

END OF WAR?

The guns in the Gulf have fallen silent in anticipation of the deal to be signed between Iran and the USA on Friday in Switzerland. Though many areas of conflict remain untouched by the two sides even in the proposed deal, yet the world has received the news with so much optimism. The idea being floated by the US and Iran about the deal revolves around the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz – which by the war got closed because of the conflict – end of all fighting for next 60 days during which the two or more sides will work out a permanent solution to their conflict. This conflict appears highly complicated given the issues and the traditional rivalry among the countries involved. Iran has always been at loggerheads with the US and more importantly with Israel. Tehran's official position is annihilation of Israel. The US and Iran have been fighting over the nuclear capability allegedly being developed by the latter. The proposed agreement is likely to remain silent on that point. Israel has used all high power to pound Iran and has successfully hindered its nuclear plans by killing its scientists, IRGC top officials and military strategists long before the current war. Iran, on the other side has propped proxies to attack its adversaries in the region. One of the strong proxies – armed groups – are based in Lebanon, in the immediate neighbourhood of Israel and that is the reason, Israel has been attacking the country and its forces have moved into the Lebanese territory. Israel has clarified its troops will not be moved out as part of the deal since it is linked to the Jewish State's security. So, in all the proposed deal between US and Iran, if it materializes – is a fragile one and yet has given relief to the global community.

Modi@12: Laying the foundations of a Viksit Bharat

Jagmohan Singh Raju

With completion of twelve years in office, Shri Narendra Modi has become the longest serving Prime Minister of independent India. He has proved to be a transformational leader who has restored national confidence, accelerated development and elevated India's standing in the world. Critics question aspects of his governance, institutional approach and political style. Yet beyond the partisan debate lies a larger and more enduring question: what has India become after twelve years of the Modi era?

The answer is not that India has already become Viksit Bharat, a developed nation. No country of India's size and complexity can complete such a journey in little more than a decade. Rather, the more persuasive argument is that the foundations of a Viksit Bharat have been laid in these twelve years. The significance of the Modi era lies in the creation of economic, infrastructural, digital, social and strategic foundations upon which a developed India can be built over the coming decades.

The scale of this transformation can perhaps be captured through a few numbers. India has risen from the world's tenth-largest economy to become the fourth largest. More than 58 crore citizens have been brought into the formal banking system through Jan Dhan accounts.

Over 15 crore rural households have received tap-water connections, more than 10 crore poor women have received LPG connections, nearly 12 crore toilets have been constructed, and an estimated 25 crore Indians have moved out of multidimensional poverty. Taken individually, these figures represent efficient governance. Taken together, they tell a larger story: the laying of foundations for a more prosperous, inclusive and capable India. Beneath these achievements lies a deeper transformation. The central theme of the Modi era has been the strengthening of India's state capacity—the ability of government to identify beneficiaries, deliver services, build infrastructure, respond to



crises and pursue national objectives. In many ways, the journey of the past twelve years can be described as a movement from entitlement to empowerment, from leakage to delivery, from policy paralysis to execution, and from a hesitant India to a more confident India.

The first of these foundations is economic strength. In 2014, India was frequently described as a country of immense promise struggling to realise its potential. Twelve years later, India stands among the fastest-growing major economies in the world, recording average annual growth of around 7 per cent. Economic growth alone does not create a developed nation, but no nation has become developed without sustained economic expansion. The second foundation is infrastructure. The past twelve years have witnessed a sustained effort to close India's infrastructure gap. National highways have expanded by nearly 60 per cent, port capacity has doubled, 88 airports have been operationalised in smaller cities and over 7.8 lakh kilometres of rural roads have been completed. Dedicated freight corridors have become operational and railway modernisation has accelerated. These are not merely construction statistics. They reflect the enhanced capacity of the Indian state to conceive, finance and execute projects at scale. Another important foundation has been the renewed emphasis on manufacturing. Through initiatives such as Make in India and Production Linked Incentive schemes, India has sought to strengthen domestic production capabil-

ities and reduce strategic dependence in critical sectors. From electronics and mobile phones to defence production and semiconductors, the objective has been to create the productive capacity necessary for a developed economy.

The third foundation is digital transformation. The JAM Trinity—Jan Dhan, Aadhaar and Mobile—has fundamentally changed the relationship between citizen and state. India's digital public infrastructure is now studied across the world, while UPI has made digital payments routine even among small traders and rural households. More importantly, technology has enabled the state to deliver services and monitor outcomes with a degree of precision that was previously impossible. The fourth foundation is social welfare and inclusion. For decades, India aspired to be a welfare state but often struggled to ensure that benefits reached intended recipients.

