

**Visionary ideas and leadership on pursuing a shared
development and conservation agenda in India**

Compendium of selected speeches of Honourable Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi





Valley of Flowers, Uttarakhand

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COP: Conference of Parties

GDP: Gross Domestic Product

GSDP: Gross State Domestic Product

GW: Gigawatt

NICER: National Institute of Science Education and Research

SDGs: Sustainable Development Goals

UNFCCC: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change



Mumbai | Photo Credit: Ian Shive_TandemStock.com

Preface

India is at the crossroads of development. It can either follow a path that ignores environmental health until it achieves a standard of living comparable to industrialised countries. This is a familiar road that many countries in the global North have treaded, often at the expense of human health and wellbeing. Alternatively, India can pursue economic development in a way that acknowledges the integrity of nature for long-term development. In doing so, India, with its scale and diversity, will provide valuable models for other developing countries to emulate.

The Honourable Prime Minister of India, Mr. Narendra Modi, has shown remarkable leadership in recognising the importance of environmental conservation while the nation strives to achieve its human development goals. He has repeatedly stated that conservation and development are not contradictory but complementary goals by articulating how India's culture, traditions and beliefs are intimately linked to conservation. The Nature Conservancy, Development Alternatives, and Wildlife Conservation Trust strongly share this belief and have been

promoting people-friendly conservation initiatives in India and other parts of the world.

We are delighted to bring out a compendium of speeches made by the Honourable Prime Minister to highlight his vision for a shared development and conservation agenda. The speeches cover a range of issues including sustainable development, climate change, water conservation, biodiversity protection, agricultural productivity and renewable energy. We hope that the compendium serves as a useful reference for those involved in human development and environmental conservation alike, and inspires our nation to achieve long-term, resilient, equitable and sustainable development for all.

Seema Paul

Managing Director | The Nature Conservancy

Ashok Khosla

Founder and President | Development Alternatives

Anish Andheria

President | Wildlife Conservation Trust

Key Quotes

“ In Jharkhand, where there is plenty of coal, if people take to solar energy, it sets an example for the country and the world as well.

“ We are committed to a sustainable path to prosperity. It comes from the natural instinct of our tradition and culture.

“ We need to define conservation as a means to achieve development, rather than considering it to be anti-growth.

“ As you put clean energy within the reach of all, it will create unlimited economic opportunities that will be the foundation of the new economy of this century.

“ Clean energy and environment friendly infrastructure will address both development and climate change.

“ We are a Nation that must also lead in combating climate change. It stems from our obligation to give our people clean air; clean rivers; resilient farms; healthy habitats; and, forests rich with life.

“ We are determined to do so, guided by our ancient belief that people and planet are inseparable.

“ Modern agriculture pays attention to only a very small number of crops and animals. This has implications for our food security, environmental security and agricultural development.



Flamingoes of Bhigwan | Photo Credit: Soumitra Inamdar



Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher Pune | Photo Credit: Soumitra Inamdar

Foreword

I am pleased that The Nature Conservancy and its partners are bringing out this compendium. The collection of speeches comes at the perfect time. This false dichotomy of development and conservation cannot go on.

There is no denying that India needs rapid economic development to satisfy our legitimate human development needs. However, we need to break the myth that development cannot be decoupled from environmental destruction. Every day, new strategies, models and approaches are emerging that are demonstrating the potential to realize large untapped synergies of working on a shared development and conservation agenda.

The potential of nature to contribute to providing clean and adequate water, healthy air and energy deserves far greater attention that it has received till now. Already, TNC scientists are working with Indian partners to advance solutions in support of a rejuvenated Ganga, well conserved source-water catchments for cities and for restoration of forests which, among other things, are critical as watersheds.

Hemendra Kothari

Founder, Chairman and Trustee,
Wildlife Conservation Trust and
Chairman Designate of The Nature Conservancy, India

Our environment is changing all the time. As India's population grows, economic activity will increase with new and expanding businesses and urbanization. This in turn will also see an increase in demand for employment, infrastructure and amenities. As economic development takes place, it would be our responsibility to ensure that it takes place in a sustainable way, contributing to our social, economic and environmental health.

I am delighted that leading conservation organizations are bringing out a compendium of speeches of the Honourable Prime Minister, Shri. Narendra Modi on balancing conservation and development in India.

I hope that the compilation spurs innovation in how interventions are designed and implemented for people and nature in the country.

S. Ramadorai

Former Chairman, National Skill Development Agency (NSDA)
and National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)
Former Vice Chairman, Tata Consultancy Services



Statement at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit 2015 for the Adoption of Post-2015 Development Agenda

DATE September 25, 2015

PLACE New York

SOURCE NITI Aayog (<https://goo.gl/B5XyHI>)

VIDEO <https://goo.gl/pmBhW9>

Excellencies,

Mahatma Gandhi had once said, “One must care about the world one will not see”. Indeed, humanity has progressed when it has collectively risen to its obligation to the world and responsibility to the future.

Seventy years after the end of a tragic war and birth of a new hope for our age, we are meeting to chart a course for our humanity and our planet. I consider this a very important summit and thank UN Secretary General for organizing it.

Just as our vision behind the Agenda 2030 is lofty, our goals are comprehensive. It gives priority to the problems that have endured through the past decades. And, it reflects our evolving understanding of the social, economic and environmental linkages that define our lives.

We live in an age of unprecedented prosperity, but also unspeakable deprivation around the world.

I am pleased that elimination of poverty in all forms everywhere is at the top of our goals. Addressing the needs of 1.3 billion poor people in the world is not merely a question of their

survival and dignity or our moral responsibility. It is a vital necessity for ensuring peaceful, sustainable and just world.

A great Indian thinker, Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay, placed the welfare of the poorest at the centre of his thoughts. This is what we also see in the 2030 Agenda. It is a happy coincidence that we are beginning the celebration of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay’s 100th anniversary today.

The goals recognize that economic growth, industrialization, infrastructure, and access to energy provide the foundations of development.

We welcome the prominence given to environmental goals, especially climate change and sustainable consumption. The distinct goal on ocean ecosystem reflects the unique character of its challenges and opportunities. Equally important, it focuses our attention on the future of the island states.

I speak about Blue Revolution, which includes the prosperity, sustainable use of marine wealth and blue skies.

“[Agenda 2030] reflects our evolving understanding of the social, economic and environmental linkages.”

Today, much of India's development agenda is mirrored in the Sustainable Development Goals.

Since Independence, we have pursued the dream of eliminating poverty from India. We have chosen the path of removing poverty by empowering the poor. We have placed priority on education and skill development.

Our attack on poverty today includes expanded conventional schemes of development, but we have also launched a new era of inclusion and empowerment, turning distant dreams into immediate possibilities: new bank accounts for 180 million; direct transfer of benefits; funds to the unbanked insurance within the reach of all; and, pension for everyone's sunset years.

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The world speaks of private sector and public sector. In India, we have defined a new personal sector of individual enterprise, micro enterprises and micro finance, drawing also on the strength of digital and mobile applications.

We are focusing on the basics: housing, power, water and sanitation for all – important not just for welfare, but also human dignity. These are goals with a definite date, not just a mirage of hope. Our development is intrinsically linked to empowerment of women and it begins with a massive programme on educating the girl child that has become every family's mission.

We are making our farms more productive and better connected to markets; and, farmers

less vulnerable to the whims of nature.

