corrupt and swallowing public money. They are enjoying at the cost of public money (Tax payers money) by availing several perks in addition to their salary/pensions. Political Parties are exempted from Income

Tax under Section 13A on its income from house property, income from other sources, capital gains and voluntary contributions received from any person however, subject to conditions. MPs and MLAs are also exempted from paying taxes on some allowances. They are also claiming multiple pensions. It is a welcome step that recently Punjab Government announced scrapping of ex - MLAs multiple pensions, thus saving lot of public money.

UNEMPLOYMENT

There is serious unemployment problem in India. Unemployment means a person willing to work but unable to find a qualified job. Due to unemployment, we are wasting our country's human resource. Though, there is a boom of outsourcing software companies in India, the problem of unemployment is rising and still many companies are facing the shortage of skilled labour. According to Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy, India has 53 million unemployed people as of December 2021 and a huge proportion of them are women. Of these, 35 million are the unemployed who are actively seeking work, while 17 million are those who, though willing to work, are not actively seeking it. "India needs to immediately provide employment to the 7.9% (35 million as on 12/2021) who are in the unemployment rate are actively looking for employment".

ILLITERACY

Illiteracy is the major hurdle in the path of development. Due to illiteracy common people are unable to exercise their rights and lead a dignified life. They are not able to understand the government's development schemes and missing the chance of being benefited by them. Hence, these schemes thus fail to produce tangible results. Illiteracy leads to ignorance, which in turn, leads to superstition. India has the highest population of illiterate adults in the world at 287 million. Illiteracy in India is more or less due to the different forms of disparities that exist in our society like gender discrimination, income inequalities, regional imbalances, caste imbalances, technological barriers etc. Even more worrying is the fact that illiteracy is directly linked to other social evils like poverty, child labour, child marriage, unemployment, social crimes etc. that should ideally have no place in a developed society.

SUPERSTITIONS AND RELIGION

Superstitions and Religion have been more of a divider than a unifier in this country. And the reason for this is not just the people who follow it but also unwanted political interference that has always existed and exploited the people as per their convenience. Religious beliefs have consistently played a crucial role in national politics and decisions irrespective of governments, appeasement playing a major role in ruling over the gullible masses.

CASTE SYSTEM

The division of society into so many castes and sub-castes doesn't allow upward mobility for persons belonging to the lower strata in society and is replete with gross inequality and injustice. Not just this, it makes a mockery of democracy and its values as people in the world's largest democracy vote on the basis of caste and religion. They most often

overlook merit, resulting in an unfair selection of candidates throughout the country.

BRAIN DRAIN

India has failed to hold back its talented youth and skilled workforce like Software Engineers, Academicians, Doctors, Scientists, Technicians from emigrating to the developed countries. This has had quite a significant impact on the country's development. The Reservation System for admission to top Indian Institutes that deny enrollment even to the deserving candidates, better work opportunities, better pay packages, high quality of life and facilities tempt most of the students to go abroad.

TERRORISM

Terrorism, whether it is Pakistan-sponsored, Maoist-sponsored, or north-east insurgency has slowed down the country's development in more ways than one. A major portion of the country's GDP gets diverted towards to maintain defence capabilities, otherwise could have been directed towards development activities. Terrorism has a significant impact on the economic growth, investment, overall expenditure, and on the safety and security of the general people.

POOR LAW AND ORDER

Ours is a democratic country with a well formulated constitution but, still people easily break the rules and skip punishment. There is urgent need for fast track judiciary system as there are bulk of pending cases seeking justice. Also, it is often observed that the law is broken by the makers and protectors of the law itself. There is a great need of strict policies to keep a check on it. Apart from Government, individuals commitment to abide by the law is also important.

INNOVATION

Innovation is the factor which economists believe would be the driver for future growth. Global Innovation Index Report 2021, highlights the performance of 132 economies, documenting the changing landscape of innovation across economies and regions. India is ranked 46th in this report. The level of innovation in a country is determined by the level of research and development (R&D). India invests a meagre 0.6% of its GDP on R&D, whereas China spends almost 2.2%, USA about 3% and Israel spends something in the range of 5% of its GDP on R&D.

