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A Nation is not built; rather, people are built, and then able individuals build a Nation.

Japan, just a tiny nation in the Pacific, one tenth of the size of USA. Today it is world's third largest economy & technological Superpower, a leader in the cutting edge innovation....

However it was not always like this. After 1945 nuclear attacks on Hiroshima & Nagasaki it was nation of ashes and despair. But spirit of its people was high. They invested in each other, build trust and through relentless hardwork and collectivism they build Japan of their dreams from the ashes of 1945....

Indeed what makes nation is its people. Enlightened individuals ready to go that extra mile to build their nation is what makes gives nation its soul without which it is just a piece of land..

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Going further, the endeavour would be to dissect what nation actually is? How its people make it great? And why investing in people is what constitutes a real nation building? How can India leverage energy of its people to wipe out sufferings of masses.

Nation & People - one and the same

Swami Vivekananda once said nation is not strong because it has strong laws, large armies but it is strong because it has people with good character.

Though the nation as a concept is modern development describing people living in a particular area. The wave of Nationalism in Europe in 1800s led to emergence of nations. The infant nations then strived to build a home of their dreams be it glorious revolution in

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Britain or French revolution people engaged themselves in building a nation.

Even in India also last 75 years has been the journey of selfless people who gave themselves to the remaking of India as a nation. That the greatness of nations across world is not because it has resources, institutions but its people who built themselves first and then acted collectively to build nation.

for instance for a nation constitution is supreme but it cannot have constitutionalism without its people inculcating the democratic way of life. Even just having open economy is not guarantee for prosperity for nation unless it has people who are capable enough for innovations, for entrepreneurship for hardwork. As also the quest for Inclusive nation starts from building people with values of compassion, tolerance and equidity.

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That the manthon or task for building a nation starts from building people first. Making people capable, empowered and self-sufficient is the foundation for a building a nation.

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Nation for the people, people for the nation

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for any nation what is single most important resource is its people. The Human Resource if utilised and nurtured properly brings best of individuals who then contribute to nation building. Like after Independence India invested in IITs/ IIMs in ISRO, DRDO for building its Human capital. This human capital later delivered for nation. Be it Dr. Kalam who invested himself to make India a Responsible nuclear power or Dr. Vargiese Kurien who heralded milk revolution through frugal innovations in small town of Anand in Gujarat.

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Even India's freedom struggle invested in people like Vinoba Bhave who led Bhutan movement, Baba Amte who sacrificed his entire life for taking care of leprosy patient. That nation making is indeed a task of building leaders of tomorrow.

Across world it is strength & zeal of people who have build the nation. But to leverage the unbound energies of people they ~~build~~ must be build first through concentrated efforts on Human capital formation. Even Dr. Sen argued for investing in 'capability of Individual' by enabling people to develop themselves to develop a nation.

The recent focus of New Education policy on 'wholistic development of child' is also effort to build people. People who with their social, ethical & cognitive competence will guide the future trajectory of India.

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Even the efforts to realise Nati Shakti through women empowerment, focus on Health for all, focus on empowering self help groups, Cooperatives, local bodies ~~are~~ reflects the vitality of investing in People to build a nation.

That the whole edifice of Governance is to imbibe Swaraaj within everyone. Unless people are self-reliant a nation may not achieve Atm Nibhatta.

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further, ~~we~~ if we scrutinise why planning commission led centralised planning fall short of its goals be it failure of community development programme or sick PSUs. The prime reason was it failed to imbibe the aspirations of masses. Unless people own Responsibility of transforming themselves no country can be developed fully. Hence current focus by NITI Aayog to herald bottom up planning,

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Local innovations through local bodies like 'People's plan & Development as Janandolan' is to allow people to build themselves thereby nation.

However, the mute question is do nation realise the real worth of its people? Do they have willpower for building able individuals?

for people - still unrealised dreams

COVID19 displayed how our civilisation is fragile. The exodus of migrants from mighty cities showed how we treat our most marginalised people. The stagnant public expenditure in Health with 67% out of pocket expenditure by people, the commercialised profit driven education system and even the issues of nepotism, corruption patronage are denying people freedom to build themselves.

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That instead of creating able citizen nations are focussing on narrow identities, wars and xenophobia. The paradox that on one hand 10 million people sleep without meal and on the other  $\frac{1}{3}$ rd of food is being wasted everyday (FAO) points out to the fact how nations <sup>have</sup> ~~are~~ misguided policies.

The problems of malnutrition among children that 36% children in India are stunted, 20% wasted (NFHS-5) points out that people, rather than building nation are focussing on creating empire for themselves. That the people in power be it politicians bureaucrats <sup>if</sup> have ~~state~~ siloed, selfish outlook then chances are that they become liability for nation not asset.

Unless people realise their dreams of all round development their contribution to nation building will suffer.

and instead of bringing national development they may derail it.

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Investing in People - to shape destiny of nation

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nation are build brick by brick by its people. The able leaders brings transformational results. for building people capable of building a nation need is to focus on their development by investing in Human capital. Skilling people, giving them freedom to harness their creative spirit, nurturing their talent by merit and Handholding is the basis of strong nation.

Right socialisation along with value based education by educating the heart will help in building ethical humans. who in turn will guide moral compass of nation to build a egalitarian society. Also while building people need is to inculcate in them the

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Spirit of liberty, equality and fraternity.  
As without dutifulness what Greeks called  
as 'Nishkama Karma it is hard to build  
a vibrant social capital. Right knowledge,  
with right thinking will translate into right  
action.

further, nation cannot be built with  
only one wing the nation needs both its  
wings to fly high. women are those  
second wings. Invest As Kofi Annan said  
investing in women empowerment is  
investing in just development. National  
awakening needs women awakening.

finally, As India as a nation steps  
into its Amitkaal the collective energies  
and wisdom of its 140 crore people will  
be vital in shaping the journey ahead.  
Investing in building ethical leaders,  
emotionally competent youth, digitally  
empowered masses and community  
led Governance will go long way

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in making Amritkaal a era which will help India achieve its rightful place in the world while owning the Responsibility of leading the world".

As rightly said developing a nation, building it is not just about industries rather it is about industrious people like startups. It is not just about roads, ports & physical infrastructure rather it is about social capital formation. Indeed building a nation is not limited to technology but about self enlightened society. When people & individuals are build they build society and collective spirit of a inclusive society builds great nations.

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