We are reviving our manufacturing, improving our services sector, investing on an unprecedented scale in infrastructure; and, making our cities smart, sustainable and engines of progress.

We are committed to a sustainable path to prosperity. It comes from the natural instinct of our tradition and culture. But, it is also rooted firmly in our commitment to the future.

We represent a culture that calls our planet Mother Earth.

As our ancient text say:-

“Keep pure! For the Earth is our mother! And we are her children!”

Our National plans are ambitious and purposeful: new capacity of 175 GW of renewable energy over the next seven years; energy efficiency; a tax on coal; a huge afforestation programme; reforming our transportation; and, cleaning up our cities and rivers. The energy intensity of our growth will continue to decline.

Sustainable development of one-sixth of humanity will be of great consequence to the world and our beautiful planet. It will be a world of fewer challenges and greater hope; and, more confident of its success.

Our success will give us more resources to share with our friends. As India's ancient saying goes, the wise look at the world as one family.

Today, India is fulfilling its responsibilities as development partners in Asia and Africa and with small island states from the Pacific to the Atlantic.

Nations have a national responsibility for sustainable development. They also need policy space.

However, we are here today in the United Nations because we all believe that international partnership must be at the centre of our efforts,

“We are committed to a sustainable path to prosperity. It comes from the natural instinct of our tradition and culture.”

whether it is development or combating climate change.

And, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities is the bedrock of our collective enterprise.

When we speak only of climate change, there is a perception of our desire to secure the comforts of our lifestyle. When we speak of climate justice, we demonstrate our sensitivity and resolve to secure the future of the poor from the perils of natural disasters.

In addressing climate change, it is important to focus on solutions that can help us reach our goals. We should forge a global public partnership to harness technology, innovation and finance to put affordable clean and renewable energy within the reach of all.

Equally, we must look for changes in our lifestyles that would make us less dependent on energy and more sustainable in our consumption.

It is equally critical to launch a global education programme that prepares our next generation to protect and conserve Nature.

I hope that the Developed World will fulfil its financing commitments for development and climate change, without in any way putting both under the same head!

I also hope that the Technology Facilitation Mechanism will turn technology and innovation into an effective instrument for global public good, not just private returns.

As we see now, distance is no insulation from challenges. And, they can rise from the shadows of conflict and privations from distant lands.

So, we must transform international partnerships on the strength of solidarity with fellow human beings and also our enlightened self-interest.

And, we must also reform the United Nations, including its Security Council, so that it carries greater credibility and legitimacy and will be

more representative and effective in achieving our goals.

There is no cause greater than shaping a world, in which every life that enters it can look to a future of security, opportunity and dignity; and, where we leave our environment in better shape for the next generation. And, no cause that is more challenging.

At 70, we are called to rise to that challenge, with our wisdom, experience, generosity, compassion, skills and technology.

I am confident that we can.

In the end, let me express my hope for everyone's well with a few lines from our ancient texts:-

May all be happy, may all be healthy, may all see welfare, may no one have any sorrow.

Thank you.



Salt Field Worker | Photo Credit: Arvind Rangarajan

Address at the Inauguration of Rooftop Solar Power Plant for Khunti District Court in Jharkhand

DATE October 02, 2015

PLACE Khunti, Jharkhand

SOURCE The Office of the Prime Minister of India

VIDEO <https://goo.gl/4Cp1zk>

The original speech by the Honourable Prime Minister was in Hindi. This is the official English translation of the speech from the Office of the Prime Minister of India.

Ladies and gentlemen!

I see something unimaginable happening today. People coming in such a large number for a programme associated with a Court, is perhaps unprecedented. Usually, it is just lawyers who attend the courts in their black robes. What I see today, however, is unique. I thank you all for coming in such a large number – especially the women who are here in such strength. My hearty welcome and greetings to you all.

Today is 2nd of October, the birth anniversary of two great men of our country, Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri. Sometime back, I had the opportunity to visit Tashkent, where Shastriji breathed his last, and Mother India had lost one of its great sons. I unveiled a statue of Shastriji there. It was a moment of great pride for me. Recently, we celebrated Vijay Parv, to mark 50 years of our victory over China in the 1965 war. We all remembered that brave son, during whose tenure as Prime Minister, our soldiers had fought courageously and won the war.

Today is the birth anniversary of Babu ji as well. You may have been taken by surprise that

the Prime Minister is coming for a programme like this here today. One day Justice G.N.Patel called me to say that he is organizing this programme. Without asking any questions, I told him that I will attend. He was surprised. Gandhi ji was a great environmentalist himself and all through his life he promoted the cause of environment. That is why I am here on the occasion of birth anniversary of the Mahatma.

Media would get a lot to write about my visit to a district court for a programme like this. They may not have thought that the Prime Minister who envisions generation of 175 Giga Watts of solar power in the country, could find time to inaugurate a mere 185 Kilo Watt solar power unit, and that too at a district court. But I accepted the invitation and am here today, because it this event has been organized on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Gandhi ji, who was a source of inspiration, for me and for the world.

Recently, I was at the United Nations. There, leaders of almost all countries expressed concern about the fate of environment, and about climate change, because of which rains have be-

“In Jharkhand, where there is plenty of coal, if people take to solar energy, it sets an example for the country and the world as well.”

come uncertain and sea levels are rising. There were concerns as to whether the small Island Nations would get submerged in the sea.

On behalf of 125 crore Indians, I made it clear that we are not responsible for this problem. Our forefathers never told us to destroy forests. On the contrary, we have a great tradition of nurturing them. But whoever may have been responsible for environmental problems, we have decided to share the responsibility of protecting it in the larger interest of humanity.

In States like Gujarat or Rajasthan, it is understandable to depend on solar energy. Coal is unavailable and solar energy is one of the solutions. But, in Jharkhand, where there is plenty of coal, if people take to solar energy, it sets an example for the country and the world as well. That is why I am here today. Not just India, but the world must take note of my presence here in Khunti, in a State where tribal communities constitute a significant part of the population. The tribal communities have protected forests for centuries. The people of Jharkhand, where huge coal deposits exist, are opting for solar energy for the benefit of mankind. That is why I am here, to compliment the people of Jharkhand.

I have another reason for coming to Khunti today. As Chief Minister of Gujarat, I attended meetings convened by the Judiciary which were attended by the Chief Justices of Judges of the Supreme Court and the High Court. Prime Ministers came, gave their speech and left. Thereafter, there were day long discussions on the huge pendency of cases in various courts, seeking to find reasons and address the same. I was shocked by what one of the judges gave as the reason for such pendency of cases. Mr. Pradip Bhatt may be sitting here, he was a Registrar in those days. The Judge of a High Court said that we get electricity supply only for a couple of hours in a day and when there was no power supply, no work can be done in the court. I was taken aback. After so many years of Independence, we still have inadequate power supply which even impacts functioning of courts. I am glad that the judiciary in Jharkhand has shown us a way - solar power. This will not only speed

up disposal of cases but also protect the environment.

Recently, media reported that Kochi Airport became the first of its kind to use solar power to meet its needs. It was widely reported a couple of months back. I also inaugurated the Faridabad – Delhi Metro Rail line. All stations on this sections use solar power. It is a great initiative. If you go to Vaishno Devi, you will find the last station on the line, using solar power. And today, Khunti District Court has become the first court to use solar energy. This is a great gift to the nation and the best tribute to Mahatma on his birth anniversary as he always cared for environment.