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Since GDP is not the sole criteria of per capita of income, realizing this fact, the United National Development Programme has started releasing the Human Development Index (HDI) from 1990. The Human Development Index (HDI) is a summary measure of average achievement in key dimensions of human development: a long and healthy life, being knowledgeable and have a decent standard of living. The HDI is the geometric mean of normalized indices for each of the three dimensions. India ranks 131 among the 189 countries of the world. India's HDI score is 0.645 (United Nations uses Human

Development Index (HDI) to determine whether a country is developed or still developing. The highest possible HDI score is a 1.0. A country that scores less than .80 is considered developing).

RESERVATION SYSTEM

Every decade reservations are extended for next decade without any sort of analysis. Thus, Ambedkar's policy has not been applied in true spirit. No political party in India in true sense is free from gender and caste bias. His reservation policy is not reaching the really needy. In this context Prakash Ambedkar, grandson of the Babasaheb, while talking to Manu Joseph on Outlook Magazine dated: 23/08/2004 said that "*Legislation doesn't change people. That's why B.R. Ambedkar didn't believe that reservation of constituencies or jobs for Dalits would change the way Indian society looked at its lower castes. He reluctantly agreed to reservation in the belief that it would be discontinued 10 years after the adoption of the Constitution. But half a century later, reservation remains an issue in India*". Addressing officials and representatives of local bodies at an event on smart cities the former Speaker Sumithra Mahajan said, "*Ambhedkarji had said, 'Give reservations for 10 years and after 10 years, do a rethink. Bring them to that stage'. We have done nothing. Even I am guilty of this... We have not thought about it. We do not contemplate why this (a rethink) has not happened.*" why we have not achieved the society dreamt of by Dr Ambedkar. We should ponder over the reasons for that also". Article 334 of the Constitution had originally required the reservation to cease in 1960, but this was extended up to 2020 through 95th Amendment of the Constitution. All political parties are now using Ambedkar for vote bank, and no one truly tries to reflect his ideology through actions. Simply, monuments and memorials do not serve the purpose. Practice of his ideology only that makes the difference.

GENDER GAP

It refers to differences between women and men, especially with regard to economic, social, political, intellectual, and cultural. The Global Gender Gap measure was introduced by the World Economic Forum in 2006 to examine four critical areas of inequality between men and women. The four parameters are: economic participation and opportunity, educational attainment, health and survival, and political empowerment. In India, despite several years of planned development, improvement observed in education and, to a lesser extent, in health women's improved capabilities do not seem to have been translated into an equal participation between men and women in economic and political activities. According to the Global Gender Gap Index 2021 (World Economic Forum), India has slipped 28 places and has been ranked 140th among 156 nations participating in the rankings. The most gender equal country in the world is Iceland continues to be top, and it has been in the first position for 12 years.

PREDOMINANCE OF AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

Although, India's agriculture sector has emerged as the leading in terms of employment (nearly 50% of workforce), but its GDP share is 20.19%, while that of Services Sector accounts for 53.89%, and Industry sector contributes 25.92%. (Services and Industrial Sectors are providing employment to nearly 50% workforce).

BLACK MONEY

The unaccounted money that is concealed from the tax administrator is called black money. There are different reports of Indian black money. Total amount held in all Swiss bank accounts by citizens of India is about US\$2 billion. In February 2012, the director of India's Central Bureau of Investigation said that Indians have US\$500 billion of illegal funds in foreign tax havens, more than any other country. In March 2012, the government of India clarified in its parliament that the CBI director's statement on \$500 billion of illegal money was an estimate based on a statement made to India's Supreme Court in July 2011. In March 2018, it was revealed that the amount of Indian black money currently present in Swiss and other offshore banks is estimated to be 1 300 lakh crores or US\$ 4 trillion. Thus, it is clear that lot of Indian black money is not contributing to the development our country.

