

VOLUME - I

# GOOD GOVERNANCE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Good  
Governance  
&  
Sustainable  
Development

Editors

Dr. D. Devanathan & Dr. S. Prabakaran



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The Central Government will continue to discharge its responsibility to ensure remunerative prices for agricultural produce through announcement of Minimum Support Prices policy for major agricultural commodities. The food, nutrition and other domestic and exports requirements of the country will be kept in view while determining the support prices of different commodities. The price structure and trade mechanism will be continuously reviewed to ensure a favourable economic environment for the agriculture sector and to bring about an equitable balance between rural and urban incomes. The methodology used by the Commission on Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) in arriving at estimates of cost of production will be periodically reviewed. The price structure of both inputs and outputs will be monitored to ensure higher returns to the farmers and bring about cost effectiveness throughout the economy. Domestic market prices will be closely monitored to prevent distress sales by farmers. Public and cooperative agencies undertaking marketing operations, will be strengthened. The Government will enlarge the coverage of futures markets to minimize the wide fluctuations in commodity prices as also for hedging their risks. The endeavour will be to cover all important agricultural products under futures trading in course of time.

### **Management Reforms**

Effective implementation of policy initiatives will call for comprehensive reforms in the management of agriculture by Central and State Governments. Central Government will supplement/complement the State Governments' through regionally differentiated Work Plans, comprising crop/area/target group efforts specific interventions, formulated in an inter-active mode and implemented in a spirit of partnership with States. Central Government will move away from schematic approach to Macro-Management mode and assume a role of advocacy, articulation and facilitation to help States in their efforts towards achieving accelerated agricultural development. The Government will focus on quality aspects at all stages of farm operations from sowing to primary processing. The quality of inputs and other support services to farmers will be improved. Quality consciousness amongst farmers and agro-processors will be created. Grading and standardization of agricultural products will be promoted for export enhancement. Application of science and technology in agriculture will be promoted through a regular system of interface between S&T institutions and users/potential users, to make the sector globally competitive.

The database for agriculture sector should be strengthened to ensure greater reliability of estimates and forecasting which will help in the process of planning and policy making. Efforts have to be made to significantly improve and harness latest remote sensing and information technology to capture data, collate it, add value and disseminate it to appropriate destinations for managing the risk and in accelerating the growth process. The objective is to engage in a meaningful continuous dialogue with the external environment in the changing scenario and to have on-line and real time system of 'Agriculture on-line' capacity to analyze signals emanating from the farms and markets for the benefit of farmers.

## **India and Asean Security Initiatives Trough lookeast Policy**

**Dr.D.Ramakrishnan, Associate Professor in Political  
Science, PTMTM College, Ramnad, Tamil Nadu.**

### **Introduction**

In the post - Cold War period, India and the countries of ASEAN are confronted with new security issues which have opened up opportunities for cooperation. Notwithstanding the present Balkan crisis which has pitted the entire NATO against the former state of Yugoslavia, the end of the cold war by eliminating the ideological bases of conflict between the two Super Powers, the United States and the erstwhile Soviet Union has lessened the chances of any conflict between the major powers, thereby removing any possible uncertainties in the strategic environment of Europe. This has not happened in the case of Asia - Pacific which is home to some of the largest and key states of the world like Japan, China, India, Indonesia, Korea, Russia and the United States within its ambit and where exists a series of sovereignty disputes and military issues leading to an uncertain and complex security environment. With the disintegration of the Soviet Union and on the successor state Russia's decision to abdicate its status by withdrawing from its commitment to security overseas as well as its desire to forge a link of active cooperation with the western powers, the United States has undoubtedly emerged as the only Super Power in the world. In Asia - Pacific, the United States is the strongest power in terms of political, economic, technological and military capabilities, but that has not allowed it to determine the economic, political, security and other forms of interaction in the region unilaterally, essentially because of the existence of other powers, like Japan, China, Russia and India. These Asian powers may not have the wherewithal of power at the moment to challenge the supremacy of the United States but can deter its hegemonic role.

