


Five years ago, India and China were spoken about in the same breath. Since then, India has taken quite a knocking and is perceived as a laggard. And yet, India does have the potential to be the next Superpower. We asked leading Indians to put on their thinking cap and give us three ideas to make our country the next Superpower.

ASHOK KHEMKA
Bureaucrat



By merely claiming there will be no starvation or providing Rs.100 as minimum wages to the poor, does not make one a superpower. The most important aspect for any country is sincere, bold and courageous leadership. This means the intent of the leadership should be right and even if one commits a mistake, if his heart is in the right place, it will not erode the value system. For, it is the leadership, which visualizes the citizens to have a certain character and that's why it's essential to build a moral fabric on which the nation stands.

Then, there's a need to build an enabling environment, catalyzed by good governance and a prompt justice delivery system. In absence of this, though people acquire the skills, they migrate to other countries, which harness their expertise and benefit from their knowledge. Enabling environment not only retains local talent, but also attracts foreign talent within.

We cry hoarse over population explosion. Population becomes a constraint in the absence of proper human resource development (HRD), whereas it becomes an advantage if there is proper HRD. To become a superpower, we must focus on HRD for all. As the adage goes: teach a man to fish and you make him self-sufficient for life; doles and subsidies will only develop a dependency syndrome incapacitating him for life.

-Nilima Pathak

S Y QURESHI
Former Election Commissioner of India



BALA NANDGAONKAR
MLA from Sewree constituency, Central Mumbai
Group leader in Assembly of Maharashtra Navnirman Sena




Education sector is also one of the major components which decide the progress of the country. We must achieve hundred percent literacy and awareness for the same. This will have a cascading effect on overall growth of India. Corruption is a major area of concern needs to be extinguished from our country and hundred percent literacy will certainly lead us towards progress.

India has a great potential to be a superpower and lead the world but systematic efforts are necessary.

-Ashutosh Sharad

INDIA A SUPERPOWER?

ASHWIN SANGHI
Author - Crime thrillers



He three things that would make India great? Rather simple really. One, let's start believing in ourselves. Two, let's allow ourselves to dream. Three, let's act on those dreams. Believe.... dream.... act. That needs to be our mantra.

Why is this so difficult? We are a country that could conceptualize the decimal system, perform cataract surgery, figure out the speed of light and visualize the Big Bang.... all of this many thousands of years before the European renaissance! If we could create institutions like Nalanda and Takshashila, the Ivy Leagues of ancient times, what prevents us from replicating that model today?

I have been often accused of glorifying India's past. The truth is that I am simply fascinated by it. Don't most sons look up to their fathers for guidance? What's wrong with the present looking to the past for inspiration? If a battle-hungry Asoka could become the greatest messenger of peace, why can't modern India have its own renaissance....a renaissance in education, health, economy, culture, infrastructure and social values?

Rabindra Nath Tagore rightly said: 'Into that heaven of freedom, Father, let my country awake....' but I hope that we can continue to dream big even after we awake.

-Nilima Pathak



We can become a superpower in the not so distant future, but to achieve that we must first root out corruption at all levels. There is no dearth of plans, policies and even funds in the country, but the benefits do not reach the needy. The reason is pilferage, by politicians, bureaucrats and the middlemen and contractors who siphon off most of the funds. Thus, while the number of billionaires is fast growing, the living conditions of the underprivileged remain the same. Growth has to be inclusive, reaching all sections of society. Unequal distribution keeps holding back India's growth story.

Today, if we are taken seriously by the world, it is due to our industrial, scientific and nuclear capabilities. But, on the other hand, unemployment is our major drawback, which leads to frustration and criminalization among the youth. The policy makers, therefore, need to see that schemes and plans for growth and development are employment friendly. Also, though we are the largest democracy in the world, it is embarrassing when it is considered among the 'flawed democracies'. Three factors are responsible for it: criminalization of politics, blatant abuse of money power and voter apathy. If these are addressed through electoral reforms and voter education, I am confident that we can become one of the greatest democracies.