WASTAGE OF PUBLIC MONEY

Due to several scams in India (Bofors, Fodder, Harshad Mehta and Ketan Parekh, Vijay Mallya, Common Wealth Games, Nirav Modi, Spectrum, Hawala, Coalgate, Black Money) and for political mileage lot of public money is lost. For example, in Telangana for Rythu and Dalitha Bandhu Schemes crores of public money is being wasted for the sake of votes. Many economists and intellectuals advised the Telangana Government to give Rythu Bandhu only to the Small and Marginal farmers instead of giving it to the rich farmers. Dalitha Bandhu should be offered only to those STs who are economically poor, so that crores of public money thus saved can be utilized for the required infrastructure like Roads, Hospitals, Drinking Water, Schools etc. Lot of public money is being wasted in public works like in the constructions of irrigation Projects, Roads, Rail, and Government Buildings. Quality works are not done. Tenders are called for the same works again and again, and even sometimes claiming the money without practically doing the works (Just on paper only), and also quoting abnormal amounts for the said works. For example, Kaleshwaram Project – a white elephant on Telangana Governments exchequer - Independent analysis of the DPR by civil society organizations involved in water management and resettlement of evictees have questioned the proposed benefits accruing to farmers. They argue that: (a) the 180 TMC water is not enough for 26 lakh acres for any meaningful irrigation; (b) the crop yields have been grossly inflated almost 10 times as compared to the current levels for projecting highly favorable benefits/outcomes; and (c) the complete omission of social and ecological costs in the report. Telangana which was declared as "Surplus State" at beginning of formation, now suffering with total debt burden: Rs 4,75,444 crore and Per capital debt Rs 1,25,116 as per 2022 Budget. The State government is not in a position to pay salaries and pensions on 1st of every month (They are credited mostly between 1st to 5th and sometimes even it is dragged up to 15th of a month). The Dearness Allowance (DA) to the employees and Dearness Relief (DR) to the pensioners is paid after more than one year to one and half year. Under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), people in rural areas are provided employment through various schemes. Social Audit Units (SAUs) under the Department of Rural Development has found financial irregularities worth Rs 935 crore in various MGNREGA schemes.

FAVORABLE BALANCE OF TRADE

It means, the value of exports is more than the value of imports. It is an indicator for development. But India's trade deficit widened to USD 18.7 billion in March of 2022, from USD 13.9 billion in the same period last year, a preliminary estimate showed.

INFLATION

In developed countries inflation is checked and controlled so that people are not affected adversely, but in developing countries this is always a problem and the worst sufferers are poor and middle class people.

PROBLEM OF UNORGANIZED SECTOR

Despite formalization gathering pace, the informal sector continues to employ about 80% of India's labour force and produces 50% of its GDP. About, half of them are engaged in agriculture. It is the other half, employed in the non-agricultural informal sector that is in crying need of help. Most are engaged in construction, manufacturing and in services like trade, transport, hotels, eateries etc.

POVERTY

Poverty has been a major hindrance to India's quest to be a developed nation. Poverty is **a situation in which a person couldn't fulfil his basic needs like food, home, clothes, drinking water**. According to NITI Aayog, 25% of the Population in India are Poor. Every fourth person of the total population of India is in poverty. As per World Bank Report of 2020, 65 percent of the country's population lives in rural areas in poverty with insufficient infrastructure. Poverty is correlated with other social problems like illiteracy, over-population, malnutrition, unemployment, homelessness etc. It's all linked together in a vicious circle that thrives on each other. In 2021, the total male population living in poverty in India was about 45 million. By contrast, the number of females in poverty during the same time period was around 53 million.

GOOD GOVERNANCE AND INFRA-STRUCTURE

Strong and excellence governance is a prerequisite for engendering trust in the investment is a hallmark of advanced economies. Countries scoring high in governance exhibit strong leadership underpinned by capable institutions that support the rule of law, transparency, and consultation, and have established effective and independent decision making structures for infrastructure investment. According to the Global Infrastructure Hub(2021) Singapore is the global leader in overall infrastructure with a value of 95.4 on a scale of 0 to 100. India's value is 68.1

POLLUTION AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Pollution and Climate Change level also determines the level of development of a country. India is the third-most polluted country in the world (Most Polluted Countries 2022, World Population). India has ranked 168th out of 180 countries in the 2020 Environmental Performance Index (EPI), according to researchers at Yale and Columbia universities,

who say India's decarbonization agenda needs to accelerate, and the country faces a number of serious environmental health risks, including poor air quality. India has been ranked 10th among the top performing countries with in the Group 20 in the Climate Change Performance Index CCPI) 2022 Report.

