

Crusade India

Towards a new dawn

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Nothing is above the nation and
well-being of the people.

To My Parents
with A Guilt of Neglect

Had I cared them a little more,
Had I loved them a little more!
My loving parents have gone,
And so goes my heart!
The memories would stay and
So will the *Guilt*.

K.C. Agrawal

Contents

<i>Preface</i>	<i>xiii</i>
<i>A Word</i>	<i>xv</i>
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	<i>xvi</i>
<i>Abbreviations</i>	<i>xviii</i>

OUR MISSION

1. To Our Countrymen	3
1.1 Introduction	3
1.2 Our democracy	4
1.3 Our message	4
1.4 Nothing is impossible	9
2. About Myself	11

PART I WHAT WE ARE

3. Our Cowardice	17
3.1 Our history	17
3.2 Reasons of our cowardice	18
3.3 Our illiteracy and backwardness	21
4. Our Basic Resources	22
4.1 Our topography	22
4.2 Our demography	23
4.3 Our resources	26
5. Our Dwindling Economy and its Dreadful Effects	30
5.1 Our economic bankruptcy	30
5.2 Effects of our dwindling economy	36
5.3 Our per-capita income	40
5.4 Defining poverty	44
6. Our Unbound Unproductive Expenses	47
6.1 Cost of governance	47

6.2	Other unproductive expenses	48
7.	Degeneration of Our Human Values	51
7.1	Human behaviour	51
7.2	Our passive attitude	55
7.3	Our incongruous notions	56
7.4	Religion and brotherhood	57
7.5	Perversive attitudes in our youth	60
7.6	Extremism or terrorism	63
PART II		
WHY WE ARE		
8.	Our Callous System of Governance	67
8.1	Beginning of an era	67
8.2	Gandhian philosophy of rural empowerment	70
8.3	Beginning of our fall	73
8.3a	Permanent seat in the UN Security Council (SC)	87
8.4	Evolution of our political system	88
8.5	Government appeasement policies	89
8.6	Evolution of bureaucracy	99
8.7	Redundancy of our system	111
9.	Evolution of Corruption in Our Society	113
9.1	Checks, controls and enforcements	113
9.2	Magnitude of black money	124
9.3	Effects of black economy	125
9.4	Enquiry commissions	126
9.5	Derogatory government raids	127
9.6	Conclusion	128
10.	Causes of Our Industrial Failure	130
10.1	The ruining of PSUs	130
10.2	The destruction of private sector industries	132
10.3	Ill-conceived labour laws	139
10.4	Overtime (OT)	142
10.5	Indiscriminate holidays	143
10.6	Policy of industrial discrimination	144

PART III
WHAT CAN BE DONE

11. Rural Development	151
11.1 Introduction	151
11.2 Stopping destruction of our primary resources	153
11.3 Stopping ruralization of urban areas	158
11.4 Stopping misuse of land	159
11.5 Propriety of Special Economic Zones (SEZs)	162
12. Development of Rural Areas Through City Centres	164
12.1 Introduction	164
12.2 Making of city centres	167
12.3 Basic requirements and facilities for each city centre	177
12.4 The start	182
13. Controlling Population	187
13.1 Why population control?	187
13.2 Whether parenthood	190
13.3 Methods of population control	193
13.4 Incentives for family control	196
14. Reforming Education	199
14.1 Our education system	206
14.2 College education	207
14.3 Need-based education	209
14.4 Why should our cricketers fail?	209
14.5 Human resource development (HRD)	211
14.6 Language	212
15. Water Management	215
15.1 Water resources	215
15.2 Causes of water scarcity	215
15.3 Spectre of floods, droughts and famines	217
15.4 Water cycle	218
16. Disaster Management	222
16.1 Causes of disasters	222
16.2 Mismanagement at site	224