We have a great legacy of ancient wisdom on such matters. Our ancient texts talk about them. As far back as 5,000 years ago, it was said in Rig Veda that Sun is the soul of both the movable and the immovable. What a profound statement. Today, the whole world is waking up to the need to harness solar energy.

India is now committed to generate 175 Giga Watt of solar energy. Till recently, we used to talk in terms of Mega Watts. For the first time, we are talking of Giga Watt capacity. I have assured the world that by 2022, on the occasion of 75 years of our Independence, we will achieve this ambitious target of generation of 175 GW of solar energy. The whole world has been taken by surprise by our ambition and commitment. India is being praised for this huge step to protect the environment.

I once again congratulate Jharkhand for moving forward on the path of solar energy. I want to say something to the citizens of Jharkhand. May I go ahead? Will you accept what I say? Tell me whether all of you, including our mothers and sisters will accept it? I am sure you will.

Do you want to reduce your electricity bill? Do you want to save money to purchase milk for your children? There is a way. Science has helped create a new LED bulb. Initially, you may feel it is expensive. But if you purchase this LED bulb for Rs 100, you will get more light and your

“Whatever we have today, the forests, the trees, the rivers etc are not the result of our efforts. We have inherited them, because our ancestors left them for us to make proper use of. It is our moral duty to save them too, for the good of succeeding generations. This is a collective responsibility.”

electricity bill will be reduced by 50 per cent. Tell me, will it will save your money or not? Tell me, will you will go for LED? Besides taking the path of solar energy, we need to save electricity. If we exhaust all of our limited natural resources for the good of ourselves only, what will happen to future generations? Whatever we have today, the forests, the trees, the rivers etc are not the result of our efforts. We have inherited them, because our ancestors left them for us to make proper use of. It is our moral duty to save them too, for the good of succeeding generations. This is a collective responsibility.

On the occasion of birth anniversary of Gandhi Ji, I would like to tell you that he himself was a Barrister and was associated with the courts. He fought for justice throughout his life. Today on the occasion of his birth anniversary, we have got the first court which walks the path of solar energy.

My greetings and good wishes to all of you.

Thank you all.



Astonfield's 11.5 MW solar plant in Gujarat, India | Photo Credit: Citizenmj

Lead Intervention at G20 Working Lunch on Development and Climate Change

DATE November 15, 2015
PLACE Antalya, Turkey
SOURCE NITI Aayog (<https://goo.gl/Xfe7oP>)

President Erdogan,
Excellencies,

I thank President Erdogan and Turkey for their warm hospitality and excellent arrangements in this beautiful setting of Anatolia.

We gather as G20 to build a prosperous future for the world.

Today, we meet the tragic shadow of dreadful acts of terrorism, united by a sense of shock, pain and outrage.

We are united in condemning the barbaric attacks in Paris this week; and, the recent bombings in Ankara and Lebanon. We share the sorrow of Russia for the lost lives in the fallen aircraft in Sinai.

These alone are a stark reminder of the dark force we face—larger than specific groups and particular targets and territories.

It is a major global challenge of our times. It not only takes a tragic toll of lives, it also extracts a huge economic cost and threatens our way of life.

It calls for a comprehensive global response. Combating it must be a major priority for G20.

I thank Turkey for scheduling a session on this challenge.

Excellencies, we are here in this session to discuss two other major global challenges—development and climate change.

This year is a milestone. The United Nations turned 70. We have adopted the Sustainable Development Goals at the United Nations. We are days away from charting a sustainable future for our planet.

Excellencies, The SDGs are a comprehensive set of goals that place complete elimination of poverty in the world by 2030 as its top goal. And, it creates the right balance between growth, development, human welfare and environment.

G20 must align itself with the SDGs. In doing so, we will also stimulate faster and a more broad-based economic growth.

Excellencies, India's development goals are aligned with the SDGs.

We are promoting growth and investing in skills to create employment for our youth; in-

“[Sustainable Development Goals] will also stimulate faster and a more broad-based economic growth.”

“We in India don’t see development and climate change as competing objectives.”

creasing the pace and quality of infrastructure expansion; and, investing in making far more productive and resilient.

We have the world’s largest financial inclusion programme. And, we have definite target dates for meeting all the basic needs of our people.

Through bold economic and governance reforms, we have achieved a growth rate of nearly 7.5% with strong prospects for a higher growth rate in the near future.

Given our size and scale, India can become a pillar of global growth and stability.

Excellencies, We in India don’t see development and climate change as competing objectives. This is centered on the belief in the unity of humanity and Nature.

We have ambitious plans for addressing the challenges of climate change.

This includes additional capacity of 175 GW of renewable energy by 2022; cut in subsidies on fossil fuel and tax on coal; and, National Clean Energy Fund of US\$3 billion to promote clean technologies.

With our highly ambitious/Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs), India would remain in step with the world.

We look forward to a concrete outcome in Paris within the framework of the UN Convention on Climate Change. The framework has an appropriate balance of collective action: Equity and Common but differentiated responsibility and respective capabilities.

At G20, we can play an effective role in supporting the multilateral goals of increasing research and development to develop affordable renewable energy. We should also ensure that finance and technology is available to meet the universal global aspiration for clean energy.

We must meet the target of US\$100 billion goal per year by 2020.

G20 countries should increase the share of traffic on public transportation in cities by 30% by 2030.

We should shift from “carbon credit” towards “green credit”.

When we speak of targets, we must not only reduce the use of fossil fuel, but also moderate our life style.

Development in harmony with nature is the goal of my proposal to launch, along with the French President Hollande, an alliance of solar-rich countries at the time of COP-21 meeting.

Excellencies, let me conclude with a few points on development.

We are still short in our efforts to fulfill our last year’s commitment to raise our collective GDP by an additional 2% by 2018.

I propose that we consider how G20 can build support systems that focus on countries with maximum growth potential, help address specific bottlenecks there and facilitate implementation of country strategies.

G20 must continue to focus on infrastructure, as we did In Brisbane in 2014.

Clean energy and environment friendly infrastructure will address both development and climate change.

Bridging the current gap in infrastructure finance in the developing countries should remain our key priority.

I am happy with the focus on small holders and food losses in the G20 Action Plan on Agriculture.

Remittances are a key source of income for households and support for the economy in developing countries. We should define a target date before 2030 to reduce the high costs of transferring remittances.

I look forward to fruitful discussions and substantive outcomes.

Thank you !

“Clean energy and environment friendly infrastructure will address both development and climate change.”

Speech at the inauguration of the Indian Pavilion at COP-21, UNFCCC

DATE November 30, 2015
PLACE Paris
SOURCE PMIndia Portal (<https://goo.gl/NHnMVv>)
VIDEO <https://goo.gl/D2BhWT>

My Ministerial colleagues, Shri Prakash Javadekarji, Shri Piyush Goyalji, Distinguished guests,

I am delighted to inaugurate the Indian Pavilion.

This is the first day of a historic summit in Paris.

We stand here in solidarity with Paris and France and in admiration for their resolve and courage. The entire world, 196 Nations, have come together to shape the future of this world and the health of our planet.

This summit is of great significance to India's future, too.

This pavilion is a window to our heritage and our progress; our traditions and our technology; our aspirations and our achievements.

India's new economic momentum is a subject of international attention and a source of global opportunity. Our progress will not just change the lives of one-sixth of humanity. It will also mean a more successful and prosperous world.

Equally, the choices the world makes here will have an impact on our development.

Climate change is a major global challenge.