MISTAKES COMMITTED IN THE PAST

Nehru's Wrong Foreign Policy: The first test of Nehru's ability to successfully conduct foreign/national security policy came two months after Independence, when Pakistan attacked Kashmir. It became apparent that Nehru was more of an idealist, rather than a realist. It was his idealistic internationalism that made him order a ceasefire in 1948 and take the case to the UN. Nehru ordering a ceasefire was resented even by the armed forces. He expected a favorable response from the UN because Pakistan was the aggressor since Kashmir had acceded to India. Nehru had forgotten that the UN was a political body and not a court of law. In the prevalent Cold War scenario, the UN Security Council was not willing to see Pakistan, which was aligned with the US, as the aggressor. Long after Nehru, Western powers used the Kashmir issue to constantly stir up security concerns in the Indian capital.

He ignored strengthening of our Defence (Strengthening Military) in the name of peace (Panchsheel -The Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence). He never perceived China a threat to our national security in spite of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel warned him not to trust China. He also not listened to the advice of Patel regarding merging of Kashmir in to the union territory of India. Nehru was committed to the Gandhian ideology of non-violence, peace, and tolerance, while China was looking to transform itself from weak and underdeveloped to a strong, militarily powerful totalitarian state. China, from the beginning, was determined to assert her influence as a radical, revolutionary nation willing to use militant power in international politics, while India chose the more constructive path of mediation, non-alignment, and peaceful accommodation.

Though Nehru laid foundation for science and technology, he was against the development of atomic energy and weapons, and he never changed his mantra of nuclear disarmament even after a war with China in 1962. Nehru was unwilling to use the favorable international environment to advance national interests, even after his realization in October 1962 that China was not a friend. Nehru's soft approach towards Pakistan left several senior members in the cabinet unhappy; Mukherjee and Neogy resigned in June 1950. They felt it was important that the nation not barter away "vital national interests." Dr B R Ambedkar was another cabinet member to resign, citing foreign policy failure as a reason.

Nehru's Successors: Journalist Seymour Hersh writes of the then US Secretary of State, Dean Rusk, recommending that India be encouraged to develop its own nuclear weapons, in response to the Chinese testing them. But Nehru's successors for a long time not shanked from their blind faith in his wisdom and policy guidelines. Even, Morarji Desai (Janatha Party) followed Nehru's path of non-violence, peace in foreign policy and soft corner towards Pakistan.

In the Second Five Year Plan (1956-61), the drawback of prioritizing industry over agriculture for public investments became glaringly mistake when the

country experienced a food crisis, necessitating urgent large-scale imports of subsidized grain from the United States. One government method for financing expenditures was the creation of new money (printing of notes resulted in significant inflation. The Closed Economic System i.e., not allowing FDI into the country, resulted in foreign exchange crisis in 1991, then the government made a clear break with past policies and gave green signal to FDI through “New Economic Policy, 1991”. India is still following the age old “Reservation Policy on Cast Basis”. Even after 74 years of independence, India’s leadership is “not successful” in achieving significant degree of living standards in the country. It means, our planning failed to achieve required living standards of a developed country. Hence, our leaders should ponder over on this issue and workout strategies for the rapid development of our country.

Though, there is no dearth of good Schemes and Policies like MGNREGA, Education for All, Right to Information Act, Poverty Alleviation Programmes etc., there are so several loopholes in implementation. So far, we have discussed several factors that are holding us back to become a developed country, now let us examine what needs to be done to transform our country into a developed economy.

SUGGESTIONS

1. **Infrastructure:** Our cities and towns are overpopulated with poor infrastructure (Roads, Continuous electricity supply, drinking water, hospitals, Schools, and Colleges, etc.). More people are migrating from rural to the urban for better amenities. Hence, proper infrastructure must be developed both in rural and urban for better living standards.
2. **Disproportionate Distribution of Income and Wealth:** There are greater number of billionaires in India. It shows that “India is rich, but Indians are poor”. Hence, Government must take all the required steps, so that there will be equal distribution of income and wealth in the country. Economic reforms in India are much in favour of rich rather than in favour of poor people, small and marginal farmers.
3. **Corruption:** Due to corruption foreign investors show lack of interest in doing business in India. Scams are unearthed every now and then in our country. These scams are impacting FDI inflow. As we have seen in the past and present our rulers (Law makers) are themselves are corrupt and involved in several scams. Most of our government offices are involved in corruption, works are not done without paying money. Hence, there is a need to bring appropriate viable legislations to check corruption.
4. **Unable to Exploit our Natural resources:** We are rich in human and natural resources, but unable to exploit them, when a small country like Singapore grew despite dearth of natural resources. Hence, Government must take steps in this direction.
5. **Demographic Dividend:** We have a greater number of young people, which is called demographic dividend, hence we must tap this young population for the development of our country.

