

Speech by Vice Admiral Ganesh Mahadevan - Director General Naval Projects

What next, What next, and I was going through a period of some of the most exciting times that the Indian navy went through. The most interesting weapon projects that are now installed or are in the process of installation.

Whether it was the missile project done by the DRDO, all the software projects done partly This splendid of monopoly now lot of question arise on how the answer is simple, there are so many bright chaps in India the more will you get into it the more will you realise we can get the biggest little element that is missing. I will speak about this little element in a moment just to summarise all what I said that these were the two main driving issues that got me to start thinking about the Indian mind. Ok, let's start thinking about how it's...what's so different about the Indian mind from a British mind or a Russian mind or an American mind Chinese mind Japanese mind and I happened to have gone to the soviet union sometimes in the early 80's. I was there about 3-4 years and I also happen to have been there just by serendipity. After having done what is masters degree close to Russian language. So I didn't have a I was very fortunate and this got nothing to do with communalism or capitalism it was something to do with and it was a very peculiar thing that I don't see in my own country. You might know this small traces of when you read about Russia in the newspapers. The odd thing was that we were staying in a little town in Georgia which is no longer in the soviet union. The entire republic of Georgia had a population slightly less than the population of Bombay and this entire public had about 28 in the Olympic games, 3 price in the Nobel...I use to wonder about something is and I found that Georgia was

We were living in such a small little town, the only way you could live and be happy was to merge with the population live with them laugh with them attend their funerals

Patriotism is as follows:

-20 degrees temperature Tomatoes and potatoes came from a market about 1000 miles away.

And I thought about my own self. From my mother's side I'm from....from my father's side I'm from Kerala. I said wow. What a country I live in. All I need in life is two,one little rod with a hook so that I can catch a fish. And a,...which can give me shape when I ,,and that of course got me thinking thatso now let me come to the main thesis. "what makes the Indian mind so great" and what's so interesting about it. After defining my thesis I will try and say what is the future because I think I am sort of only decent thing I'm doing for the next generation or what lies,,,,,a way of life suddenly gets viewed/ weird as one of the ripest fruits for picking by iconoclastic invader Afghanistan and the north. the more

Got me thinking the thesis I wish to make that what's so great about the India mind. After defining my thesis I'll try and say what lies in the future.Because I think I'm sought of going in digging ,,therefore the only thing decent thing I could do is think for the next generation or what lies before us. A way of life suddenly gets viewed as one of the ripest fruits for the picking by iconoclastic invaders, Afghanistan and the north. The moment they come the historians start writing about it ..you might have read what farishta and you must have read about how mohd. Ghazni came,mohd ghauri came ,,and they even had fun naming a mountain called Hindukursh..We've all read about

persecution in the west we've heard all through history ..persecuted in Europe and I think the people of India persecuted ..they lived through it for centuries and they couldn't give a time as to what the invader thought for them they kept going away...Catholics at the depth of the period of the because the cruellest of times but then what did the Indian do. I'm sure you've got some believes...most people who came from outside had revealed religions and revealed religions are necessarily prescriptive religions. It prescribes almost everything and what India thought of was exactly opposite of prescription. The basic rule about our religion is that you can not prescribe anything. And so we gave rise to the Greek Jainism and Buddhism and we kept going on and on and on...the greatness of this...I mean people can come people can go people can talk. What Aurangzeb did, what jazia ,,if you go to math...exactly five centuries ago. And it continues to resolve with the greatest of the equanimity. Why I use this as my first point is that many of the people in our country are afraid of getting our youngsters go out, presuming that valentines day. I don't think that anybody can spoil an Indian, you can have a,,,,eating in the grandees of hotels, when he comes back he has to eat,,,, so one of the greatest strengths that the Indian mind has is its ability to live through others and stay to its conviction. there is a second point is its amazibility to assimilate like for example the full history is full of conquerors ..People say that it is in the nature of human beings and the nature of societies to go and conquer. Many people have written about it, historians have written about it, anthropologists, sociologist..Everybody.. but no body realizes that there is a phenomena; for the Indians, they are so corrosive, they are like the most harden people from Islam came to India. the British came, they got so upset...you might have read about and probably starting offering fishing feast from England. the government general had written to the parliament that please send some girls fast to get married to this guys ...because the Indians have this ,,way of sort of hypnotising others and assimilating compeletely..they did it for ages. if you go to Bombay, if you go to gujrat,,you drive from Bombay all the ways across you see reminds you of the parses who settled down there and who grew up there. The way we are able to assimilate people is one of our greatest strengths so these are the two great strengths and to my mind there is one extremely great weakness, now I speak of this weakness as an engineer, as a professional engineer, I am talking like a manager that I'm a manager in the Indian navy.. I've got a problem to solve. I've got to have a bunch of guys who can create a new navy for me and I honestly have a problem and I suspect that this problem is not restricted to me and the problem is that no matter how wonderful our universities are how great our IIT's ,,are, how perfect our engineering colleges are we don't seem to have that divine talent to light that spark in the boys mind that you have become an engineer only for one purpose that is to create something new. Now I had spoken sometime ago about my experience in Russia. I was amased..so let me come back to that point where I said I'll catch up on. I have read about who was the father of their hydrogen bomb,,,the moment he had finished his second year of college all he could do was the. That I have to create something new,,,and this has got nothing to do exclusively with Russia. I've mentioned Russia because that was my subject of study, if I were in America, I would have quoted this in America too. Finally one of the finest examples is a young guy called, who did chemistry in Harvard, the moment he comes out, what he does. he doesn't wants to have a job, he was to create something, and he created Polaroid operations ..take bill gates, perhaps if he were India ,,he'd be in a solid middle management positions in one of our good companies...so I've always wondered why we don't have that incredible fire to create something,,,why is it for example. this point I'm raising is most probable perceived by most provocative. Which I'd like it to be, because then this will give raise to discussion. I'll understand the issue better now I've got a theory as to why this happened. The theory is the cast system ... I'm defining the cast system from