But, climate change is not of our making. It is the result of global warming that came from the prosperity and progress of an industrial age powered by fossil fuel.

But, we in India face its consequences today. We see it in the risks of our farmers, the changes in weather patterns, and the intensity of natural disasters.

We are concerned about the rising oceans that will threaten our 7500 km of coastline and over 1300 islands. We worry about the retreat of glaciers that feed our rivers and nurture our civilisation.

That is why the outcome in Paris so important.

That is why we are here.

“climate change is not of our making . . . But, we in India face its consequences today. We see it in the risks of our farmers, the changes in weather patterns, and the intensity of natural disasters.”

We want the world to act with urgency. We want a comprehensive, equitable and durable agreement, which must lead us to restore the balance between humanity and Nature and between what we have inherited and what we will leave behind.

This will mean a partnership in which those who have the luxury of choices and the capability of technology will make adjustments to sharply reduce their carbon emission.

The extent of their commitment and the strength of their action must be consistent with the carbon space they occupy.

And, they must leave enough of what is left of our carbon space to let developing countries grow.

They should share resources and technology with those who live between want and hope, so that we can meet the universal aspiration for clean energy.

It will also mean that the developing world will also try to have a lighter carbon footprint on their growth path.

We want the conviction of the world to be matched by efforts to create conditions in which we can succeed.

Because our challenge is pressing, our efforts must be urgent.

Friends,
These will be the subject of negotiations over the next few days.

I am here in the Indian Pavilion to say something else. And, I speak not just to the world, but also to our people.

India's progress is our destiny and the right of our people. But, we are a Nation that must also lead in combating climate change.

It stems from our obligation to give our people clean air; clean rivers; resilient farms; healthy habitats; and, forests rich with life.

It comes from our conviction that we must aim not just for higher incomes, but better quality of life.

It comes from our commitment to the world.

Above all, it arises, from our timeless traditions and beliefs.

The choices a people make are shaped by their culture and beliefs.

In India, Nature has always been treated as Mother.

Since ancient times, we have seen humanity as part of Nature, not superior to it. The divine has manifested in Nature's diverse forms.

We have always believed that Nature does not exist for human race, but that we can't exist without Nature. So, Nature is meant to provide and nurture, not to exploit.

When Nature is in equilibrium, our lives and our world will be in balance.

This is what we learn from Kshetrapati Sukta in our Rig Veda.

क्षेत्रस्य पते मधुमन्तमूर्मधिनुरवि पयो अस्मासु धुक्ष्व ।
मधुश्चुतं घृतमवि सुपूतमृतस्य नः पतयो मृळयन्तु ॥

This means:

O Lord of Field, with the Sweet Waves of Mother Nature's blessings, may you milk our Fields like the Milk of a Cow.

With the Sweetness of Mother Nature's bounty, which falls like Clarified Butter, may You shed your Grace on us.

This is why Atharva-Veda calls it a bounden duty that we must protect the Earth so that Life can be sustained.

This is what we see in Gandhiji's life and his advice that the world has enough for everyone's need but not for anyone's greed.

“we are a Nation that must also lead in combating climate change. It stems from our obligation to give our people clean air; clean rivers; resilient farms; healthy habitats; and, forests rich with life.”

This is what we have tried to capture in the publication PARAMPARA that we have released today.

This is why recycling and conservation comes naturally to us. And, why we have sacred groves across our Nation.

Friends,

And, it is this spirit that leads us to set an ambitious and comprehensive strategy to combat climate change.

We have a target for renewable generation of 175 Gigawatt by 2022. We have got off to a good start, with nearly 12 GW likely to be installed by 2016, more than three times the current capacity.

Like cellular phones before, we can use renewable energy to bring power to our 18000 unconnected villages quickly and cleanly.

By 2030, 40% of our installed capacity will be based on non-fossil fuel.

We will convert waste to energy. We will make our cities smart and sustainable, and transform public transportation, including through 50 new metro rail projects.

We are investing in supercritical technology in thermal plants. We have imposed tax on coal and reduced subsidies on petroleum products. We are raising fuel standards for automobiles. And, we have introduced tax free bonds for renewable energy.

We have a massive programme to expand our forest cover and protect our biodiversity.

In the past few months, millions of households have switched to LED bulbs and we have plans to replace diesel by fuel cells to power the thousands of our telecom towers.

Our vision of India as a global manufacturing hub rests on the simple principle of “zero defect, zero effect” – production that is perfect and leaves no footprint on environment.

Our mission of “more crop per drop” will not only improve the lives of farmers, but will also reduce the pressure on a scarce resource.

And, research and innovation in clean energy is a high priority.

We want to make conventional energy, like coal, cleaner.

We will make renewable energy cheaper and convenient to install even in our homes. We want to make it more reliable and easier to feed into our transmission lines.

From governments to communities, there are countless examples of innovation and enterprise that are restoring the health of our environment.

I have tried to capture some of these initiatives in my book, Convenient Action, which we shall present today.

Friends,

This is the voice of our people, the call of our Nation and the consensus of our polity.

India’s leadership on environment has been the vision of Indian leaders and successive governments – from Stockholm in 1975 to Copenhagen in 2009.

We are raising our National effort to an entirely new level. And, we are intensifying our international partnerships.

So, we come to Paris with our commitment, but we also come with hope.

So, we approach the negotiations under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in a spirit of partnership, which must be based on the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities.

Later today, I will join leaders from major developed and developing world for an innovation summit; because I believe that innovation and technology hold the key to our collective success.

“Our mission of “more crop per drop” will not only improve the lives of farmers, but will also reduce the pressure on a scarce resource.”

“I will also call for a change in lifestyles, so that we reduce the burden on our planet. For, the enduring success of our efforts will depend on the way we live and think.”

President Hollande and I will also co-chair the launch of my long cherished dream of an international solar alliance to promote greater use of solar energy in the 121 solar-rich Nations.

To call the world to look deep into the ancient wisdom of all our civilisations, cultures and religions, I had requested President Hollande to bring out a book of quotations from around the world. I am happy that we will release it today.

And, I will also call for a change in lifestyles, so that we reduce the burden on our planet. For, the enduring success of our efforts will depend on the way we live and think.

In conclusion, therefore, let me return to the theme that defines us in India – the spirit of partnership, the belief in oneness with the whole that is Nature.

To the people of India and our friends in the world, I call you to live with the commitment of ‘Lokah Samastah Sukhinau Bhavantu’.

The desire for well being should include our planet, our Nature, all countries and the entire humanity.

If our thinking is right, we will form a true global partnership of capabilities and needs that leads us to a low carbon age.

Thank you.
Thank you very much.

