



ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE

Beacon For New India

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BHARATH GYAN SERIES
Bridging Worlds Thru Knowledge
Experience The Knowledge Of India

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Preface

This is a work to throw light on Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the man, who can be called the “Beacon For New India”.

During the penning of our work “Knowing New India”, there were many aspects of New India, which we found were ideas and seeds that were sown long ago

- some even during the struggle for freedom
- some soon after Independence and
- some as situations in India and the world developed the way they did.

Many of these we found could be traced to a handful of like minded visionaries of India besides those who played a key role in the freedom struggle and continued to play a key role in Governance post Independence.

Some of these visionaries and thought leaders were lost to India due to either abrupt and mysterious endings and yet others faded into oblivion due to various circumstances.

One of the few to have come a long way, from that time, with core of those thoughts intact and rounded further to become relevant for the times and surroundings was Shri. Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the founder of the Bharatiya Janata Party who went on to be sworn in as the Prime Minister of India, thrice.

There have been many leaders in the past and many in the present too in India.

But why is it that Vajpayee has been revered so much, by his partymen, his followers and immediate mentees?

Why has he been held in high esteem by many leaders, cutting across party lines and across the international community too?

Going through Vajpayee's life's achievements and his approach to politics and Governance, throws light on these questions and reveals the Beacon he had held.

One can find that it was not to do with the culture of reverence commonly found in India, alone.

It was also to do with the path of New India that he had shown them and put them on to.

It was to do with a respect for the struggles, disappointments, frustrations, compromises, patience and tolerance along with the long term commitment he had put in for ensuring that this proven, Indic thought comes into mainstream without getting lost in the melee of other ideas, idolizing and ideologies fashioned or borrowed from the West and East.

It was to acknowledge and pay respects for his having borne the torch, the beacon, that has come all the way, transcending many millennia and the minds of the many great administrators of ancient India, who had put India on the global map

- as a Leader to Seek Out,
- as a Soft Power to Embrace and
- as a Role Model to Emulate.

He was the Beacon For New India.

This work thus took shape as a tribute to this great leader who showed the path to New India and defined what New India should be all about.

A leader who threw light on the changes to be done within India to change its image outside India.

A leader who worked from Inside Out.

A "Consensus Colossus" in consensus.



Acknowledgement

We have been singularly fortunate to have been born in this land of ancient wisdom and seers, India.

We owe a lot to our parents who have brought us into this world and provided us with the right education, upbringing and guidance.

The values and traditions of this ancient civilization inculcated in us by our family and teachers are what have formed the basis for our work at Bharath Gyan.

We are indebted to our family and friends for their continued support and encouragement in our endeavour.

We owe a lot to our twin nephews who are a continued source of inspiration for us to write about all the knowledge we have gathered in our collation efforts and would like to leave behind for the next generations of not just India, but the world, to know about this great civilization called India.

Having embarked on our quest, many scholars, thinkers and students of the knowledge of India have come forward and helped us in our collation of the Bharath Gyan knowledgebase. Some have helped by offering data, while some others, through their questions that made us think and look for the data.

Many traditional scholars have patiently tolerated our inquisitiveness and have laboriously searched and retrieved from the ancient texts, the data we had requested of them and explained the same to us in simple layman terms. Without their mastery over old and new, their knowledge, their mind-set and support, this bridge from the ancient to the present day would never have been built.

Then faced with the task of dissemination, many friends and experts have come forward to help review our works and take it to stages of production. We owe a lot to their support without which our compilation could not have seen the light of the day.

We are thankful to Hon. Minister for External Affairs, Smt. Sushma Swaraj for requesting us to compile a few pages on the emerging New India for educating the Indian diaspora as part of Bharat Ko Janiye. Our “Knowing New India - A Transforming Story” book grew from this request.

When Hon. Prime Minister, Shri. Narendra Modi was shown our work “Knowing New India – A Transforming Story”, he suggested that we also write about the hand of the former Prime Minister and his mentor, Shri. Atal Bihari Vajpayee in this transformation. This book, “Atal Bihari Vajpayee – Beacon For New India” grew from this suggestion, as a prequel to it.

It was then, that we saw and realized what a big and beautiful picture it all was. We are grateful to Hon. Prime Minister, Shri. Narendra Modi for drawing our attention to this larger than life play of mentorship and we hope this book will succeed in drawing the attention of others too.

When it came to having to publish this book “Atal Bihari Vajpayee – Beacon For New India”, Sankrant Sanu of Garuda Prakashan came forward to publish the same. We acknowledge his timely support.

Overall, we are indebted to Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar for the faith reposed in us and our work and for offering us a platform, to share the knowledgebase we have collated as Bharath Gyan, with the community at large.

We would however be failing in our character, if we do not acknowledge, the unseen forces of Grace, which have connected us up with these

right sources of information and noble people, just in time, just as we were looking for the information and help. The list is therefore very long and words fail us to thank everyone sufficiently.

Hence, we take refuge in the all-encompassing words of the 18th century Indian poet Saint Thyagaraja –

Entbaro Mahanu Bhavulu Anthariki Vandanamulu

There are many noble persons as well as ancestors (behind this work) and we salute them all.