



## **Five Years of Inspiring 1.3 Billion People**

India is going for 2019 polls, with full of positivity! The level of trust and optimism in the country is on a historic high. Two months back, at 'Pariksha Pe Charcha 2.0' event, while interacting with the students, teachers and parents, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said: "some people have the view that Modi has raised the expectations as Prime Minister", and he added that he is of the view "that 1.25 billion Indians should have 1.25 billion aspirations."

How a country which five years back considered as one of the members of the fragile five club, whose gloomy prospects were a matter of concern for the world community too, where there was a perception in the minds of the common people that nothing can change and they were willing to surrender to existing circumstances, can make this huge transformation possible which we are witnessing, is a matter of discussion around the world. When Prime Minister Modi came to power, India was the tenth largest economy of the world in GDP terms, and by the end of 2019, India will possibly be the fifth largest economy in the world. The success stories of 'New India' are surprising for many and there is a general curiosity to know what made this change possible in a span of just five years.

In his 2014, 'Mann Ki Bat' radio talk PM Modi had said: "if each citizen walks one step then together they could walk 1.25 billion steps to take the country forward to progress and prosperity." It seems that in the last five years India has indeed moved 1.25 billion steps ahead. In India, after 67 years of independence, only 38 percent of rural households had toilets and today in only five years, 95 percent of rural households have been provided toilets. After 67 years of our

Independence, only 55 percent of the households had gas connections and now, in just five years, close to 10 crore LPG connections have been distributed to poor families and gas connections are reached to 90 percent of the households. After 67 years of Independence, only 70 percent of our rural households had access to electricity and today 95 percent of rural households have been electrified. After 67 years of Independence, only 50 percent of the households of the country had bank accounts and in just five years almost every family of the country has access to banking services and they are now a part of the mainstream of economic growth.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has made development a people's movement. From the beginning, he was determined to make all 125 crore Indians participants in the country's transformation. In one of his 2014 speeches, he said: "I believe that governments alone cannot be responsible for the development. At most, the government can launch schemes. It can make roads, it can make schools and hospitals. There are limitations to its budget. But actual development takes place when there is public participation." He instilled a sense of responsibility toward the nation in the minds of the common people, and he is successful in sustaining that spirit throughout the five years of his government. In the Kumbh Mela 2019, the world has seen a snapshot of 'New India', where our people have left no stone unturned in transforming the 'Divine Kumbh' into a 'Magnificent Kumbh.' The Kumbh 2019, where an estimated 130- 140 million people visited, set up world records for largest crowd management, largest sanitation drive and largest painting exercise of public sites.

Through his clean policies and clear intentions, PM Modi has generated a trust in the system. This trust has translated into a sense of responsibility and unity which made different bold and courageous initiatives a success i.e. Demonetization, GST, Jan-Dhan, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Sanitation Coverage Drive, Mudra Yojana, Common Service Centres, Ujjawala Yojana, National Digital Literacy Mission, Skill India etc. From his chief minister days, PM Modi does not believe in replacing existing entities rather he believes in reforming the system in which they operate, through a culture of transparency and accountability. Such an environment motivates different stakeholders to perform well and when they perform the country gradually gets transformed. It is a surprising fact for many in the world that in Transforming India, bureaucracy is no more a hurdle but a key enabler of transformation. PM Modi has inspired those same people, those same processes

and those same institutions to leave their old ‘chalta hai’ attitude and to cooperate with the larger vision of the New India.

Hope is the essence of democracy and hope precedes aspirations. PM Modi has played the role of a true motivator, enabler, and facilitator. He inspired 1.3 billion people to feel that they have to take the nation forward and as he rightly says: “After 2014, hesitations have been replaced by hope. Obstacles have been replaced by optimism. And Issues have been replaced by initiatives.”

In 2019, 1.3 billion Indians are more enthusiastic than ever to play a constructive role. India’s journey of the last five years reflects that nothing is impossible for a nation whose government and citizens joins hands and work shoulder to shoulder for a common purpose of nation-building!

## **Devsena Mishra**

(Published on March 13, 2019 at Academics4Namo platform)



[Note: As of 11<sup>th</sup> May 2020, Academics4namo.com domain no longer exist]