The opening of 58 crore Jan Dhan accounts represents far more than a banking initiative; it signifies the inclusion of millions who previously stood outside the formal economy. The real significance lies not merely in the opening of accounts but in the state's ability to reach previously invisible citizens and deliver benefits directly to them. Similarly, LPG connections, toilets, housing assistance, tap-water connections and healthcare coverage have sought to improve the quality of life of those at the bottom of the social pyramid.

The fifth foundation is state capacity itself. The true test of governance is not the announcement of schemes but the ability to implement them. The government was able to transfer assistance directly into bank accounts, distribute food grains at enormous scale and administer one of the largest vaccination programmes in human history. Such outcomes were possible because the institutional architecture for delivery had already been established.

The sixth foundation is national security. Development requires stability, and stability requires security. India today appears more confident in protecting its inter-

ests than it did a decade ago. Major terrorist incidents have declined significantly, border infrastructure has improved, Left Wing Extremism has receded dramatically and is now confined to a much smaller geographical footprint, defence modernisation has accelerated and internal security challenges have become more manageable. India is today safer, more resilient and better prepared than it was twelve years ago.

The seventh foundation is India's global standing. The India of 2026 enjoys greater international stature than the India of 2014. Its voice carries greater weight in global forums, its G20 Presidency demonstrated diplomatic confidence and organisational capability, and its growing strategic partnerships have strengthened its position in an increasingly multipolar world. The world no longer sees India merely as a country with potential; it increasingly sees India as a country shaping outcomes.

Perhaps the most important foundation, however, is confidence. Nations rise not only through economic indicators but through belief in their own capabilities. Whether through infrastructure, digital innovation, welfare delivery, space exploration or diplomacy, India increasingly behaves like a nation that expects to succeed. Confidence alone does not create prosperity, but prosperity rarely emerges in its absence. Yet it is important to distinguish between laying foundations and completing construction. Twelve years is not enough to transform a civilisation-sized nation into a fully developed country. It is, however, sufficient time to establish the pillars upon which future progress can rest. History will ultimately deliver the final verdict. But when historians look back at this period, they may conclude that the Modi era will be remembered less for any individual scheme and more for the foundations it laid—foundations of economic strength, digital capability, social inclusion, national security and, above all, national confidence—for the emergence of a Viksit Bharat.

DESERVE GOD AS A DOER IN LIFE

Ajit Kumar Bishnoi

In this article, I will try to explain about who is the actual doer though we feel that we are. It will surprise almost all that we, souls, don't accomplish anything by ourselves; we only desire and decide, being very minute and subtle souls. For doing any act, gross senses are required except in case of God, who does everything with His 'ichcha shakti' (Divine Will Power).

We can understand this phenomenon with an example of a rich man. He desires to build a large manufacturing plant. What does he do? He thinks about it and has a subtle plan for it. But for this plan to take physical shape, he needs lots of men, machinery, etc. Yes, his own body will also be used, but let us remember that his body is part of the material nature, given temporarily for one lifetime; it is not permanently his. A soul always remains small and subtle.

There are three entities involved in doing any physical act, if we consider our bodies as separate, though they are parts of the material nature. The second is the material nature, created by God to keep the earth planet habitable with energy, air, water, fertile land, etc. The third and the most



important entity is God – the Creator. These three do all acts in various percentages. For non-devotees, there are only two entities, that is the body and the material nature. Human body consists of gross senses, subtle mind, intelligence, ego, consciousness and, most importantly, per-

sonal nature. Shocking as it may seem, personal nature is also part of the material nature and is fixed at any given time. All our acts are driven by it. So who is the actual doer? The answer has to be the material nature in this case.

Now let us see what happens in case of

devotees of God, those who have taken shelter of God. God takes charge and micromanages lives of His devotees. It means that there are now three entities involved in doing anything with God as the Karta (doer). This gives enormous advantages, which are beyond what we can imagine. Because God is Omnipotent, Omniscient, Controller, Owner, Everything. Whatever God is involved in will be successful. God, ultimately, liberates these fortunate souls.

What happens to non-devotees? Under control of the material nature, they are forever living in illusion. They run after material successes, which never satisfy. And the worst thing it does is to give a false impression to the eternally small soul of having becoming big. In this mind-set, a soul makes big mistakes and helplessly suffers repeated cycle of birth and death.