16.3	A description of our rescue operations	225
16.4	What can be done?	226
17.	Optimising Power Generation	229
17.1	Our power scenario	229
17.2	Making optimum use of non-conventional energy sources	233
18.	Improving Environment	236
18.1	Introduction	236
18.2	Forest cover	237
18.3	Benefits of forests	239
18.4	Stopping degeneration of forests	240
18.5	Controlling pollution	240
18.6	Controlling green-house effect (global warming)	243
18.7	Improving environment	245
18.8	Cruelty to animals	253
19.	Improving Tourism	258
19.1	Art and culture	259
19.2	Coastal development	260
20.	Emphasis on IT and R&D	262
20.1	IT (Information Technology) and professionalism	262
20.2	Inept research and development (R&D)	264
21.	A Review of Rash Globalisation	268
21.1	Globalisation	268
21.2	Liberalisation	275
21.3	A comparative analysis of China and India	284
21.4	Scenario post-liberalisation	287
21.5	Conclusion	290
22.	Reforming Police and Judiciary	294
	Part I - Police	
22.1	Reforming police department	294
	Part II - Judiciary	
22.2	Reforming judicial system	297
22.3	Baffling judicial verdicts	298
22.4	Delayed justice	311

22.5	Premises of justice	313
22.6	Bringing reforms	314
23.	Reforming Defence Services	318
23.1	Its strengths and weaknesses	318
23.2	Fire in arm depots	320
23.3	Propriety of going nuclear	321
23.4	Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT)	327
24.	Developing North-Eastern (NE) States	330
24.1	Brief history	330
24.2	Demography and statistics	334
24.3	Reasons of backwardness	335
24.4	Conclusion	337
25.	Resolving Kashmir Through Unification	338
25.1	Introduction	338
25.2	Ill-conceived partition	338
25.3	Chronology of partition	341
25.4	History of Jammu & Kashmir	345
25.5	Present scenario	354
25.6	Let us find a solution	359

PART IV HOW IT CAN BE DONE

26.	Governance	367
26.1	Our present system of governance	367
26.2	Calling for reforms	371
26.3	Presidential system	373

Management Charts

- (A) *For Centre* (folded)
- (B) *For States* (folded)
- (C) *For Cities* (folded)

Membership Application Form

<i>References and Further Reading</i>	381
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<i>Experts' Reviews</i>	385
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Preface

“The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much, it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little”.

US President Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1937

“Our society is an antonym.” I know this book shall be read by the educated and generally well-to-do strata of our society. It is possible that many of them may not comprehend the real level of illiteracy, poverty and destitution that bulk of our masses reel under. Most may not have visited our rural areas or vast settlement colonies in cities where poor people live. Our intense research shall open up the window to this truth and the superficial prosperity of the nation that meets the eye masking the harrowing reality of our country.

Scenario post-liberalization and open market conditions are surely euphoric for some, particularly those who have access to global technology in terms of products, shopping malls and eating joints, coveted jobs for youth having specialised courses or specialised trainings. The number of executives is rising. Rising FDIs is building happy foreign exchange reserves for the nation and providing seed capital to industries and business houses. FIIs have boomed the stock market. Land and property prices are skyrocketing. The number of rich is galloping. There are activities all around that one can notice in areas of construction, housing colonies, flyovers and roads, commercial complexes, malls and corporate offices. People have easy money. Easy loans and booming plastic money have made luxury-buying and luxurious living easy and affordable. Urban markets are shining and there is all-round jubilation and a feel-good scenario. For affluent society, India indeed is shining.

Behold! What glitters may not be gold. Sitting in Delhi or Mumbai, let's not play ostrich to the stark realities of our nation and the plight of its poor people. Illiteracy, backwardness and deprivation galore and reign supreme and haunt our rural masses and also rural migrants to urban areas. They constitute a very large percentage of 68% of our total population of 115 cr (Column 3, Table 5.5). The rich-poor divide is widening at a faster pace. Haphazard growth and overcrowding of cities gives the look of a third world nation and makes it a poor life,

dispirited and joyless for most urban people also. In short, the quality of life is eroded and has receded to a low ebb. The common man has lost creativity and is destined to endure unrelenting and perennial shortage of power, water, lack of adequate medical health facilities, sewage disposal and civic amenities. Yamuna in Delhi and Ganges elsewhere are still polluted with bulk of untreated city sewage discharged into them, day in and day out.

