

MINDINDIA

Great Indian Mind is not a recent phenomenon. It goes back for many centuries. One can even talk of the preaching and learning from Geeta as strategy and planning of great minds. One can talk of Akbar and Birbal stories of who had solutions to practically all the intricacies of management. And we have all heard of Nalanda University and the invention of zero, without which no other technological inventions would have happened.

We have had noble prize winners and we have had many inventions to our credit. We have had successful business leaders and we have had innovative entrepreneurs as well as intrapreneurs. We have had great brains work at C-DAC and bring to the world the PARAM super computer. We have scientists working at ISRO achieving fantastic success in launching of various satellites, many missiles such as Devil, Prithvi, Akash, Trishul and Agni I and Agni II. Of course there is no dearth of examples.

But why talk only of the past. We have many examples of confident, innovative young Indians such as Anil & Mukesh Ambani of the Reliance Group, Satish Reddy of Dr. Reddy's Laboratories, Jerry Rao of Mphasis, Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw of Biocon, Nandan Nilekani of Infosys Technologies, and many more.

But we all have to admit that certainly it appears that technological creativity and productivity, just like scientific creativity and productivity lies in the minds and abilities of a relatively small number of highly talented individuals. These individuals wherever they worked contributed to the technological development for the Human race.

Our President, Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam, always emphasized on the importance of education in developing young minds and enabling them to have confidence and freedom. What does freedom mean to our young people? To them freedom means the liberty of making choices, of realizing dreams, and belonging to a democratic, progressive and egalitarian society. India today is a country where every boy and girl can dream of playing with only a bat in their hands, equipped with determination and a will to succeed. Education gives you this. From my personal experience of assisting young Indian minds, minds from Pune I come across new surprises every day. The young minds are totally unprecedented. They are confident, have poise and education seems to bring to these young girls magnified knowledge. Here I would like to illustrate a few examples of some of the areas in which my young LF are excelling. They are working in areas like computational Genomics, Radar & Landsat thematic mappers images, and optimal design of composite cylindrical shells using factors for Alzheimer disease, in diagnostic procedures for detection of breast cancer, deafness gene identification, flat panel displays and silicon field emitters, systems which would be accessible over the network in order to be used in space shuttle launchers (At NASA). Research on role of calcium in the percutaneous absorption of drugs across skins, on Liposomal drug delivery systems, secondary metabolism as phyto pharmaceuticals, marine drugs and antisense oligonucleotide therapy. It is mind boggling what these young Indian, Pune Minds are achieving.

As Indian industry becomes globally competitive it will require people with skills, which have to be again globally benchmarked and will have to be globally sourced. Thus there will be enhanced competition among institutions and also both Indian and foreign industrial R&D centers, will seek the best brains for their enterprises.

Let us look at the silent revolution that is taking place in our country. India is rapidly becoming a global research, design and development hub. More than one hundred companies around the world have set up their R&D centers in India, just during the last five years. Why? Because they find the Indian Mind very innovative. These centers are not small centers employing 10 or 20 people. Many of them employ over a thousand people. The biggest we all know would be the R&D center of GE at Bangalore. What is important to note is that around 40% of the 400 or so PHD's that they employ are young vibrant Indian Minds. This is also happening in all other R&D centers.

Moving this R&D work to a highly skilled and competitive country like India is the most effective solution that these innovative companies have found.

One feels at this stage that all the Indian Mind is being put to use for the advantage of global companies. But friends please note down that the India industry itself will also benefit in the long run. The researchers who will work in these non-Indian innovation enterprises will acquire insights and skills, which are difficult to acquire. All such Indians who have acquired superior skills working on advanced R&D tools as well as management skills would be available to the Indian Industry as well and also for solving the problems of our own country.

They would contribute to modernization of our agriculture and development of our rural economy. As ultimately we all know that fact that unless the millions of Indians in the rural India get the benefit of the new technologies, India would remain a poor nation. We would have millions of scientists working in sophisticated laboratories, during research, but we would have many more millions living in unbecoming conditions.

Until the India Mind works on changing this situation, we will not be able to change the face of our country. We have so much opportunities and so much to do. Let me assure you that it is a great time to be an Indian. Even more, it is a great time to be in India with a **MINDINDIA**. We must enjoy being a part of the action in this land of great past and even greater future.