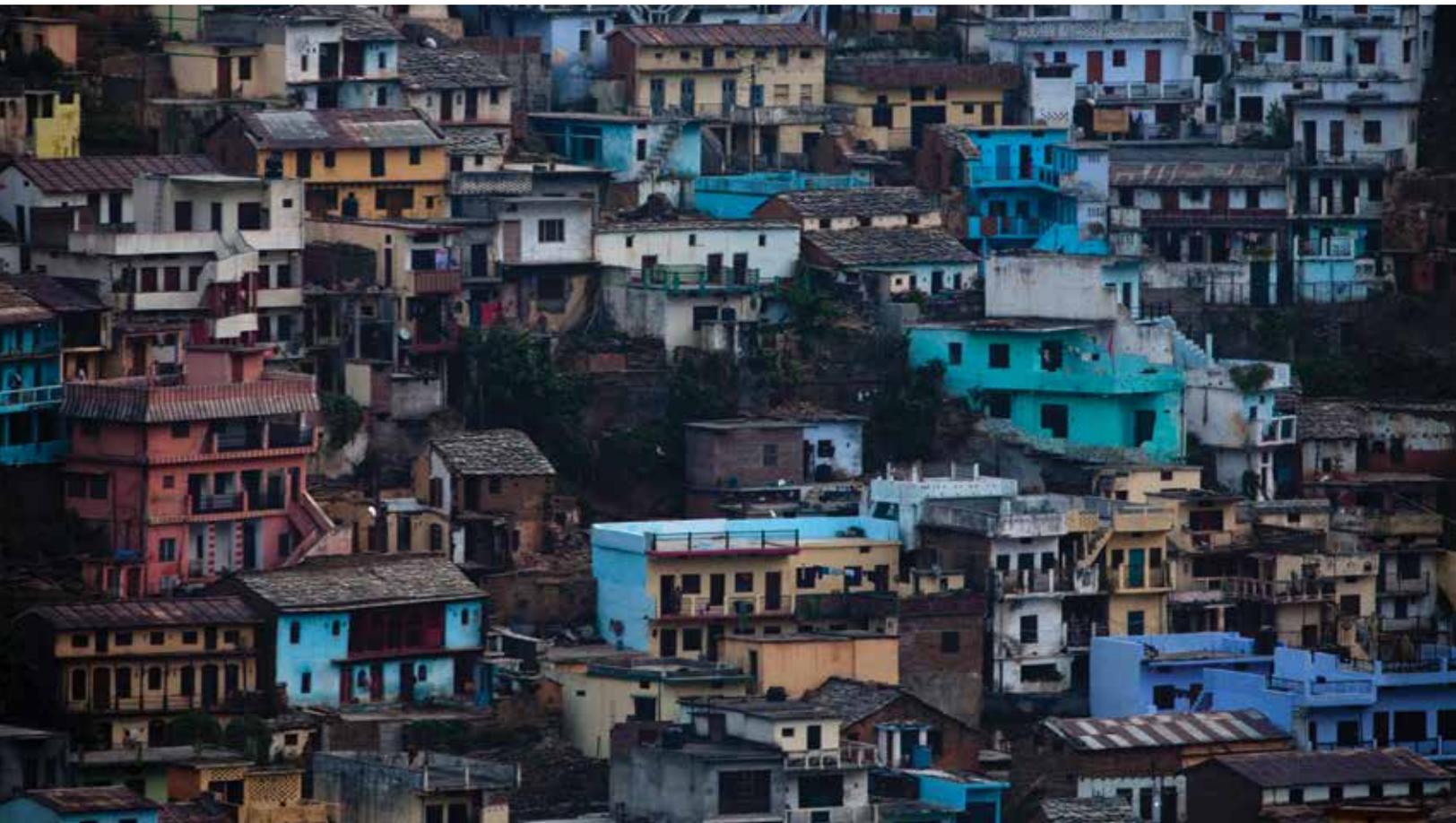


Photo Credit: Ian Shive_TandemStock.com

Speech at the Plenary Session in COP-21 Summit

DATE November 30, 2015
PLACE Paris
SOURCE PMIndia Portal (<https://goo.gl/iTrEhQ>)
VIDEO <https://goo.gl/GtSWxc>

President Hollande, Excellencies,

The pain of Paris is yet to heal. So, I speak in admiration for your resilience and resolve. And, I salute the world for standing, in full strength, with France and Paris.

Over the next few days, we will decide the fate of this planet. We do so when the consequences of the industrial age powered by fossil fuel are evident, especially on the lives of the poor.

The prosperous still have a strong carbon footprint. And, the world's billions at the bottom of the development ladder are seeking space to grow.

So, the choices are not easy. But, we have awareness and technology. We need now national will and a genuine global partnership.

Democratic India must grow rapidly to meet the aspirations of 1.25 billion people, 300 million of whom are without access to energy.

We are determined to do so, guided by our ancient belief that people and planet are inseparable; that human well being and Nature are indivisible.

So, we have set ambitious targets. By 2030, we will reduce emissions by 33 to 35% per cent of 2005 levels, and 40 per cent of our installed capacity will be from our non- fossil fuels.

We will achieve it by expanding renewable energy – for, example, by adding 175 Gigawatts of renewable generation by 2022. We will enlarge our forest cover to absorb at least 2.5 billion tonnes worth of carbon dioxide.

We are reducing dependence on fossil fuel through levies and reduction in subsidies; switching sources of fuel where possible; and, transforming cities and public transportation.

We hope advanced nations will assume ambitious targets and pursue them sincerely. It is not just a question of historical responsibility. They also have the most room to make the cuts and make the strongest impact.

And, climate justice demands that, with the little carbon space we still have, developing countries should have enough scope to grow.

This also means aggressive mitigation action

“India must grow rapidly to meet the aspirations of 1.25 billion people, 300 million of whom are without access to energy. We are determined to do so, guided by our ancient belief that people and planet are inseparable. So, we have set ambitious targets. By 2030, 40 per cent of our installed capacity will be from our non- fossil fuels.”

“We will succeed if we have the wisdom and courage to craft a genuinely collective partnership that balances responsibilities and capabilities with aspirations and needs”

by developed countries before 2020, including ratification of 2nd Commitment period of Kyoto Protocol, removing conditions and revisiting targets.

The principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities must remain the bedrock of our collective enterprise across all areas – mitigation, adaptation and means for implementation. Anything else would be morally wrong; and disparities.

Equity means that national commitments must be consistent with the carbon space nations occupy.

We also need a strong Agreement on Adaptation and Loss and Damage.

Developed countries must fulfill their responsibility to make clean energy available, affordable and accessible to all in the developing world. This is in our collective interest.

So, we look to the developed countries to mobilize 100 billion US Dollars annually by 2020 for mitigation and adaptation in the developing countries. They must fulfill their commitment in a credible, transparent and meaningful manner.

Energy is a basic human need. So, we need an ambitious technology initiative, driven by a

public purpose, not just market incentives. For this, we need to scale up Green Climate Fund that will improve access to technology and intellectual property.

We still need conventional energy. We should make it clean, not impose an end to its use. And, there should be no place for unilateral steps that become economic barriers for others.

We welcome stocktaking that is transparent, covers both support and commitments, and based on differentiation.

Ultimately, for success, moderating our lifestyle is necessary, and possible, for a low carbon future.

Excellencies,

The presence of 196 countries tells us that we have a chance to unite behind a common purpose.

We will succeed if we have the wisdom and courage to craft a genuinely collective partnership that balances responsibilities and capabilities with aspirations and needs.

I am confident that we will.

Thank you.



Speech at the launch of International Solar Alliance

DATE November 30, 2015
PLACE Paris
SOURCE Website of Shri Narendra Modi (<https://goo.gl/HpYSAF>)
VIDEO <https://goo.gl/SK4vRO>

President Hollande, Excellencies,
industry leaders

Let me begin by once again expressing solidarity with the people of France; And, our deepest admiration being such an outstanding host to the world in a difficult moment.

To my long cherished dream of an international alliance of solar-rich countries, President Hollande responded with keen interest and immediate and full offer of support.

This is the inaugural day of a defining global conference on climate change.

For his support at every step, and his decision to co-chair the launch, I am deeply grateful.