Three out of the sixteen world maritime chokepoints identified by the US Navy are spread across waters of the ASEAN region. The Malacca Straits (between Malaysia and Sumatra), Sunda Straits (Sumatra and Java), and Makassar Straits (between Borneo and Sulawesi) are passages between Indian and Pacific Oceans. These passages play a vital role in the international commerce and maritime activities. They also play a decisive role during international conflicts as demonstrated during the Second World War. India naturally has a stake in the peace and stability of this region owing



to its physical proximity. India cannot remain unmindful of the security concerns and power shifts in the Asia – Pacific.

With Myanmar becoming part of the ASEAN, India and ASEAN now share a land boundary. India shares maritime frontiers with three ASEAN members, viz. Indonesia, Thailand, and Myanmar. It also shares a long porous land border with Myanmar. Apart from this, it shares its exclusive economic zone (EEZ) with Malaysia. The presence of Indian Diaspora in the ASEAN region, especially in Malaysia and Singapore is another enduring bond. Thus India's security and prosperity are invariably linked to the well being of the ASEAN region.

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands, which are strategically located near the Straits of Malacca, are geographically closer to the ASEAN members than India. India signed maritime boundary demarcation treaties with Indonesia, Myanmar, and Thailand. Given the increasing salience of maritime trade and energy security for India, the safety of Sea Lanes of Communication (SLOCs) in the ASEAN region is crucial. India has recognized that a peaceful and prosperous ASEAN that straddles vital sea-lanes between the Indian and Pacific oceans is in its best interests.

### **The China and the US Factor**

ASEAN's strategic relationship with India cannot be viewed in isolation from the grouping's relations with other external powers. Indeed, China's future role, interests, capabilities and influence are a major concern to India as it is to ASEAN. India is specifically concerned about China's standing in the international order—not only its U.N. Security Council seat, but also its clout as a nuclear power. In both these dimensions India sees itself as a co-equal with China, and is at a loss to comprehend why China's role aspirations are acceptable while India's are not. The rapid rise of Beijing's status as an economic superpower since the Dengist reforms of the late 1970's is having an impact upon ASEAN's perceptions of its immediate big power neighbour. The modernization of China's military, especially its naval capability, has enabled Beijing to adopt a more assertive if not aggressive posture in the South China Sea— which has been a matter of growing concern to ASEAN states such as Malaysia, Vietnam, Brunei, and the Philippines, all of whom have overlapping claims in the Spratly chain.

The United States remains a major power significantly influencing the strategic equation in Asia. The strategic dominance of the U.S. in Asia since the demise of the Cold

War has usually been characterized by the term "unipolarity" America's only other rival for power and influence simply collapsed under the weight of Cold War competition and internal stagnation of the Soviet economy. The continued strategic dominance of the United States is a major feature of regional security at the turn of the 21st century.

### **The Indian Ocean and a New Security Paradigm**

In a tragic way, the tsunami disaster in December 2004 brought home the stark reality of the inextricable linkage in terms of human security between Southeast and South Asia. The catastrophe made no distinction between nationality, religion or ethnicity. Ironically, it acted as a grim reminder to the peoples in the whole region to think of themselves in a sense of totality rather than division. India's decision to immediately send ships and supplies to Sri Lanka, Maldives, Indonesia and Thailand demonstrated both its capacity and political will to rush help to its fellow South and Southeast Asian countries. This is clearly an integral part of India – Southeast Asia partnership.