- 6. Unemployment and Defective Education System:** Unemployability problem is rising in India day by day. It is arising out of our defective education. The present education system emphasizes theory, not practical. It encourages reading, writing, and reproducing. It must be addressed earnestly to create skilled and creative workforce to achieve better productivity and performance.
- 7. Agriculture:** India is still an agrarian country; major part of our economy is based on agriculture. Our nation needs a paradigm shift from agrarian to industrial economy because agriculture depends upon monsoon for irrigation that is highly unpredictable. Moreover, there is disguised unemployment (working more than required) and under employment (working for lower wages) in this sector, but less GDP. Hence, there is urgent need to revolutionize our agriculture by making it market oriented like industries, so that the agriculturists themselves can determine the price of their product like industrialists.
- 8. Favorable Balance of Trade:** Government must always strive for favorable balance of trade and should take all the necessary steps in this direction.
- 9. Inflation:** Government must check and control inflation time to time, so that common people are not affected.
- 10. Literacy:** Even 74 years of our independence, we have failed to achieve cent percent literacy rate in our country. Hence, Government must initiate all the steps to achieve the goal of cent percent literacy rate to boost our developmental process..
- 11. Secularism:** Diversity is the backbone of India where people of all faiths live together. Hence, it is essential to strive for secularism to ensure unity and integrity of India. There must be tolerance and respect for all cultures, castes, communities, religions, and regions.
- 12. Regional Imbalances:** Imbalances in any form including regional imbalances leads to unrest in the country and hamper our development. Hence, Government must strive to eradicate all types of imbalances.
- 13. Grab the World Market:** India is the largest democracy in the world with the youngest population. Hence government must encourage small and medium enterprises to grab the world market like China to provide more employment opportunities.
- 14. Build Global Leaders:** **There is no dearth of leaders in our country, but unfortunately most of them are corrupt and busy to become millionaires and billionaires. Hence,** the young talent must be inculcated with leadership skills, abilities with patriotism to groom them as leaders to encounter domestic and global challenges.
- 15. Commitment:** Today commitment is lacking everywhere in our country, which is very essential to become a developed country. Hence, we must cultivate a positive attitude and enhance our commitment levels to contribute our best to make India as an economic super power in the world.

16. **Mindset:**Our mindset must change. There must be shift in the mindset of our people from being rights-oriented to duty-oriented.
17. **Innovation and Technology:**To withstand in the Global Market Competition, innovations and technology advancement is must. Hence, Government must take all necessary steps in this regard.
18. **Unorganized Sector:**There is urgent need, for India's enormous informal employment sector for a significant step up in public investment to improve the jobs prospects.
19. **Caste Based Reservations:**Originally, it was stated that these reservations will continue up to 1960 and later on they will be removed. But, till this date they are continued to gain votes to retain in power claiming that they are doing social justice. This is one of the reasons why our nation is not moving forward at a pace on which it should be to become a developed country. If we want to keep the caste based reservation system then a limit must be defined for the same. Only one member of a family should be allowed to use the reservation quota for one time only. This means that once a person in a family has used this quota, then no other family member should be allowed to use the reservation facility. Hence, Government should bring a legislation to this effect.
20. **Brain Drain:** To solve "Brain Drain Problem" to a certain extent, **Government must think about "Reservation for Economically Backward in the Forward Castes"**. If we ignore EBCs in the FCs, again a class struggle may prevail, which is not good for the future of our country. The present and future generations will not excuse us for this mistake. Due to faulty reservations policy in our country, lot of "Brain Drain" is going in our country (Lot of our intellectuals are leaving the country for their bright future) for example, highly intellectuals like Noble Prize winners – Hargobindh Kurana and Amartya Sen etc.
21. **Empowerment of Women:** Women must be empowered in all spheres i.e., in education, economical, political etc. Everybody must respect women. We must improve on female to male ratio. Girls should be permitted to born and live after birth.
22. **Clean and Green:**It is the bounded duty of every citizen in India to keep our country "Clean and Green" so that we can protect our country from pollution. Every Indian must learn basic manners to keep our country spic and span. This is one of the obvious differences between a developing and a developed country. In India anyone can spit and pee anywhere. Heaps of garbage can be seen in every locality. Strict laws must be enforced to keep our country "clean and green".
23. **Good Governance:**There is probably no law in India that has been strictly implemented. So, law makers must think on the firm implementation of laws and good governance.
24. **Education, Health, and Industrialization:**Many researchers in development economics have found out there is strong relationship between education, health, industrialization, and development. They found out that the productivity of