Just as positive was his response to the idea of a book of quotations on Nature from the world to remind us all of our timeless wisdom. I am honoured to co-author the preface with him.

Since ancient times, different civilizations have given a special place to Sun. In the Indian tradition, Sun is the source of all forms of energy. As Rig Veda says, Sun God is the Soul of all beings, moving and non-moving. Many in India begin their day with a prayer to the Sun.

Today, when the energy sources and excesses of our industrial age have put our planet in peril, the world must turn to Sun to power our future.

As the developing world lift billions of people into prosperity, our hope for a sustainable planet rests on a bold global initiative.

It will mean advanced countries leaving enough carbon space for developing countries to grow. That is natural climate justice.

It also means a growth path with lighter carbon footprint.

So, convergence between economy, ecology and energy should define our future.

The vast majority of humanity is blessed with generous sunlight round the year. Yet, many are also without any source of power.

This is why this alliance is so important.

We want to bring solar energy into our lives and homes, by making it cheaper, more reliable and easier to connect to grid.

“Today, when the energy sources and excesses of our industrial age have put our planet in peril, the world must turn to Sun to power our future . . . convergence between economy, ecology and energy should define our future”

“As you put clean energy within the reach of all, it will create unlimited economic opportunities that will be the foundation of the new economy of this century.”

We will collaborate on research and innovation. We will share knowledge and exchange best practices.

We will cooperate on training and building institutions. We will discuss regulatory issues and promote common standards.

We will attract investments in the solar sector, encourage joint ventures and develop innovative financing mechanisms.

We will partner with other international initiatives on renewable energy.

There is already a revolution in solar energy. Technology is evolving, costs are coming down and grid connectivity is improving.

It is making the dream of universal access to clean energy become more real.

India has a capacity of 4GW and we have set a target of adding 100 GW of solar power by 2022. By the end of next year, we would have added another 12 GW.

I am delighted with the industry response. As you put clean energy within the reach of all, it will create unlimited economic opportunities that will be the foundation of the new economy of this century.

This is an alliance that brings together developed and developing countries, governments and industries, laboratories and institutions, in a common enterprise.

India will be pleased to host this initiative at the premises of our National Institute of Solar Energy. We will provide land and contribute approximately 30 million U.S. dollars to build the Secretariat infrastructure.

We will support operations for five years, and together we will raise long terms funds to achieve our prescribed goals.

This day is the sunrise of new hope – not just for clean energy, but for villages and homes still in darkness; and for our mornings and evenings filled with a clear view of the glory of the sun.

Thank you.



Solar Panels Near Leh | Photo Credit: Kiran Jonnalagadda

Speech at 3rd Asia Ministerial Conference on Tiger Conservation

DATE April 12, 2016
PLACE New Delhi
SOURCE PMIndia Portal (<https://goo.gl/5DXhWb>)
VIDEO <https://goo.gl/wVfbLF>

Minister for Agriculture & Forests, Royal Government of Bhutan and Chairman, Global Tiger Forum,
Distinguished Ministers from Tiger Range Countries,
Shri Prakash Javadekar, our Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change,
Other dignitaries on the dais, delegates from Tiger Range Countries, Ladies and Gentlemen!

I am pleased to welcome you all. The tiger has brought all of us together here. This is an important meeting to discuss the conservation of one of the important endangered species. Your very presence is a testimony to the importance your country attaches to this “umbrella” among species.

As we all know, the tiger is an apex consumer in the ecological pyramid and food chain. It requires a large amount of prey, supported by good forests. Therefore, by protecting the tiger, we protect the entire ecosystem and the ecological services, which are equally crucial for the well-being of human beings.

In fact, the benefits from tiger conservation are enormous but intangible. We cannot quantify this in economic terms. Putting a price tag on nature is difficult. Since Mother Nature has bestowed them for its own conservation, it be-

comes our bounden duty to conserve them. In India, the tiger is much more than just a wild animal. In our mythology, the mother Goddess, who is the embodiment of Mother Nature, is depicted sitting on a tiger. In fact, most of our Gods and Goddesses are associated with some animal, tree or river. In fact sometimes these animals are put on the same pedestal as Gods and Goddesses. No wonder the Tiger is also our national animal. I am sure, other Tiger Range Countries would have some cultural legacy associated with tigers.

Friends! Species belonging to the animal kingdom, usually do not act to their disadvantage. However, human beings are an exception. Our compulsions and cravings, our needs and greed, have led to shrinkage of natural habitat and destruction of ecosystems. Here, I recall the famous words of Gautam Buddha who said: “the forest is a peculiar organism of unlimited kind-

“the benefits from tiger conservation are enormous but intangible”

ness. It affords protection to all beings, offering shade even to the axe-man who destroys it.”

I appreciate the good efforts made by the Tiger Range Countries in conserving tigers. I compliment you all for this great ongoing effort. I also appreciate the efforts through “Global Tiger Initiative” and the Council.

I must mention the great effort made by Mr. Vladimir Putin in convening the tiger summit in 2010. The Global Tiger Recovery Programme was an important outcome of these efforts.

I also appreciate the initiatives of Mr. Dorji, the Chairman of the Global Tiger Forum.

However, from what I have been told it appears that tiger habitats have reduced drastically across Tiger Range Countries. The situation has been aggravated further by the ongoing trafficking in body parts and derivatives of this magnificent animal. In India too, we have been facing the challenge of poaching and disruption in their ecosystems.

The positive side for us in India is that majority of the population respects trees, animals, forests, rivers and other elements of nature like the sun and the moon. We consider the earth as our mother. Our scriptures encourage us to treat the entire universe as one. वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम् and लोकः समस्ताः सुखीनि भवन्तु is our philosophy. We pray for peace and prosperity of everyone – including the ecosystem: ॐ द्यौः शांति, रंतरिक्ष शांति, पृथ्वी शांति, रापः शांति, रोषधयः शांति, वनस्पतयः शांति]

Friends! Forests are inseparable from wild animals. Both are mutually complementary. Destruction of one leads to destruction of the other. This is an important cause of climate change which is now affecting us adversely in many ways. This is a global phenomenon which all of us are grappling with. As a solution, we have committed to work towards country specific mitigation strategies.

In my view, for the Tiger Range Countries, a viable tiger population undoubtedly symbolises a mitigation strategy for climate change. This will create a huge carbon sink in the form of ti-

ger bearing forests. Thus, conservation of tiger will go a long way in ensuring a good future for ourselves and our coming generations.

India has a long standing and successful track record of protecting its tigers. We launched “Project Tiger” in 1973. Its coverage has increased considerably from the initial 9 tiger reserves to 49 at present. Tiger conservation is a collective responsibility of the Government of India and States. I also compliment our State governments for their efforts. But the efforts of Government cannot succeed unless they are supported by the people. Our cultural legacy which encourages compassion and co-existence has played an important role in the success of Project Tiger. Due to such collective efforts, there has been a rise of thirty per cent in the number of tigers. It has gone up from 1706 in 2010 to 2226 in 2014.

Our National Tiger Conservation Authority has taken many landmark initiatives. Use of modern technology, including intelligent, infrared and thermal cameras on a 24x7 basis is being promoted for surveillance against poaching in sensitive tiger reserves. Several protocols for smart patrolling and tiger monitoring have been evolved. Radio telemetry is also being promoted to monitor tigers. A national repository of tiger camera trap photo database is also being created. To do all this, we have, this year, doubled our allocation for tiger conservation. We have increased it from Rupees 185 crores to Rupees 380 crores; which is 3.8 billion Rupees.

