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.

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

take, 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

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 har ness 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.

INDIA A SUPERPOWER?

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 gloriying India's past. The truth is that I

**ASHWIN SANGHI** 

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.

am simply fasci-

nated by it. Don't





**SYQURESHI** Former Election Commissioner of India

Central Mumbai

Group leader in Assembly of

Maharashtra Navnirman Sena

power 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 ly by the world, it is due to our largest democracy in the

of billionaires is fast growing, Growth has to be inclusive, Unequal distribution keeps

industrial, scientific and nufunds. Thus, while the number clear capabilities. But, on the other hand, unemployment is the living conditions of the underprivileged remain the same. leads to frustration and criminalization among the youth. reaching all sections of society. The policy makers, therefore, need to see that schemes and holding back India's growth sto-plans for growth and development are employment friendly.

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 be-

come one of the greatest

democracies. -Nilima Pathak



IANI SHANKAR AIYAR

ndia must have a strong economy to make us economically independent. Policies should be made accordingly and implementation of the same must be done. Benefits of such policies must reach the each and every section of the society, especially to the weaker section. Extra efforts are needed for the development of people below poverty line. Unless and until we are self dependent in majori-

ty of sectors like agriculture and industries we cannot become a superpower in the world although we have a great potential for the same. We need a foreign policy that will build good

long-term relations with neighbouring countries. Peaceful relations with Asian counties will reflect positively on international trade and business. The entire world is eying the growing business opportunities in Indian market and to enjoy this we need peace. Several international brands want to encash the huge MLA from Sewree constituency, consumer market in India, which should not be neglected and at the same time Indian brands must get exposure to the international market. Our trade policies can make us leader and super power in the coming years.

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

he strength of the country is not chayat raj 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 man power, all other methods of influentitlement and it is the full use of enemittee encing the world – military, political titlement that leads to enrichment. Power goes from empowerment to en-

titlement 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 pan-

If one and a quarter billion human beings get empowered and take effective control of their own lives and are able to use their own hands and brains, then there is no country in the world that can stand in front of that human power. Once we have that huor economic – will come automatically.

When all power resides in a single leader or a small elite, then all that we experience is the misuse of military power, misuse of economic influence and misuse of political clout.

-Nilima Pathak

ndia can become a superpower in the world and In dia 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.

## ) 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

**ITENDRA AWHAD** abinet Minister of Medical Education and Horticulture, Maharashtra

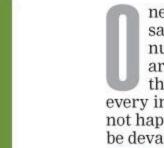
the democracy. Strong threads of secularism will tie us together and we can progress together.

## 2) ECONOMICAL STABILITY

Our economy plays a vital role in the growth of our ountry 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.

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 ormer Union Home Secretary, Member of High Level Enquiry Committee on 26/11

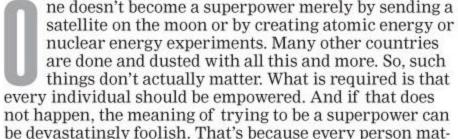
ndia is looked upon as a future Super Power but to achieve the status India must strengthen her social fabric and unify her people. We are divided over languages, political issues even though we say we are united. Each region has dif ferent issues and they are looked in an isolation. One must look at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

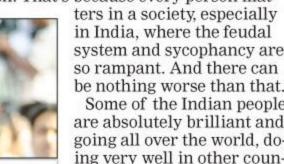
We must integrate religious minor ity in national main stream. We cannot isolate them if we have progress and become super power in the future. Its more than 6 decades post independence, it's high time to bring minority communities into main stream. Economic reforms for this section of the society must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





ment, it would make a lot of difference.

be nothing worse than that. Some of the Indian people are absolutely brilliant and going all over the world, doing very well in other countries. But within the country, we do not have that kind of character and disci-

pline. 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 ac-

countability in every job, within and outside the govern-

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



**ANAMI ROY** Former Commissioner of Police,

The second that I consider very important is financial inclusion by providing the entire range of financial services to the poor in a simplified and an affordable way to encourage micro entrepreneurship which will boost our productivity and this

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.



and no aspect of life is bereft of it. Only few scams come to light, but

the country has ammu

days. From rifles to heli-

copters, we are depen-

road safety is nor can pro-

transferred, as happens in Whether it is to do with cleanliness of River Yamuna or constructing bureaucrats loot all the resources and the issues never get tackled. It's because we lack both transparency and

unearthed. But then the

development does not happen by doing paperwork and sitting in

offices. Moreover, when everything has to be outsourced, what are government functionaries there for? They must cut down on the number of bureaucrats. Be it the airlines or road transport, while the private companies make profits -Air India and Delhi **Transport Corporation** anyone bothered about the fate of the 'Golden' Quadrilateral? With the present state of affairs, it can't even be named 'Iron'

> 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

part of India.

Retired Director General of Police,

Commissioner of Police

National character.

o become a superpower, the

acter amongst ourselves.

als 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

We need to develop our infrastruc

ture, transportation facilities, net-

work of railways, roads on priority

If we get the best facilities of trans-

like GIS or GPS and integrate the

The infrastructure and develop-

ment should reach across the entire

nation. Our eastern ends are isolat-

needs to be brought together. North

sential to unite people living in that

Integration of all rivers across nation is very essential for the devel-

opment of India. Natural calamities

like droughts or floods damage na-

tional properties every year. Crores

of rupees go down the drain and it

farmers commit suicide, hundreds

of hectares of land are left infertile.

We can avoid or minimize the losses

adversely affects life of people,

ed from the mainstream which

West and South India don't mean

the entire nation. This is very es-

network we can progress fast.

portation with advanced technology

most important thing we need

is to cultivate a National Char-

Many of us are great individu



NISHA JAMVWAL

Fashion Designer & Socialite

ith India being led by a develop- lation becomes an asset ment oriented Prime Minister it may well be on the brink of being a Superpower. We need good governance with clearly planned policies which we seem to be getting. The three things that will make

us a superpower would be: **Education:** Education for all our youth to be mandatory so that the large popu-

Manufacturing: We, as a country, need to manufacture and get into manufacturing instead of import.

Superpower, huh!

-Nilima Pathak

Infrastructure: We desperately need better roads, better trains, better housing, better metros, more developments in villages so that there is less migration into bursting at the same cities!

> **DOLLY THAKORE** Theatre Personality, Social worker

> > and Socialite



MENDU CHAKRA

1) Make India a knowledge society by

3) Scientific and profit based agricul-

ture to benefit 60 percent of India which

injecting right skills in millions of

2) Inclusive economic growth

is dependent on agriculture.

**POOJA BEDI** Actor & Socialite

he 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 busi-

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 hree things can help India become a superpower:

1) Zeal and intellect driven by innovation 2) Control population immediately as it unvelopment tellectually serious.

does every gain of de-3) India has to be in-The nation's habit of getting into frivolous gossip, social media indulgence, etc is taking away the precious academic time. -Shobhana Nair



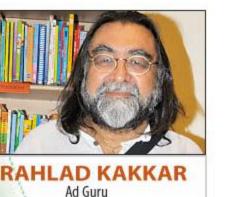


ost politicians are people unfriendly. Whatever they do in terms of reas is never done for ople of the country. Our planning is impletely haywire erning body should tak care of three basic hings: Power, Infratructure and Defence This is not rocket science. We are way behind China in all these

spheres and we need to

catch up very quickly.

-Shobhana Nair



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.

ho cares about becoming a

superpower? Just keep the

citizens happy and we'll

strength to face and take

automatically get the

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