The geographical and strategic linkage between the Pacific and the Indian Ocean for the maintenance of peace and stability of the entire Asia – Pacific region also assumes a new dimension in today's context. ASEAN, which in recent years had focused on the Pacific Ocean as well. This may not be easily feasible given the vast looming presence of Northeast Asia in ASEAN. Japan, China and Korea are principal economic players in this region, and China's influence is on a constant rise. However, the Southeast Asian countries and India's stakes in the Indian Ocean regions are no less and would have a long – term bearing on the security and prosperity of these countries. Terrorism has become a major concern for Southeast Asian countries, though with varying intensity. Vietnam, Laos and Myanmar are relatively less affected by it whereas it is a priority issue for Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and the Philippines. ASEAN has also entered into inter-regional co-operation with the United States, which has focused its attention on the issue of terrorism in the region and its linkage to Al-Qaeda. Combating terrorism is a priority concern for ASEAN and India, an area of convergence between the two. India has been facing the scourge of terrorism including cross-border terrorism for more than two decades. ASEAN countries, too, have witnessed for a long time senseless violence against innocent civilians in terrorist acts as well as in transnational crime and arms and drug trafficking. The issue of terrorism is complex with various ramifications. While



it is essential to go into the root causes of terrorism with a view to addressing them, trying to enter into a debate, which has been going on in different fora without any result, over the definition of terrorism or to delay action against terrorism by linking it to its root causes only obfuscates the issue. For the archipelagic region of Southeast Asia, which has Singapore and Malaysia, two economically advanced countries, Indonesia, the largest ASEAN member, Brunei, an oil-rich nation, and the Philippines, a long-established democracy with its widespread use of the English language like India, the interests and security issues could be different from that of the continental region of Southeast Asia. Here, maritime concerns such as the safety of the sea lanes of communications and the energy security in the Bay of Bengal, the South China Sea and the Malacca Strait; piracy, transnational crime and arms trafficking, and environmental issues connected with maritime activity would be of common interest. Consequently, the roles of the navies and coast guard organizations will become more prominent. India is increasingly looked upon by the countries of archipelagic Southeast Asia as a nation with a potentially major navy that can play a useful role in the region.

1. The strategic relevance of India to Asia including ASEAN and the wider Asia-Pacific could be summed up as follows: India's attempts to forge new political and economic alignments after the collapse of its erstwhile ally, the Soviet Union and the demise of the Cold War.
2. India's role as a counter weight to the other major powers especially China and Japan;
3. The current economic reforms in India away from central planning and towards greater marketisation and free enterprise, with significant consequences for international trade and investment.
4. The prospect of Indian technological cooperation with Southeast Asian states in the military and civilian sectors, serving as an alternative as well as additional source of purchases of sophisticated military technology and equipment for defence establishments in Southeast Asia;
5. The nuclear blasts conducted by New Delhi in May 1998, signifying its entry into, and desire for recognition as the world's sixth nuclear power after the United States, Russia, Britain, France, and China; and
6. The Indian naval presence in Southeast Asia

in the Andaman and Nicobar islands, carrying prospects of further expansion for strategic deployment in the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asian waters. India's strategic positioning as well as development of naval facilities in the Andaman and Nicobar archipelago are clearly designed to protect and promote the commercial, maritime and security interests of this rising Asian power in the next millennium. As India expands its security perimeter to encompass Southeast Asia and the wider Asia – Pacific, India will invariably have "to take into account a larger picture of threats, partners, resources and strategies".

### **Transnational Crime**

The frequency of trans border crime cannot be easily eliminated between the neighbours. In the region of Southeast and South Asia, which has high level of poverty and unemployment, this menace continues to be a major challenge. Consequently, illegal migration, drug and arms trafficking, trafficking in women and children, and money laundering are rampant with inter-linkages, between India and the countries of Southeast Asia. The existence of the Golden Triangle, spanning Thailand, Laos and Myanmar, which accounts for nearly 15 per cent of the world's illegal production of drugs, adds a major dimension to the transnational crime that emanates in the region. It is important to note that consumer demand primarily from developed countries is the main cause of the large-scale poppy cultivation in the Golden Triangle. India also gets linked to the drug menace through the smuggling of opium and heroin into India across the India-Myanmar border. According to the Myanmar authorities, beginning from 1998, significant seizures of smuggled precursor chemicals, needed for the production of methamphetamine tablets, and ephedrine were made annually on the border areas with India.