I strongly believe that tiger conservation, or conservation of nature, is not a drag on development. Both can happen in a mutually complementary manner. All we need is to re-orient our strategy by factoring in the concerns of the tiger in sectors where tiger conservation is not the goal. This is a difficult task but can be achieved. Our genius lies in “smartly” integrating the tiger and wildlife safeguards in various infrastructures at the landscape level. This essentially takes us to the much needed “smart green infrastructure”, while adopting a landscape approach. The landscape approach would also help us to involve business groups through corporate social responsibility for various initia-

“conservation of nature is not a drag on development. Both can happen in a mutually complementary manner. All we need is to re-orient our strategy”

tives towards tiger conservation. In the Indian context, we intend to achieve this through the Tiger Conservation Plans.

Considering the ecosystem value of tiger conservation areas, we need to consider them as “natural capital.” Our institutions have done an economic valuation of a few tiger reserves. This study has highlighted the fact that besides conserving the tiger, these reserves also provide a range of economic, social, cultural and spiritual benefits. These are known as ecosystem services. Thus, we need to define conservation as a means to achieve development, rather than considering it to be anti-growth. This calls for factoring in the value of the ecosystem in the economic arithmetic of development and growth.

Friends! I am confident that we can achieve a framework to foster proactive engagement of industry for conservation. The natural capital denoting the stock of natural ecosystems should be treated at par with capital goods. Our economy needs to be viewed as a subset of a larger economy of natural resources and ecosystem services which sustain us.

As a country having more than seventy per cent of the global tiger population, India is committed to complement the initiatives of other Tiger Range Countries. We have bilateral arrangements with China, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh. We hope to continue our efforts to address issues of mutual concern for the tiger.

A major threat to the tiger is the demand for its body parts and derivatives. The forest and its wild denizens are an open treasury which cannot be locked up. It is painful to learn about trafficking of body parts and derivatives of tigers and other big cats. We need to collaborate at the highest levels of Government to address this serious issue.

India along with several Tiger Range Countries is a founder member of the Global Tiger Forum, which is headquartered in New Delhi. This is the only inter-governmental organisation of its kind. It is now working closely with the Global Tiger Initiative Council. As a host country, I assure you of our fullest support. We

will also be happy to support capacity building of wildlife personnel at the Wildlife Institute of India.

The Tiger Range Countries are signatories to other international conventions to address international trade on endangered species. In this regard, I want to give you another good news. We are moving towards formally adopting the statute of South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network.

At the end, I would like to emphasise that conservation of tigers is not a choice. It is an imperative. I would also like to emphasise that regional co-operation is essential for combating wildlife crime. In this conference, let us resolve to work together to protect the tiger and its space. India is committed to engage with all Tiger Range Countries for this purpose.

I appreciate your presence and wish this conference all success!

Thank You!

“we need to define conservation as a means to achieve development, rather than considering it to be anti-growth”



Machali | Photo Credit: Christopher Kray

Speech at International Agro Biodiversity Congress 2016

DATE November 06, 2016
PLACE New Delhi
SOURCE The Office of the Prime Minister of India
VIDEO <https://goo.gl/jd7dpq>

The original speech by the Honourable Prime Minister was in Hindi. This is the official English translation of the speech from the Office of the Prime Minister of India.

I am happy to be amongst the world's great scientists, educationists, policy-makers and farmers, who are working in the field of agro-biodiversity. I welcome delegates from across the world to this historic city. I am also pleased that India is taking the lead in hosting a global meet on the important subject of agro-biodiversity.

Human beings have been the worst exploiters of nature, in the blind quest for progress. It would not be wrong to say that the greatest damage has been caused in the last few centuries.

Challenges are going to increase in the future. And therefore, in the present time, research and discussion on the subject of agro-biodiversity for global food, nutrition, health and environment security is important.

India is blessed with great biodiversity, due to its geo-diversity, topography, and varied climatic zones: Desert in the west, and the world's most moisture-laden area in the north-east; the Himalayas in the north, and a great ocean in the south.

India has more than 47,000 plant species, and more than 89,000 animal species. It has a

coastline of more than 8100 kilometres.

Our country has a unique capacity – despite having just 2.5 percent of global land area, it supports 17 percent of human population, 18 percent of animal population, and six & a half percent of biodiversity.

Indian society has been agriculture-based for thousands of years. Even today, the agriculture sector provides livelihood to more than half of the population.

The philosophy of Indian agriculture has been to conserve and keep intact the natural resources, while using them to the extent necessary. Today, all development programmes worldwide are centred on this philosophy.

Biodiversity should not be focused on rules or regulations, but on our consciousness. To achieve this, we have to forget a lot that is old, and learn a lot that is new. This Indian concept of environmental consciousness is reflected in the Ishavasya Upanishad: Humans are just a small part of the bio-centric world. Plants and animals are no less.

The UN Millennium Development Goals acknowledged the key role of culture in develop-

“The philosophy of Indian agriculture has been to conserve and keep intact the natural resources, while using them to the extent necessary.”

ment. The 2030 UN Agenda for Sustainable Development has also accepted that the contribution of cultures and civilizations is important for development.

Culture helps bring coordination with nature. After all, “culture” is a part of “agriculture.”

Different species and varieties have been conserved in India for so long, because our ancestors were adept at socio-economic policy. Agricultural produce was linked to social customs. The Tilak will have grains of rice too. Supari (areca nut) will be kept during prayer. Buckwheat will be consumed during the fasting period of Navratra. When these species were linked to social customs, they were preserved, and the farmer was benefited.

Let us think about this. Despite the Biological Diversity Convention proposals being accepted in 1992, we are losing 50 to 150 species daily. There is a danger of one out of every eight birds, and one-fourth of all animals getting extinct.

We need to change the way we think. We need to strengthen whatever is existing. All countries must learn from each other. Research must be conducted in the field of agro-biodiversity. Many countries are looking at various ways to preserve agro-biodiversity. Let us all work together, create a record of all such practices, and do scientific research on them. Let us figure out which of them need to be encouraged

In different parts of India, our culture has helped us preserve some amazing varieties. In South India, there is an ancient variety of rice – Konamami – which is being used as the base to increase rice production across the world. Similarly the Pokkalli rice variety of Kerala, is being used in areas with excess or salty water.

I must tell the foreign delegates, that there are over one hundred thousand varieties of rice in India, and most of them are hundreds of years old. Generation after generation, our farmers have nurtured and developed them.

This was not limited to a specific area. In Assam, there is a variety of rice – Aguni Bora – which can be eaten after soaking for a short time in water. It has a low glycemic index, and

therefore, diabetes patients can also include it in their diet.

Similarly, in the Bhal region of Gujarat, there is a variety of wheat called Bhaliya Wheat. This has high protein and carotene content, and is popular for making porridge and pasta. It has been registered under the Geographical Indications list.

India has also made a contribution to other countries in the area of agricultural biodiversity. The Murrah buffaloes of Haryana, and Jafrabadi buffaloes of Gujarat have been identified as international Trans Boundary Breeds. Similarly, the Ongole, Gir, and Kankrej breeds of cow are being used in Latin American countries. The Garole breed of sheep from the Sundarbans area of West Bengal, has been sent to Australia.

India has significant animal biodiversity. But most of the animal species in India are non-descript. Only 160 species are registered. We need to redirect our research, characterize more animal varieties, and get them registered.