What is the conclusion? We should all take shelter of God and try to remain there. Not only does God liberate but the present life also runs smoothly, which only God can ensure. Otherwise, be ready to suffer during this life and continue to suffer in future lives also. We must qualify to get God as Karta in our lives to avoid such misfortune.

The writer is a spiritual teacher; Views presented are personal.

From conflict zone to growth engine: How Modi changed

Vishnu Deo Sai

As Prime Minister Narendra Modi completes 12 years in office, every state has its own story of change. Chhattisgarh's story is unique because it is not merely about development. It is about transformation. A decade ago, Chhattisgarh was known nationally for reasons that no state would want. Despite its rich mineral resources, vast forests and vibrant tribal culture, it was largely identified with Naxal violence, underdevelopment and administrative isolation. Large parts of Bastar were beyond the effective reach of governance. Roads were scarce, investment was hesitant, and welfare delivery struggled against both geography and insurgency.

Today, the conversation is very different.

The most important change has been in security. For years, Naxalism denied generations of tribal youth the opportunities available elsewhere in India. It

discouraged investment, disrupted education and kept entire regions trapped in uncertainty. Prime Minister Modi's government adopted a strategy that combined firm security action with development and rehabilitation. The objective was not only to defeat violence but also to ensure that governance reached the areas where insurgency had flourished.

The outcome became visible on March 31, 2026, when Union Home Minister Amit Shah declared India free from Naxalism in Jagdalpur, the heart of Bastar. For the country, it was a major security achievement. For the people of Bastar, it was the restoration of normal life.

Peace, however, has value only when it creates opportunity. That is where the Prime Minister's development vision has made a decisive difference.

Few projects illustrate this better than the NMDC Steel Limited plant at Nagarnar. For decades, Bastar supplied some of the



world's finest iron ore, while the value addition took place elsewhere. By dedicating a world-class integrated steel plant in Bastar itself, Prime Minister Modi sent a powerful message: regions rich in resources should also share in the prosperity generated by those resources.

The same approach can be seen in the major infrastructure projects launched across Chhattisgarh in recent years. Whether it is power generation, petroleum connectivity, city gas networks or railway expansion, the objective has been to integrate Chhattisgarh more deeply into India's

growth story. These projects create jobs, attract investment and improve the state's long-term competitiveness.

Yet the true measure of development in Chhattisgarh lies not only in factories and infrastructure. It lies in the lives of tribal communities, which form the heart of our state's identity. As someone who comes from a tribal community, I have witnessed both the aspirations and the challenges of these regions. For decades, many tribal habitations remained disconnected from basic services. Development often arrived slowly, if at all.

The Modi government placed tribal welfare at the centre of its policy framework. Through initiatives such as PM-JANMAN for Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups and the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan, some of India's most neglected communities have become a national priority.

The impact is visible on the ground. Roads are reaching remote habitations. Houses are being built for vulnerable families. Schools are being upgraded. Healthcare and mobile connectivity are expanding into areas that once remained isolated. A road into a tribal village is not merely an infrastructure project; it is a pathway to education, healthcare, markets and opportunity.

Equally significant has been the effort to ensure that tribal communities benefit from economic activity rather than remaining passive observers. Programmes supporting forest-produce value addition and tribal entrepreneurship are helping to create local

livelihoods. The idea is simple but important: development must be inclusive if it is to be sustainable.

The broader lesson from Chhattisgarh's experience over the past twelve years is that security, development and social justice cannot be pursued separately. Peace creates the conditions for investment. Infrastructure improves access to welfare. Tribal empowerment strengthens social stability. Together, they reinforce one another. Of course, much remains to be done. Former conflict zones require sustained attention. Industrial investments must continue to generate local employment. Welfare programmes must be implemented with efficiency and accountability. Development is an ongoing process, not a finished project.

Yet it is impossible to ignore how far Chhattisgarh has travelled over the last twelve years. A state once identified primarily through the lens of insurgency is increasingly being recognised for

connectivity, investment and tribal empowerment. Regions that once symbolised conflict are beginning to symbolise opportunity. The distance between remote villages and the state has narrowed significantly.

As Prime Minister Modi completes twelve years in office, Chhattisgarh stands as evidence of what sustained political commitment and policy continuity can achieve. The journey is not complete, but the direction is unmistakable. A state that once struggled to overcome its challenges is steadily emerging as a confident participant in India's growth story.

The broader lesson from Chhattisgarh's experience over the past twelve years is that security, development and social justice cannot be pursued separately. Peace creates the conditions for investment. Infrastructure improves access to welfare. The writer is the Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh; Views presented are personal.