### **Multilateralism In Security: ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)**

After the end of the Cambodian crisis and the cold War, a more confident ASEAN looked to new and innovative ways to ensure its security. The driving impulse was provided by two perceptions – a shift of the U.S. strategic interest and a simultaneous rise of China's economic and military strength in the region. The Chinese claims on the sovereignty of the potentially oil-rich Spratly Islands in the South China Sea, which were contested by the Philippines, Malaysia,



Vietnam, Brunei and Taiwan, acted as an immediate cause to galvanize thinking among ASEAN to propose a multilateral security – related forum, the ARF, in the Asia-Pacific that would include all major powers. ASEAN's standing and prestige in the early 1990's helped it to persuade both the United States and China to join this grouping which was conceived as a platform for confidence-building and preventive diplomacy. ASEAN was to remain as the core of the ARF, with its "ASEAN Way" and well-established practice of *musyawarahdanmuafakat* (consultation and consensus) forming the guiding principles. The ARF was unique in that it had all the nuclear powers represented in it. The initial success of the Forum was marked by China's agreeing to the Manila Declaration in 1992. The Declaration called on all parties to "exercise restraint with a view to creating a positive climate for the eventual resolution of all disputes pertaining to the South China Sea". This led to the rapid institutionalization of the process and also to the raising of expectations that the ARF could be a harbinger of preventive diplomacy in the Asia-Pacific.

India and ASEAN saw a growing commonality in approach in dealing with the prickly security issues of the region. After its successful handling of the Cambodian conflict, ASEAN was already inclined to put greater emphasis on multilateralism in addressing Asia-Pacific security questions. India, which had generally not favoured discussing regional security issues with a bearing on its own core concerns in a multilateral framework, was by then increasingly more confident about participating in such groupings. Evidently ASEAN welcomed India's entry in the ARF as a factor for stability and peace in the region. India saw a new politico-security order evolving in the Asia-Pacific after the end of the Cold War and the break-up of the Soviet Union and therefore, viewed positively the opportunity of the multilateral security grouping. Despite its pan-Asian outlook and proactive stance in that direction in the early years of its independence, India had for several years been looked upon merely as a South Asian entity. With ARF membership, India saw a valuable chance to act and project itself on the wider Asia-Pacific scene. Diplomatically, India was thus seeking to break out of the limited South Asian confines where it had remained most of the time. On the other hand, India also had to accept a commitment that it would participate fully in discussions on regional situations which might have a direct or indirect bearing on its own security interests. In affirming that it will abide by the ARF's principles and live up to ASEAN's

hopes and expectation as a contributor to the maintenance of peace and stability in the region, India assumed a new role and responsibility on the wider security canvas of the Asia-Pacific and beyond.

ernizationprogrammes to varying degrees. They are enhancing existing capabilities as well as acquiring new capabilities. In 2003, the Indonesians announced plans to buy Sukhoi 30 fighters from Russia. India finalized its decision on jet trainer aircraft in 2004 and will be purchasing British Hawks. In 2003 India had signed an agreement for Israeli Falcon radar system while some of the Southeast Asian countries have also purchased Israeli military hardware. Thus, the problem of incompatibility, if any, should not pose any hurdle. For India, being cost competitive in defence equipment is a challenge that it needs to overcome. In the meantime, ASEAN and India should not let ideological or political predilections to come in the way of concrete co-operation in defence effort. India's defence modernization programme is proceeding steadily, and India has an extensive research and development programme. For ASEAN, the Indian option could provide an avenue to diversify its sources of defence weapons and equipment. For India, ASEAN can become an important partner in defence related advanced materials and Research and Development (R&D).

