

Vijay Gokhale Foreign Secretary India's Foreign Policy-27th November, LBSNAA Mussoorie. Some thoughts

- (1) No country has become a major power without being globally connected.
- (2) **Deng Xio Ping once said :** How does it matter if cat is black or white as long as it catches mice. { when China shifted from communist to Capitalist mode which resulted in China becoming a Superpower that it is }.
- (3) World is becoming more protectionist .
- (4) No one wants Indians in their countries- Liberal countries have concerns over immigration from India , the concerns are there even in Canada.
- (5) Exports will be a challenge as other Countries become protectionist while India needs to focus on Exports .
- (6) USA has shifted from multi- lateralism to unilateralism which has international implications .
- (7) China & Russia are also collaborating with each other to counter USA.
- (8) Europe is in retreat. It could have been the third pole but it's not acting as a world leader.
- (9) India is no longer Non-aligned .
- (10) India has reached out to all major powers in recent years .
- (11) India is shifting from land boundaries based International policy to Oceanic boundaries extending to Middle East, E Africa, ASEAN / Indonesia etc . India doesn't see land borders with Myanmar & Pakistan as the only boundaries to be protected .
- (12) India does not only want to follow Rules framed by other countries in various Trade pacts , but wants to set its own conditions . India is keen to establish International bodies in India, hence International Solar Alliance was established (which has 110 countries on board as Members , this is a big achievement).
- (13) India wishes to reach out to all countries which have had natural disasters through aid and disaster mitigation measures { this will help promote soft diplomacy coupled with economic gains which can accrue to India}.
- (14) Indian Diaspora matters a lot as part of its outreach .
- (15) China increased economy from 2 Trillion Dollars to 20 Trillion Dollars in 30 years. We increased our economy from Half Trillion \$ to 2 ¹/₂ Trillion \$.

- (16) US-China are now in serious economic conflict. Bangladesh, Vietnam & UAE are framing Policies to attract companies exiting China. India needs to attract these companies .
- (17) Lithium is the new oil. In Argentina, China , US , Russia & other countries have already purchased all the lithium mines in Argentina. This has strategic implications .
- (18) Make in India needs to be given substance.
- (19) Many Start ups in Bangalore have been bought by Chinese companies who have scaled up the Start Ups even higher. Start ups are being sold by Indians & the money received is being invested abroad. This is resulting in the flight of capital from India .
- (20) In China you can fire a bureaucrat easily, unlike in India.
- (21) China & Japan are using retired Civil Servants effectively to improve State capacities and their diplomatic outreach (without extra pay) after retirement.
- (22) There will soon be a Videsh Bhawan in each State to enable States to interact with foreign Governments through the Ministry of External Affairs .
- (23) US sees value in India as an ally to counter China rise.
- (24) US controls SWIFT, the International Financial Network , whereby each financial transaction must go through New York. Even France, Germany, UK, Japan are dependent on US financial systems i.e. why all these countries had to adhere to boycott of Iran oil even though many wanted to disobey US imposed Iran sanctions .
- (25) Now Europe & China & Japan are trying to develop alternative to SWIFT. A new Europe financial system is under development at an advanced stage. They are asking India to join their financial systems.
- (26) India's good relations with Bangladesh are helping India to connect with North-East. Sheikh Haseena's policy has been very helpful.
- (27) Also NE being connected better with Myanmar.
- (28) States need to encourage domestic & foreign capital to improve their economy.
- (29) International Solar Alliance a big achievement.
- (30) Foreign countries have good faith in India.

11th November, 2019

Poverty and Social Welfare Policy in USA by Prof. Leonard Lopoo

In USA, Health Insurance is one indication whether you are poor or not. If 4 persons in a family, 25000 US \$ in poverty threshold.

Poverty threshold was fixed in 1965, it is adjusted for inflation.

- Medium Income is US \$ 63000 for all rates.
- 12% below poverty line i.e. 4 Crore people.
- In USA college grades do very well economically.
- In Syracuse it cost 60,000 US \$ per annum for a school Student (it is a private university & 25000 per annum in State University).
- USA manufacturing has shifted to China etc now it makes Technology Education, Health care.

US Social Security programme Started in 1935.

In USA everyone pays Social Security tax of 7.65% { retirement fund} + 2% of Health Insurance. This is compulsion & universal.

- In USA older people vote more poor people don't vote.
- Earned Income tax credit - started in 1975 - Average receipt per household is 2500 \$, given only if you work. It is politically popular.

**American Federation, Political Institutions & Policy Change by grant
Reeher, Prof. Political Science.**

- American political system is fragmented more than ever Indian polity .
- Executive cannot introduce any law, Executive cannot be a legislator.
- Career Civil Servant do not prepare policy in USA, unlike in India / European Democracy.
- Law making is legislator oriented in US committees of legislation, unlike India where executive frames legislation.
- Though religion separates from State but still religion blended in politics.