-Nilima Pathak

MANI SHANKAR AIYAR
Politician



The strength of the country is not determined by its leaders or by its military power or by its economic influence or by its political clout. It is derived by the strength of its people. For a country like India, strength of the people develops from empowerment. That's because empowerment leads to access to entitlement and it is the full use of entitlement that leads to enrichment. Power goes from empowerment to entitlement to enrichment.

And as such, the three steps that India needs to take to really become a superpower are - panchayat raj, effective panchayat raj and efficient panchayat raj.

-Nilima Pathak

India can become a superpower in the world and India has a potential for the same. India is an example of unity in diversity, but we need to be a strong secular country. This is very essential step towards making India a superpower.

1) STRONG SECULARISM

There should be no division amongst people over east and creed. This is very disturbing and harmful for our society and growth. No country can progress if people are engaged in infighting over issues related to regionalism. There are recent instances of people engaged in regionalism which can prove obstacles in the growth of the region as well the citizens. These issues weaken the social thread and adversely affect the economy too. We must avoid such conflicts amongst citizens of India. There are ways to solve issues legally without creating any tensions amongst communities and regions. India is one of biggest democratic countries in the world. We are proud of it and we should respect the democracy. Strong threads of secularism will tie us together and we can progress together.

JITENDRA AWHAD
Cabinet Minister of Medical Education and Horticulture, Maharashtra



2) ECONOMICAL STABILITY

Our economy plays a vital role in the growth of our country and if we have economical stability we can become super power. India has very rich agricultural diversity and huge component of agricultural produce is exported too. We need to control the inflation and maintain good GDP. Price hike in essential commodities which directly affect common man is not good for economical stability.

3) LITERACY

We need 100% literacy across whole country. This will lead to a development across various sectors. Kerala has set a good example of how literacy can contribute overall economical growth of the region.

India can become a superpower when we have strong secularism, economical stability and literacy.

-Ashutosh Sharad

RAM PRADHAN
Former Union Home Secretary, Member of High Level Enquiry Committee on 26/11



India is looked upon as a future Super Power but to achieve the status India must strengthen her social fabric and unify her people. We are divided over languages, political issues even though we say we are united. Each region has different issues and they are looked in an isolation. One must look at it as problem of an entire nation. For example problems of Andhra Pradesh or Telangana or West Bengal are handled in isolation.

We must integrate religious minority in national main stream. We cannot isolate them if we have progress and become super power in the future. Its more than 6 decades post independence, it's high time to bring minority communities into main stream. Economic reforms for this section of the society must be planned and executed accordingly.

We must strengthen the muscle power and diplomatic power. This is necessary for our Internal as well as for international security.

Regional issues which affect the national security should not be hindrance in the progress of a country. Unity in diversity should be ensured by true means.

-Ashutosh Sharad

MENDU CHAKRA PANI



- 1) Make India a knowledge society by injecting right skills in millions of Indians.
- 2) Inclusive economic growth
- 3) Scientific and profit based agriculture to benefit 60 percent of India which is dependent on agriculture.

POOJA BEDI
Actor & Socialite




The three things that I think can help India become a superpower are:

- 1) Elimination of corruption, especially what people and companies face in day-to-day living and businesses.
- 2) Efficient Court Systems. Currently we have a backlog that will take 300 years to clear and lakhs of crores in property/financial cases are just lying frozen which can be freed to be pushed back into economy.
- 3) Focus on our strengths like IT/agriculture/tourism. Our entire debt can be cleared if we just focus on tourism alone.

-Shobhana Nair

Y P SINGH
Former IPS Officer & Lawyer




Three things can help India become a superpower:

- 1) Zeal and intellect driven by innovation
- 2) Control population immediately as it undoes every gain of development
- 3) India has to be intellectually serious. The nation's habit of getting into frivolous gossip, social media indulgence, etc is taking away the precious academic time.