With the availability of attractive and mechanized products, traditional handicrafts, such as pottery, hand-weaving, carpentry, blacksmithy to name a few, are getting eliminated, rendering millions of our rural families and individuals dependent on such craftsmanships out of work. It is gravely eroding their already dwindling means of living. The well-to-do and families of means are just outside of the balloon, and constitute hardly 14% of our population. The inside still remains dark and gloomy. The superficial affluence of metropolises and the buzzing activities there surely give a feeling of India shining for the elite, but glittering of a few cannot define the prosperity of the nation. In our shortsighted euphoria let us not dump those languishing in the darkness of poverty and deprivation. Larger India is still rural in one way or the other. This book is dedicated to these underprivileged strata that is dumped in the lurch to die or fatten on their sweat. They have no access to the emerging affluence of the urban society except for government reliefs and grants or 100 days employment per year to one member in a family under NREG Scheme (if at all it reaches to them). The euphoria of India shining was short-lived in 2003-04 and routed out the then Vajpayee regime in 2004. Our attempt is not to resent the benefits to a few post-liberalization, but to invoke in them a feeling and a sense of responsibility for the welfare and upliftment of the underprivileged class of people of our country who also yearn for human attention and affection. We have tried to make a humble attempt to work in this direction through the present book.

Most analyses and conclusions drawn are counter-checked and backed up with established data. All supporting data are provided to corroborate the findings. Many figures may look mind-boggling and unbelievable but **that alone is the truth.**

I hope the analyses will provide food for thought for those who may think our country is progressing, while in reality it is not!

A Word

This book is a wake-up call for the people of India to enable them see their country more closely and understand the reasons for its highly ramshackled state of affairs and the unbound miseries of its people.

For identifying the causes of people's sufferings and seeking their solutions some investigation into the causes of our failures is imperative. When the causes are identified, it is easy to cure the disease. This is what I have attempted to do through my present work.

In my analysis I have tried to be fair and unbiased as far as possible, as the **intention is not to hurt or malign anyone** but to search out the causes and their prudent solutions. **The analysis reveals that we can still reconstruct our nation into one of the mightiest and most prosperous nations in the world in just 20-25 years not by words but by actions and deeds.**

Since different aspects of some issues have been discussed from different angles at different places, it is likely that some element of repetition may have occurred to arrive at the desired effect.

Author

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And many more whose names may have been missed out.

Author

Abbreviations

AC	Air Conditioned	CSO	Central Statistical
AES	(A global power company)		Organization, Government
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency		of India
	Syndrome	CTBT	Comprehensive Test Ban
BBC	British Broadcasting		Treaty
	Corporation	DA	Dearness Allowance
BCCI	Board of Control for Cricket	DGSD	Directorate-General of
	in India		Supplies and Disposal
BCE	Before Current Era (=BC)	DGTD	Directorate-General of
BEL	Bharat Electronics Ltd.		Technical Development
BEML	Bharat Earth Movers Ltd.	DMRC	Delhi Metro Rail
BJP	Bhartiya Janta Party		Corporation
BHEL	Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd.	DTE	Directorate of Technical
BM	Black Money		Education
BoP	Balance of Payment	ED	Excise Duty
BP	Blood Pressure	EIL	Engineers India Ltd.
BSF	Border Security Force	ESI	Employee State Insurance
BSP	Bahujan Samaj Party	FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
CAT	Common Admission Test	FE	Foreign Exchange
CBI	Central Bureau of	FERA	Foreign Exchange
	Investigation		Regulation Act
CBSE	Central Board of Secondary	FII's	Foreign Investment
	Education		Institutions
CE	Current Era (=AD)	FM	Finance Minister
CEO	Chief Executive Officer	GATT	General Agreement on
CESCO	Central Electricity Supply		Tariff and Trade
	Company	GDP	Gross Domestic Product
CFC	Chlorofluoro-carbon	GOI	Government of India
CM	Chief Minister	GRSE	Garden Reach Shipbuilders
CNG	Compressed Natural Gas		and Engineers
CPC	Civil Procedure Code	HAL	Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd.
CPI	Communist Party of India	HCFC	Hydrochlorofluoro-carbons
CPI-M	Communist Party of India-	HFC	Hydrofluoro-carbons
	Marxist	HP	Himachal Pradesh
CPM	Communist Party Marxist	HRD	Human Resource
CrPC	Criminal Procedure Code		Development
		HT	High Tension

