

## Indian challenges and Samarth Ramdas

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India is facing numerous challenges of 21<sup>st</sup> century. Economic, political, international challenges are underpinned by the deteriorating relationships with our neighbours. “String of Pearls” surrounding India may have the ability to strangle our maritime sovereignty while China is constantly threatening us with Pakistan and possible Myanmar with ever increasing attack preparedness.. In other words India is facing challenges of change! We say India is great! Is it true? Unfortunately this slogan remains on the paper or on the trucks!

It's been over 65 years since we got independence. However I don't think we are independent. We have become prisoners of political dynasties, nepotism, corruption, incompetent politicians. Morality values, traditions are being tampered each & every moment.

Society has become helpless, hopeless and despondent. However I strongly believe that the Great National Saint “Samarth Ramdas Swami's” teachings and thoughts, if practised to perfection, will guide us to face the challenges of 21<sup>st</sup> century and succeed. Samarth Ramdas Swami's teachings, thoughts are road map for India to become great nation once again to dominate the 21<sup>st</sup> century universally. Samarth period was from 1604 to 1682, over 375 years ago! In this period the world has changed beyond recognition, beyond imagination and yet even today Samarth

ideology will inspire us, motivate us, guide us to become great nation once again. Samarth Gospel are eternal, timeless treasures providing answer to every question, providing solution to every problem logically, practically, ethically and spiritually! The true strategic thinking!

I think the biggest most acute challenge India faces is population, population growth. Our population is over 1.2 billion (120 Crores). India is the second most populous country in the world. Within few years Indian population will be larger than Chinese. How mother India can provide food, clothing, shelter, education, health and good living to such a mammoth population? I believe everybody including politicians understand the gravity of this enormous problem. However politicians deliberately and for selfish motives do not talk on population explosion and do not act to curb population growth, just for votes. Some religions, as a gospel truth, encourage population growth, inspire and motivate to produce more children. Unfortunately the population which must grow, which will contribute to India's total upliftment is shrinking where as the population which will be sheer burden on mother India is rapidly growing, leaps and bounds.

No wonder, few centuries ago Samarth said:

लेंकुरें उदंड जालीं | तों ते लक्ष्मी निघोन गेली |  
बापडीं भिकेसी लागलीं | कांहीं खाया मिळेना ||१-३-४ ||

**Population has grown enormously | So the wealth disappeared spontaneously |  
Children started begging | But nothing is left for eating ||1-3-4||**

Samarth in "Daasbodh" thus very accurately describes the perils of population explosion and the reader is amazed by his exemplary vision, his ability to think centuries ahead and the dire necessity to check population growth.

A number of countries around the globe understood the implications of population growth on country's economy, welfare of society, multiplications of problems by large population and introduced strict measures to check and control population growth. And yet India thinks that the rate of economic growth will control the dangers of population growth!

Illiteracy is a curse to humanity anywhere, anytime. That too in 21<sup>st</sup> century it is shameful crime. Literacy is a key which opens doors to prosperous cultures, progress and total upliftment of human being. Since independence a number of programs, projects such as “सर्वसाक्षी अभियान” have been and are being implemented to educate India. In spite of employing massive resources, still 30% to 35% of Indians are illiterate. It is shameful failure of federal and state governments of India. It's the naked, sour truth. On the one hand we are planning moon expeditions and on the other hand scores of Indians can't read or write! “Reservation-Raj” is crippling our education system and freely distributing crutches to walk erect on the education path! Moreover how can we claim we are true democracy when millions of people have no access to education, cannot vote on educated understanding of problematic situations and measure the value of votes?

Samarth again comes here to guide! He Says:

विद्या नाही बुद्धी नाही | विवेक नाही साक्षेप नाही |  
कुशळता नाही व्याप नाही | म्हणोन प्राणी करंटा || ९-४-१० ||

No Education No Wisdom | No Descriiion No Analysis||  
No Skills No enterprise | So is born unworthy person ||9-4-10||

जाणता तो कार्य करी | नेणतां कांहींच न करी |  
जाणता तो पोट भरी | नेणता भीक मागे || ९-४-६ ||  
हें तों प्रकटचि असे | जर्नी पाहातां प्रत्यक्ष दिसे |  
विद्येवीण करंटा वसे | विद्या तो भाग्यवंत || ९-४-७ ||

Samarth preaches total eradication of illiteracy for holistic all round progress and prosperity of the nation. This great visionary's unparallel vision tells us to remove illiteracy and make our nation great again.

