

Address at Praj On August 15

Praveen Dixit ,IPS

DGP (Retired) Maharashtra

Significance of Independence Day

- 15th August has great significance in the history of independent India.
- It reminds us of the highest sacrifices by thousands of our countrymen for the cherished cause of making India free from the clutches of firanghis (foreigners)
- To recall स्वा. सावरकर
- तुजसाठी मरण ते जनन, मरण ते जनन।
- तुजविण जनन ते मरण, ते जनन ते मरण ।।
- Root cause of our ill health, poverty, lack of opportunity, illiteracy and fights among ourselves was loss of our freedom. So called development by British was only to further our exploitation.

Praj : A story of hard work & dedication

- Fruit of independence : Establishment of pioneering institutes such as IIT & IIMs. These enabled Indian talented youth like Dr Pramod Choudhary, founder Chairman, the necessary confidence, required skills & strong urge to dedicate themselves to address the problems of new India.
- Journey of last forty two years of everyone in Praj confirms their confidence in the ethical and visionary leadership of Dr Pramod Chaudhary.
- Congrats for pioneering work in core areas including Bio energy solutions, critical process equipment, Brewery & beverages, zero liquid discharge systems & high purity water systems

Adopting new technologies continuously

- In today's competitive world, adopting new technology at the earliest is the only path to remain relevant and progress to new heights
- Artificial intelligence (AI) is the new buzz in the market.
- Apprehensions regarding whether it would make employees irrelevant is short sightedness.
- Used properly, it is going to enhance the skills of employees and address serious issues including reduction in wastage of resources, improve learning skills, create confidence among operators and consumers and thus make products more acceptable.

Safety and security

- Everyone is aware about various rules, directives and procedures to ensure safety and security for successful running of large industrial establishments
- Even then, how lapses take place, how is it that there are no compliances of various dos and don'ts which are displayed everywhere
- Urge to ensure rigorous compliance with every directive from within is called discipline
- Think of the best but plan for the worst

Security concerns

- Several gazettes are procured to enhance the security. These may be for peripheral infrastructure to prevent intruders, observe aberrations within, or alert concerned from time to time.
- Imperative to conduct mock-drills and refresh knowledge about these from time to time regularly
- Need to check daily efficacy of these devices and keep them in working condition at all times
- Documentation of any lapses are important to evaluate use of these devices
- Consider using AI for real time alerts of these devices

Cyber security & Education of digital media

- While there is no alternative to becoming digital in every field, it is also essential to take maximum precautions against all imaginable cyber frauds , risks. Create awareness about Helpline 1930
- Provide education in digital media to distinguish between real & fake
- Irrespective of the rank, everyone needs to be made aware about the cyber precautions and attempt should be made to upgrade them to the level of cyber yoddha (योद्धा)
- Particular attention be given in areas such as financial matters, personal data and research and development
- While interaction with outsiders including participation in conferences is required, need to have precautions

Honey traps

- Several cases in which highly talented persons have been lured to disclose sensitive details by rival agencies
- Unfortunately, it may start as a social interaction but ends in disclosure of vital details
- Necessary to have verification of persons in sensitive assignments on a periodical basis

Requirements about POSH

- The POSH Act, or the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 mandates to have Internal Complaints Committee (ICC)
- Training of the members of ICC has been prescribed.
- While the procedure is followed, documentation of oral complaints is usually not done. Need to do it as very rarely the victim has the courage to make written complaints
- Advisable to have AI assisted CCTV footage
- Ensure proper illumination to avoid dark areas
- Encourage installation of 112 India app for everyone

The Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986

- While there is awareness about the ban on employment of children , still there are cases where children are being employed in restaurants, construction activities, sugarcane cutting, brick-kilns
- It is necessary to impress on all suppliers ,customers and places where your machinery is being installed to be guarded against these practices
- Present discussions between India and US about the trade deal is focussing on forced labour practices inviting penalty against Indian trade.

Need for strong Advocacy

- Purpose of strong advocacy for your products
- Explain and ensure favourable policies are formulated by policy makers. Comparatively easy as you know the target group , you are aware about the parameters. May succeed in the same.
- Second & more important is to create demand for your product and formulate public opinion for your products by spreading awareness about high cost of conflicts and geo-political tensions in the Gulf
- Creating favourable narrative for the innovations is an important part of being successful in business. Opponents are spreading disinformation.
- Explain how other countries have implemented similar ideas

Conflicts & Geo-political tensions

- India imports 85% oil of the requirement. In addition, LPG & fertilisers are critical for cooking and agriculture.
- With rise of every one dollar in crude price, India has to spend ten million dollars for the same
- Russia –Ukraine war is now more than 4 years old. US accuses India of assisting Russian war as India purchases substantial oil from Russia to keep Indian economy moving at reasonable cost
- India is exports part of the refined oil to Europe & other countries, which has kept the price of oil products in these countries at reasonable level
- US Congress therefore has approved power of the President to raise additional tariff to 100% on goods & services exported from India

Geo-political tensions in the Gulf

- With the intension to curb Iran's ambitions to build enriched uranium to weapon grade level, US & Israel bombarded Iran from the end of February.
- Iran has retaliated by bombarding US bases in Gulf countries & Israeli military sites. It has also mined the Strait of Hormuz blocking free movement of oil ships.
- While agreement between Iran and Oman is in the final stage of approval, additional charges are likely to be imposed. It also depends upon lifting of US blockade on Iranian ports and US agreeing to pay war compensation
- As the chances of agreeing to these demands is remote, India would continue to remain vulnerable to oil price fluctuations
- Hence imperative to have E 20 as fuel enabled by Praj

Welfare of employees & their families

- Ensure mental & physical welfare of the employees and their family members through regular mandatory medical check up,
- To keep their morale high, organise prayers and talks by religious leaders from time to time
- Make all out efforts to keep the employees away from drinks & drugs
- Balance between work and family requirements.

Being globally acceptable

- Praj is already global in their approach.
- Need to expand it vigorously.
- At present the company is having its presence in 50 countries, same needs to expand in at least another 100 countries in the days to come.
- Consider adopting engineering and management colleges to suit your requirements

Conclusion

- Best wishes for creating
- आत्मनिर्भर व विकसित भारत 2047