IAS	Indian Administrative Service	MTNL	Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd.
IBRF	Indo- Burma Revolutionary Front	NE	North-Eastern
ID	Identification	NEFA	North-East Frontier Agency
IDRA	Industrial Development and Regulation Act	NGO	Non - Governmental Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund	NHPC	National Hydro Power Corporation
INTACH	Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage	NMD	National Missile Defence
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, UN	NPA	Non-performing accounts
IPS	Indian Police Service	NREG	National Rural Employment Gurantee
IT	Information Technology	NRI	Non-Resident Indian
IT	Income Tax	NTPC	National Thermal Power Corporation
ITDC	India Tourism Development Corporation	OBC	Other Backward Classes
J&K	Jammu and Kashmir	OIGS	On Indian Government Service
JJ	<i>Jhuggi Jhopri</i>	OPGC	Orissa Power Generation Co.
L&T	Larsen and Toubro	OT	Overtime
LF	Load Factor	PA	Personal Assistant
LoC	Line of Control	PF	Provident Fund
LSG	Local Self-Government	PIL	Public Interest Litigation
LT	Low Tension	PLF	Plant Load Factor
LTI	Left Thumb Impressions (for illiterates)	PM	Prime Minister
LTTE	Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam	PoK	Pakistan-occupied Kashmir
MBA	Master of Business Administration	PSU	Public Sector Undertaking
MCD	Municipal Corporation of Delhi	R&D	Research and Development
MD	Managing Director	RBI	Reserve Bank of India
MNC	Multi-National Company	RDX	A powerful explosive ($C_3H_6N_6O_6$)
MP	Madhya Pradesh	RJC	Revolutionary Joint Committee
MP	Member of Parliament	RMP	Registered Medical Practitioner
M RTP	Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices	RSP	Revolutionary Socialist Party
MSEB	Maharashtra State Electricity Board	SC	Schedule Caste
		SEB	State Electricity Board
		SOL	<i>Statistical Outline of India</i> , Government of India

ST	Schedule Tribe	UNLF	United National Liberation Front
ST	Sales Tax		
STD/ISD	Subscriber Trunk Dialling / International Subscriber Dialling	UP	Uttar Pradesh
		UPA	United Political Alliance
		UPSEB	Utttar Pradesh State Electricity Board
STPP	Super Thermal Power Plant		
T&D	Transmission and Distribution	US	United States
		USSR	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
TB	Tuberculosis		
TDP	Total Domestic Product	UTI	Unit Trust of India
TL	Transmission Line	VIP	Very Important Person
TOI	Times of India	VRS	Voluntary Retirement Scheme
TV	Television		
UK	United Kingdom	VSNL	Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd.
ULFA	United Liberation Front of Assam	WB	World Bank
		WPI	Wholesale Price Index
UN	United Nations	WTC	World Trade Centre (USA)
UNEP-IE/PAC	United Nations Environment Programme-Industry and Environment/Programme Activity Centre	WTO	World Trade Organization