-Shobhana Nair

RAGHU RAI
Ace photographer



In such a scenario, if better infrastructure and facilities are provided within the country, there could be a role reversal and India would benefit from the expertise of the talented people from across the globe.

Sadly, apart from the many ills that India faces, one is accountability at all levels. Since people are able to draw their salaries at the end of the month, they see no reason for working hard or simply working. So, if there were accountability in every job, within and outside the government, it would make a lot of difference.

-Nilima Pathak

JOGINDER SINGH
Former Director, Central Bureau of Investigation



India a superpower? You must be joking! In an eventuality of war, the country has ammunition that could last for just about 20 odd days. From rifles to helicopters, we are dependant on other countries, so what's super about us? We neither know what road safety is nor can provide safety to our women and think of becoming a superpower?

The biggest problem with India is corruption and no aspect of life is bereft of it. Only few scams come to light, but several more are lying

feel the following three things will transform India into a real superpower, the first and most important is tackling corruption through an aggressive process reengineering in government at all levels and by providing transparent time-bound services for the common people to bring down the corruption. We need to tackle it at multiple levels through a close coordination with the judiciary and other arms of the government.

ANAMI ROY
Former Commissioner of Police, Mumbai




can contribute significantly to our GDP growth.

And the third very important area I consider is a serious agricultural reform to give boost to agricultural production by helping marginal and small farmers by providing them access to all kinds of services, better technology and better access to finance to boost agricultural product. The use of technology should help for agricultural reforms and delivery of services to common man.

-Ashutosh Sharad

DR P S PASRICHA
Retired Director General of Police, Commissioner of Police



To become a superpower, the most important thing we need is to cultivate a National Character amongst ourselves.

Many of us are great individuals but as a nation as a system as a group we fail very badly. We need to rise above cast, creed, religion and politics and live as citizens of 'One nation'. We can perform better and progress only when we all live with National character.

We need to develop our infrastructure, transportation facilities, network of railways, roads on priority. If we get the best facilities of transportation with advanced technology like GIS or GPS and integrate the network we can progress fast.

The infrastructure and development should reach across the entire nation. Our eastern ends are isolated from the mainstream which needs to be brought together. North, West and South India don't mean the entire nation. This is very essential to unite people living in that part of India.

Integration of all rivers across nation is very essential for the development of India. Natural calamities like droughts or floods damage national properties every year. Crores of rupees go down the drain and it adversely affects life of people, farmers commit suicide, hundreds of hectares of land are left infertile. We can avoid or minimize the losses if rivers are combined and at the same time areas adjoining can be developed more efficiently. This sector needs to be looked upon to make India a superpower.

-Ashutosh Sharad


DOLLY THAKORE
Theatre Personality, Social worker and Socialite



Who cares about becoming a superpower? Just keep the citizens happy and we'll automatically get the strength to face and take on problems economically, physically and mentally. We need to have respect for each other. Where has the one India gone? It saddens my heart to see what has happened to India more so with the new government saying all kinds of things in terms of religion, education, faith. Vote politics has ruined everything in our country. The people in power have fragmented the country by language, faith, religion, education, regions. Consolidate and integrate our own countrymen first. Build their confidence and integrity. Make them secure economically and financially. Give them food, water, electricity, education and health and then talk of competing to become a superpower. It sounds so hollow. Even the Judiciary and Defence Forces have been discovered and exposed with clay feet with scams and corruption undermined. How can we aim to be a super power? Let's first become a Super Nation!

-Shobhana Nair

PRAHLAD KAKKAR
Ad Guru



Most politicians are people unfriendly. Whatever they do in terms of reforms is never done for the people of the country. Our planning is completely haywire. Any government or governing body should take care of three basic things: Power, Infrastructure and Defence. This is not rocket science. We are way behind China in all these spheres and we need to catch up very quickly.

-Shobhana Nair