Dana- Democrat candidate for US House of Rep. from Syracuse. City- An Account of US Congressional Election Process.

- ☐ Dominance of money is a bad part of politics.
- ☐ In US House too there is disproportionate presence of millionaire.
- ☐ She raised 2.7m \$ from 45,000 donors for her election, 90% donations were less than 200 \$.
- ☐ Representative has tenure of 2 years.
- ☐ Senator has tenure of 6 years.
- ☐ Campaigning period is 18 months.
- ☐ 1 billion \$ spent on US Presidential Elections.
- ☐ In New York it would cost 1 million \$.
- ☐ 90% time candidate is doing fund raising.
- ☐ 30% people Democrats, 30% Republican & 40% unaffiliated .

There is a High Command culture but candidates tell voters that they will not follow High Command Culture.

- Nearly $\frac{1}{4}$ th congress members are veterans is 96 out of 435 members.
- New York / Syracuse is a Swing State.

Prof. Karthik Muralidharan - Spoke on India's Education System.

- Talked of broken expenditure & outcomes.
- Per student expenditure increased from Rs. 6000/- to Rs 19000/- between 2008-2009 & 2014-2015.
- 60% pupils in Urban areas have migrated to private schools. Most are budget private schools.
- Vietnam has same per Capita income as India but Education outcomes are better.
- Physical infrastructure/ training of teachers not resulting in better outcomes.
- PTR while being important but similar effects using contract an opposed to regular teachers.
- Mid day Meals, books/ uniforms/ materials have limited impact on learning outcomes.

- What is working is basic governance & Basic Monitoring & Supervision.
- May be Block / Distt. Supervision teams as BBEOs,/ CHTs / DEOs etc, if they go to school at least once that improve quality.
- For Elementary School locally hired teachers as Shiksha Karmi, PAT etc doing as well as Regular Teachers.
- Performance linked pay (US across the board hiker) would be more likely to improves outcomes.
- Pedagogy is important to improve outcomes.
- May be we have built a filtration system rather than as effective education system.
- Private schools more productive even if learning outcomes are not necessarily better.
- Private schools hire more teachers even though they are paid less.

- ☐ Prof. Murli has recommended high quality supplemental instruction in early schooling years.
- ☐ Using locally hired teaching Assistants to supplement existing teachers.
- ☐ BECD countries have tax to GDP ratio of 35% , India has a ratio of 17%.
- ☐ Reward performance with more Autonomy & not money.
- ☐ Prof. Murli ---
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US Health Care by Prof. Thomas Dennision on 13th Nov. ,2019.

- ☐ US system is focussed on medical care not health care.
- ☐ In US Health care spending is 17% of GDP against 4% in India.
- ☐ USA ,GDP per capita is 5,5000 \$.
- ☐ US health achievements:-
 - a) Vaccination.
 - b) Motor Vehicle safety.
 - c) Control of Infection diseases.
 - d) Decline in Heart diseases.
 - e) Safe healthier food.
 - f) Healthier mothers & babies.
 - g) Family Planning.
 - h) Fluoridation of drinking water.
 - i) Recognition of Tobacco as a hazard

Contemporary Public Health issues:-

- Heart disease
- HIV
- Motor Vehicle Injury
- Obesity
- Prescription drug overdose

Doctors, medicine procreation are electronic and online. Therefore, open to scrutiny and on a result prescription of drugs is declining.

- US spends 10500 \$ per capita, India spends 250 \$ per capita. Private Health Insurance costs about 1500 \$ per month family.
- US is extremely pro-choice, ever in Health spending/ Health care.
- Health care system is excessively over regulated .
- US challenges in health care include high costs, increasing numbers of elderly and decreasing workfare supply.

Higher Education in the USA by Prof. Robert Bifulco.

- Community college (2 year college/ courses) are unique to USA. 4 types of institution i.e. Research University, 4 year colleges, 2 year colleges & Technical / Vocational/ special four schools.
- Community colleges are all state owned.
- College education helps people to get increased wages and jobs.
- Harvard , Stanford, Syracuse etc are private Research Universities.
- USA has a system of need based financial Aid through Pell grants given by state.

Visit to community college ONODAGA was very useful. It has a 1.17 PTR, and given training/ degrees/ certificates in Technical / Vocational

and Liberal Arts disciplines. The tuition fees have is relatively less, it has a strong trade and industry linkage and career programmes in Accounts, Automotives, IT, Liberal Arts, Health care, Cooking, Hospitality, Early childhood care are offered here. Internship with factories, Industry and trade is mandatory to earn degree/ certificates.