Technology has a big role to play in countering malnutrition, starvation and poverty. But we must also keep track of how technology is affecting us. Till a few years ago, all of us would remember 15 to 20 phone numbers. With the advent of the mobile phone, we sometimes forget even our own number. This is a negative impact of technology.

We have to be alert about the impact of technology being used on agriculture. Three years ago the ‘honey bee’ featured on the cover of the Time Magazine. The report said that a certain pesticide being used on crops is making the honey bee forget the way to its nest. A small thing impacted the very existence of the honey bee. We know the role of the honey bee in pollination. The result was that crop production began to decline.

Pesticides in the agricultural ecosystem are a matter of concern. They destroy even those insects which are vital for the ecosystems. Therefore, an audit of the development of science is also necessary. The absence of such an audit is resulting in many challenges for the world.

“Technology has a big role to play in countering malnutrition, starvation and poverty. But we must also keep track of how technology is affecting us.”

“modern agriculture pays attention to only a very small number of crops and animals. This has implications for our food security, environmental security and agricultural development.”

India's biodiversity should be seen as a strength. But for this, we need to value-add to that strength. In Gujarat, there is a grass called Banni grass. It has high nutrition, which increases milk yield in the buffaloes of that area. Now, we need to use the properties of this grass for value addition, and spread it across the country. For this, we need to expand research.

Seventy percent of the country is surrounded by oceans. 10 per cent of the world's fish species are found in India. This ocean strength cannot be restricted to fisheries alone. Scientists must increase efforts towards seaweed cultivation. Seaweed can be used for bio-fertiliser. After the green and white revolution, it is now time to comprehensively look at a blue revolution as well.

I will give you another example. In Himachal Pradesh, there is a variety of mushroom called Guchi. It has medicinal value. It sells for upto 15000 rupees a kilogram. Can we not take steps to increase its production? Similarly, castor, and millets (bajra) – we need to do value addition in these as well.

There is however a fine line here. Value addition does not mean tinkering with species. It is by interfering with normal processes of nature that mankind has created problems such as climate change. Rising temperatures are changing the life-cycle of plants and animals. According to one estimate, climate change shall result in the extinction of upto 16 percent of forest species by 2050. This is a cause for concern.

Understanding the threat posed by global warming, last month on Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary – October 2nd – India ratified the Paris agreement. India is playing a key role in its implementation across the world. This is on account of our responsibility and accountability towards nature.

Proper management of agro-biodiversity is a priority for the entire world. Rising populations and the blind race for progress are significantly disturbing nature's balance. One reason for this is also that modern agriculture pays attention to only a very small number of crops and animals.

This has implications for our food security, environmental security and agricultural development.

An important aspect of biodiversity preservation, is to prepare our immediate environment for possible challenges. Specific genes will have to be preserved in gene-banks, and made available to farmers. As that gene adapts to climate pressures and the environment, it will develop resistant capacity.

We will have to develop mechanisms so that our farmer can identify desirable genes in his farm, and can get a fair price for the same. Such farmers can be made part of our research effort.

If international, national and private organizations pool their expertise, technology and resources towards biodiversity conservation, the possibility of success shall definitely rise. We will have to work towards creating and adopting a shared vision in this regard.

We will also have to see how we can harmonize the various rules related to agro-biodiversity preservation, so that these laws do not jeopardize the progress of agriculture and farmers in developing countries.

You are all experts in your fields. You will discuss various aspects of agro-biodiversity over the next three days.

Today, millions of destitute across the world face challenges of hunger, malnutrition and poverty. Science and technology have a key role to play in addressing these challenges. We need to work towards ensuring that as we address these challenges, we do not ignore themes such as sustainable development and biodiversity.

Our agro-biodiversity is the heritage of future generations, and we are merely its custodians. Therefore, through our collective effort, let us all ensure that we hand over this natural resource to our future generations, exactly the same way as our ancestors handed it over to us.

Thank You.



Tweets



@PMOIndia



GIS technology has transformed policy planning, implementation. Space imaging enables modern management, conservation of water resources.

30 June '14



@PMOIndia



There should be an environment in our schools that encourages nature conservation.

6 Apr '15



@PMOIndia



Like solar energy, we also need to focus on energy conservation. We can't use up all our resources, we must think about the future.

2 Oct '15



@narendramodi



Called upon students to make NISER India's greenest campus, a zero-emission, zero-discharge campus which uses clean & renewable energy.

7 Feb '16



@narendramodi



Anything that's not sustainable can't be called development. Our development process has to be not only sustainable but also inclusive.

4 Mar '16



@narendramodi



On #InternationalDayofForests, let us pledge to collectively work to conserve forests & increase green cover.

This year's theme 'Forests & Water' is very relevant. More forests mean more water resources, which benefits farmers & future generations.

21 Mar '16



@PMOIndia



This is a very important time for farmers. All of us have to think about one thing and that is water conservation.

27 Mar '16



@PMOIndia



I believe tiger conservation or conservation of nature is not a drag on development. Both can happen in mutually complementary manner.

12 Apr '16



@PMOIndia



Benefits from tiger conservation are enormous but intangible. We cannot quantify this in economic terms.

12 Apr '16



@narendramodi



Time has come when states should speak of water conservation efforts & management, the way efforts to increase GSDP & investments are spoken.

7 May '16



@narendramodi Follow Profile

Urged State Govt to initiate a mass movement for water conservation, rain water harvesting & ensuring maximum coverage for soil health cards.

14 May '16 Reply Retweet Favorite

@narendramodi Follow Profile

India & USA are vibrant democracies & that binds us together. Renewable energy is vital for a clean & green planet.

10 June '16 Reply Retweet Favorite

@PMOIndia Follow Profile

Renewable energy is a focus area for us: PM

15 Aug '16 Reply Retweet Favorite

@narendramodi Follow Profile

Care & concern towards nature is integral to the Indian ethos. India is committed to doing everything possible to mitigate climate change.

2 Oct '16 Reply Retweet Favorite

@PMOIndia Follow Profile

If there is someone who saved the forests it is our tribal communities. Saving forests is a part of tribal culture: PM

25 Oct '16 Reply Retweet Favorite

@narendramodi Follow Profile

Our tribal communities have shown the way when it comes to living in harmony with nature & conserving our forests.

25 Oct '16 Reply Retweet Favorite

@PMOIndia Follow Profile

2015 was a momentous year! Apart from Sendai Framework, international community adopted 2 major frameworks to shape future of humanity.

25 Oct '16 Reply Retweet Favorite

@PMOIndia Follow Profile

They are the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change

25 Oct '16 Reply Retweet Favorite

@narendramodi Follow Profile

Sustainable development & biodiversity conservation must be guiding principles in making a clean and green Earth.

6 Nov '16 Reply Retweet Favorite

“...conservation of nature is not a drag on development. Both can happen in mutually complementary manner.”

Narendra Modi

Honourable Prime Minister of India

The compendium brings together some of the key speeches made by Narendra Modi, Honourable Prime Minister of India since he assumed office in May 2014. Specifically, the speeches here highlight the Prime Minister’s visionary ideas on how economic and human development in India can be pursued along with conservation of nature.

Covering a range of subjects including sustainable development, climate change, water conservation, biodiversity protection and renewable energy, the Prime Minister articulates how development and conservation are complementary, and not antagonistic. We hope that the compendium serves as a useful reference to the political community, academia and citizens of India and the world on the remarkable pathway chosen by India for human development.