an ethical point of view, from a religious point of view, from a moral point of view. I'm talking of the cast system from an engineers point of view, the cast system „well I don't know, whether the cast system prescribed it but in fact turned out to be that, that who is suppose to make a pot, only a potter, no body else, who is suppose to dance,,,somebody from a dancers family, who's suppose to swim, it has to be somebody from a fisherman's family and what is he suppose to teach his child and he's suppose to teach only his child and not teach others,,,therefore I suspect that there was something deeply in matrix in our socity..this will keep deep inside your consciousness. we are not supposed to do this. have become an engineer. the mother and father. better money and a few things appear superficially to have over come our long tribal problems, but I have a feeling that as an older generation we all need to think this is one ..attack and solve. if I see the „in the last 10 years then now the children have wider basket to choose for their profession. People are quite happy going for services. People are quite happy going catering not everybody wants to become a doctor or an engineer but society is wider, there are singers,artists,,there have been musicians who create and stuff like that so I feel that this is one our fundamental problems that we need to overcome. Now this obviously is open to discussion. now what about future, the future is amanzingly..there are two kinds of gains that affect the changes taking place in the society...exogenous and endogenous. you change endogenously because somebody does something „,somebody has decided that we do this or that and exogenous is a factor that comes from outside. I think a very useful exogenous factor is fathering outside doors, outside the doors if India. in, those of India, we've just come very fortune because I haven't mentioned one of the great tips of the factors of the Indian society that is population and obviously a solution has o be found to population. The rule of population is very simple. You've got one acre of land. One guy and his wife own it, after 20 yrs there would be three sons, after next 20 yrs the three sons got to have six sons, next 20 yrs those six sons going to have 12 sons and 1 acre of land is not going to become two acres. Therefore population is a problem that has to be solved by humanity,, there are very interesting solutions coming...after the 2nd world war American gio's went all over the Europe and Japan and when they came back they were absolutely fed up and they decided to have a great and warned is to have something called baby boom....an amazing spert in population. And a very interesting... because this generation cannot be different from other generations... they decide to change every theory that was there until then...they are one who created beetles and finally they were one who created George bush and bill Clinton and the interesting thing about the generation is that they are either, or they are dying. Another 10 years united states of America is not going to how to run their country. because there is not going to be anyone around and an identical situation exists in Europe. but very ...centuries ago the Indians. mind you I said two great... you go out you're not going to conquer. we have not conquered java...we've not conquered... we just gave them a message and the message was so powerful that even today it would,,,the current dynasty calls itself the rama raj...ehere s your capital... they said ayodhya therefore I think one of the greatest futures that lies before our youth is to repeat that amazing phenomenon that happened many many centuries ago. The world is just an apple ripped. To my mind that is the Indian mind..of course there are many more dimensions to it but I very consciously want to restrict it just to the scenario and feel that I have gained in my career. And of course that is going to finish of by using a line of a very very great hope song sung by Lewis Armstrong in 1967 and he said" I hear baby crying and I watch them grow but they'll learn much more than I ever know" and so I think to myself what a wonderful world.