The less said is better about our leaders! Since the demise of the generation of our leaders, who fought for independence and governed the country for first decade or two, every successive generation of politicians thereafter is worse than the earlier one in geometric proportion! These incompetent, selfish, power hungry, heartless, moralsless, values less politicians have ruined the country, if not beyond repairs then definitely beyond imagination. No politician ever thinks of country's progress, society's welfare, preservation of history, heritage and values. The sole aim and

objective of each and every politician, barring few exceptions, is to grab as much money, power, land and all the known resources! Some time ago in prestigious 'Financial Times of London' commentator said that "India progresses during nights when politicians sleep!" This one sentence speaks volumes! No wonder our progress is deteriorating at rapid pace. If we compare India with other developing countries such as China, Korea, Brazil, South Africa, Malaysia and so forth, we realise their rate of growth, prosperity and progress is on higher scale because of their leader's steely, visionary, bright leadership. They take decision for the nation's well being and implement them with an authoritative vigour. Whereas our leaders are totally incompetent, weak and corrupt of first degree! India got freedom in 1947 while China became communist in 1949. Both these countries started walking on progress path more or less at the same time but see where China is today - head and shoulders above India in every respect!

Samarth describes the qualities, attributes, features of leaders and leadership very precisely. He says:

**Who is the good leader?**

दीर्घ सूचना आधीं कळे | सावधपणें तर्क प्रबळे |

जाणजाणोनि निवळे | येथायोग्य || ११-५-६ ||

राखों जाणें नीतिन्याय | न करी न करवी अन्याये |

कठीण प्रसंगीं उपाये | करूं जाणे || ११-५-१८ ||

घालून अकलेचा पवाड | व्हावें ब्रह्मांडाहून जाड |

तेथें कैचें आणिले द्वाड | करंटपण || १२-९-२९ ||

लोक बहुत शोधावे | त्यांचे अधिकार जाणावे |

जाणजाणोन धरावे | जवळी दुरी || ११-१०-२१ ||

गनीमाच्या देखतां फौजा | रणशूरांच्या फुफुरिती भुजा |

ऐसा पाहिजे किं राजा| कैपक्षी परमार्थी || १९ -९-२५ ||

तयास देखतां दुर्जन धाके| बैसवी प्रचितीचे तडाखे |

बंडपाषांडाचे वाखे| सहजचि होती || १९ -९ -२६ ||

**The one who gets, understands the warnings | Warnings breed vigilance, logical thinkings |**

**Understands problems, situations | Takes and implements right decisions ||**

**Observes morality, justice | Never allows injustice |**

**During hard times takes proper decisions | Executes the right decisions |**

**Finds the right people | Understands their abilities, capabilities and utilities |**

**Collects the right, able people | Avoids the incapable, wrong people and keeps them away |**

**Prepares the nation, nations armed forces modern and ready to defend |**

**Understands the strength, mite and preparedness of enemy armed forces |**

**Keeps the vigil and keep ready the country's armed forces to attack ||**

A leader should be such that criminals, enemies of the society should be scared of him. He should maintain law and order, peace and prosperity, health and wealth, joy and happiness.

Unfortunately today India has no such pragmatic, progressive leader who will look after the nation's welfare and progress.

Today our society has become hopeless, despondent and disappointed. Our corrupt politicians have become heartless, shameless, gutless, principle less and valueless. They have become selfish of the first degree and their behavior has become rude, arrogant, power hungry and money hungry. Their impotent administration can't allow common man even to exist, forget satisfactory and happy living. Common man cannot change this revolting situation and hence is always worried about the country

and self livelihood. During Samarth period the situation and circumstances were worse, horrible and hard. The population was suffering from the Mughal atrocities, cruelty, religious fundamentalism and terrorism against Hindu religion. The choice was either to convert to Islam or peril as Hindu, keep paying heavy taxes (such as Jizia tax) for being Hindu and keep on suffering endlessly.

Samarth transformed psyche of the society. He ignited, charged the society with his preachings. He prepared the common man to fight. He strengthened the society with his ever popular, effective “Mantra”.

समर्थाचिया सेचका वक्र पाहे। असा सर्व भुमंडळी कोण आहे ॥

**Who in the world can challenge the servant of the Lord?**

Further Samarth said:

कष्टेंविण फळ नाहीं। कष्टेंविण राज्य नाहीं

|केल्याविण होत नाहीं। साध्य जर्नी ॥ १८-७-३ ॥

उत्कट भव्य तेंचि घ्यावें। मळमळीत अवघेंचि टाकावें ।

निस्पृहपणें विख्यात व्हावें। भूमंडळीं ॥ १९-६-१५ ॥

शक्तीने मिळती राज्ये । युक्तीने यत्न होतसे ॥

शक्ती- युक्ति जाये ठाई । तेथे श्रीमंत धावती धावती ॥

ऐक सदेवपणाचें लक्षण। रिकाम्या जाऊं नेदी येक क्षण ।

प्रपंचवेवसायाचें ज्ञान। बरें पाहे ॥ ११-३-२४ ॥

**No fruit no success without hard work | No nation without hard work |**

**Nothing can be achieved without efforts | Take great, be after magnanimous things |**

**And leave mediocre, ordinary things, tasks | Strength, power conquers nations, kingdoms |**

**Wisdom keeps, maintains the nations kingdoms | Where strength, power and wisdom come together |**

**Prosperity runs there, lives there | Selflessly be popular, famous | In this world|**

**Do not waste a moment | Practice it forever ||**

Samarth taught the people, society how to behave, how to serve, how to build moral, physical strength and how to serve the society and the country. To make society fearless, to strengthen people he established the temples of Maruti or Hanuman, the deity of power, the god of strength. He said:

केल्याने होत आहे रे | आधी केलेची पाहिजे |

यत्न तो देव जाणावा | अंतरी धरिता बरे ||

**Things happen if you work | You have to keep on working for things to take shape|**

**Effort is God | Always remember it ||**

Another big problem facing the country is increasing materialism, enjoyment, “borrow & enjoy” attitude. No doubt since independence India has progressed and prospered economically, industrially and in all sectors of economy. But at the same time the gap in between “haves” and “have nots” has increased and is increasing. Just look at Mumbai where you find houses worth more than billions of dollars and slums living together. There are more millionaires in Mumbai than in Manhattan and world’s biggest slum Dharavi is also in Mumbai where millions of people exist in dirty small huts. India has certainly progressed and prospered and yet about 40% of population is living in poverty. Unfortunately this is bitter truth.

Are we economically, financially sound? I don’t think so! I think still we are in delicate situation. Rising fiscal and international trade deficit, shrinking exports, inflation and waste of resources have made economy vulnerable. Unless more economic reforms take place, unless we open up more economic sectors, we will not



be able to attract foreign direct investment. Reduced FDR will exacerbate the problem of huge debt. How are we going to stabilise economy, increase the rate of growth and masses out of poverty? Here again Samarth can guide us:

मेळविती तितुकें भक्षिती| ते कठीण काळीं मरोन जाती |दीर्घ सूचनेनें वर्तती| तेचि भले|| १८-७-६ ||

आधी प्रपंच करावा नेटका| मग घ्यावें परमार्थविवेका |येथें आळस करूं नका| विवेकी हो || १२-१-१ ||

प्रपंची जो सावधान| तो परमार्थ करील जाण |प्रपंची जो अप्रमाण| तो परमार्थी खोटा || १२-१-९ ||

**Those who consume whatever is earned | Won't be able to sustain the hard times |**

**Those who are cautious, frugal | Will surpass eventualities |**

**Live all walks of life in discipline and successfully | Then slowly detach from the world, serve the society in the name of God and renounce everything |**

**Those disciplined, cautious in life | Will live with satisfaction, peace and serve the society and God | Otherwise you will fail, miserably ||**

I haven't got anything against borrowing and enjoying the life. I think this is the order of the day! But any excesses in borrowing and spending will ultimately make life very difficult to live. To progress to prosper ethically, morally is the birthright of everyone. However Samarth advises to help other progress and prosper should be aim of "gentlemen". He says:

आपल्या पुरुषार्थवैभवे| बहुतांस सुखी करावे |

परंतु कष्टी करावे| हे राक्षेसी क्रिया || १२-१०-२७||

शरीर परोपकारी लावावे| बहुतांच्या कार्यास यावे |

उणें पडों नेदावे| कोणियेकाचें || १२-१०-५||



आडले जाकसलें जाणावें| यथानशक्ति कामास यावें |

मृदवचनें बोलत जावें| कोणीयेकासी || १२-१०-६||

भल्यांची महिमा ऐसी| जे सन्मार्ग लावी लोकांसी |

पोहणार असतां बुडतयासी| बुडों नेदावें || १२-१०-२४||

**Progress, prosper by hard, sincere, honest work | And make as many people happy as you can |**

**Don't trouble others, don't make other suffer | As it is demonic behaviour |**

**Try to understand the needs and wants of unfortunate people | And help them to be happy |**

**Try to satisfy the unfortunate people needs and wants | Try to help them |**

There are some of the acute and chronic problems India is suffering from. There are many more and yet Samarth has got answer to every question, solution to every problem! I think Samarth's teaching, philosophy can be summarised in 2 phrases - Conscience with balanced sense of propriety ( विवेक ) and Materialistic, spiritual detachment ( वैराग्य). If we practise Samarth's these two fundamental teachings in individual's and societal life, both the individual and the society will be happy, satisfactory and prosperous. Therefore Samarth teaches the "dicey mind":

जनीं निंद्य तें सर्व सोडूनि द्यावें।

जनीं वंद्य ते सर्व भावे करावे ॥२॥

मना सर्वथा नीति सोडूं नको हो।मना

अंतरीं सार वीचार राहो ॥४॥

**Leave what people don't likes, give up vices which people don't likes |**

Take up virtues which everybody like, practice acceptable to the society |  
Oh mind don't leave, give up ethical, moral and religious behaviour |  
Oh mind always think consciously |  
Oh mind don't wish, aspire for the wealth of others |  
Oh mind selfishness accumulates sins |  
Leave behind your virtues, your spiritual, moral, ethical memories and fame |  
Oh mind work for such remembrance |  
Live like sandalwood which purifies and perfumes the environment after  
burning |  
Lead life like thoroughbred gentleman |

॥ जय जय रघुवीर समर्थ ॥    ॥ Jay Jay Raghuveer Samarth ॥

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