educated and healthy workers is more than the illiterate and unhealthy workers. It is also found that rapid industrialization has led a developing country to a developed one.

25. **Eradication of Poverty:** In India, in spite of all the attempts, the number of poor is still increasing and becoming a hurdle for development. Poverty is just like a disease to which many other problems such as crime, low-paced development, etc are associated. There are number of people in India who are still homeless and beg for the whole day to eat a meal. Underprivileged children are unable to attend school and, and those have the opportunity to drop out after a year or so. People below the poverty line live in unhygienic conditions and are so prone to many health problems. With this, the vicious cycle of poor health, lack of education and more poverty keeps on increasing. Hence, Government must implement poverty eradication programmes strictly without any corruption.
26. Encourage Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and Tourism by creating conducive atmosphere.
27. **Political Reforms:** In spite of number of political reforms in our country, talented and eligible persons are always kept out of the scenario. Ineligible, corrupt, criminals and stupid decide the fortune of our country. Hence, the Government must implement elections laws strictly to eliminate corrupt persons and criminals.
28. **Alcohol Consumption: Alcohol consumption in India** amounted to about five billion liters in 2020 and was estimated to reach about 6.21 billion liters by 2024. Alcohol consumption in India is rising day by day and most of the youth are addicted to it. All most all the State Governments are considering the sale of alcohol as a source of big income and forgetting the welfare of the Public. According to a Study, over 88 percent of Indians aged under age 25 purchase or consume alcoholic beverages even though it is illegal. Due to this, domestic violence, road accidents, and crime rate is increasing. Most of the youth's bright future is in danger, thus the country is also losing their talents and energies for the development. Hence, all the State Governments must impose a total ban on alcohol or restrict its sale to a greater extent.
29. **Black Money:** Often, Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) are misused for political purpose by the Central and State Governments leaving big culprits of their own parties. Thus, giving scope for the accumulation of black money in our country. Hence, Central and Governments must use the said Institutions impartially to unveil the black money in the country.
30. **Pollution:** Though, there are Central and State Pollution Control Boards for name sake, there is lot of environmental pollution in our country, especially in cities and towns, hence Government must take strong initiatives to control pollution so that our public will be free from hazardous health issues like heart, asthma, and skin diseases.

- 31. Responsibility of all the Citizens:** Every citizen of the country must realize that Government alone cannot do everything without the support of public, hence everybody must support the Government to make our country a developed nation.
- 32. Vote Power:** Ours is a democratic country, our strength is voting power. Hence, the people must elect good, able, and dynamic leaders who can guarantee a bright future for our country.
- 33. Patriotism:** Above all, patriotism is very important, which is lacking today. Without the safety of country, we cannot live peacefully, hence it is the moral bounded duty of every citizen to safeguard the interests of the country first and next ours.

To conclude, India is an emerging and developing country (EDC) with rapid economic development. Former President A P J Abdul Kalam has rightly said that country is more important than any religion or fanaticism of any individual. The critical challenges India faces today can only be overcome through communication and cooperative initiatives between the people of India and the current political administration. Once both the parties recognize that the critical problems of poverty, corruption, and literacy rates need to be addressed, then only India can truly begin to successfully develop. Young and creative leaders can change India into a developed nation. India will perform when its people will perform.

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