With regard to increasing the pace towards preventive diplomacy in the ARF there is no consensus within ASEAN itself. Considering their preoccupation with domestic political, security and economic challenges, ASEAN members seem to favour maintaining the status quo, a view not dissimilar to India's. On the question of chairmanship of the Forum, India shares and supports the view that ASEAN should continue to have the primary role in the ARF. India believes that the ARF as a process is based on certain norms and principles of state practices and experience of ASEAN countries. ASEAN's inability in some specific instances to provide the necessary security-related assistance in intramural situations does not necessarily negate the importance of the principles on which the ARF was based. Consequently in backing the view that the ARF should continue to be ASEAN –driven the validity of the basis of the ARF would be upheld and stressed. Pakistan was, admitted as a member at the ARF Jakarta meeting in July 2004 with the ARF expressing its expectation that Pakistan will contribute substantially to the war on terror. Pakistan gave an explicit assurance to the Chairman as well as to



India that it will not raise any bilateral issues between India and Pakistan at this Forum.

### Conclusion

India's predominance is seen by ASEAN as being marked in the entry of the US in Southeast Asia and the changing strategic relations between the major Asian powers like China and Japan. It is hoped that India would be a countervailing force vis-à-vis China and in the event of China's resorting to impinging upon US military expansion, India will emerge as a force to be reckoned with. Again the ASEAN initiated ARF should be viewed as a model for conflict management and resolution. ASEAN's initiatives to articulate the regional interests will contribute to recognition and reconciliation. Multi-lateral dialogue and cooperation are essential to enhance trust and reduce tension and hopefully stable, friendly and mutually beneficial relations between China, India and ASEAN will help to curb the resurgence of nationalism or neo-nationalism. India's active participation in the ARF's practice of preventive diplomacy will be important in India-ASEAN cooperation to reduce tension and enhance trust. India's acceptance into the Council for Security Cooperation in Asia - Pacific (CSCAP) symbolizes the understanding and constitutes an important step toward increasing bilateral cooperation with ASEAN in building a structure of peace and stability in the Asia - Pacific region. It is inevitable that India and ASEAN will forge a closer security partnership to enable them to play a constructive role in creating peace, stability and prosperity for the region.

### Women and Good Governance

**Dr. A.S. Mallika**, Head, Department of political science, Justice Basheer Ahmed Sayeed College for women, Chennai.

*"Good Governance is perhaps the single most factor in eradicating poverty and promoting development"*

*-Kofi Annan*

Osborne and Gaebler define governance as 'the process by which we collectively solve problems and meet our society's needs – government is the instrument that we use'. Governance encompasses not just government, but also the private sector and civil society, individuals and groups and the systems, procedures and processes in place for planning, management and decision-making.

Good governance has much to do with the ethical grounding of governance and must be evaluated with reference to specific norms and objectives as maybe laid down. It must have firm moorings to certain moral values and principles. The concept of good governance is much larger than mere administrative reforms in the conventional sense of the term.

### What constitutes Good Governance?

The United Nations Development Program [UNDP] has identified eight characteristics or principles of good governance which represent the ideal. These are: participation, rule of law, consensus oriented, accountable, transparent, responsive, effective and efficient, equitable and institutional capacity building. The UNDP sees the result of good governance as 'development that gives priority to poor, advances the cause of women, sustains the environment and creates needed opportunities for employment and other livelihoods.'

### Current Political Scenario

The Political Scenario in India today is characterised by a rather curious feature with most of the political parties and combination of parties accusing one and other of striving to subvert democratic institutions. Politics in India today faces grave threats. For a proper understanding of the current turmoil's and conflicts in this vast country into which gigantic social forces are being inexorably drawn, it is necessary to start the study with an analysis of the real nature of politics in India and its role in the course of socio-political development. Only on examinations of the nature and role of existing political institutions can lead to an understanding of the nature of subversive attacks on them and, consequently, of the imperatives for overcoming them. The debate on women's entry into politics in India is closely related to this analysis.

### An assessment of India's position

The basic nature of political system has to be judged by its actual working- by the resultant of the social processes it seeks to encourage, control and repress. The Constitution of India is based on the principles of equality and guarantees



# GOOD GOVERNANCE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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Editors

**Dr. D. Devanathan & Dr. S. Prabakaran**

Governance for development ought to be accountable, participatory, responsive, effective and efficient in implementing the rule of law thereby safeguarding the interest of citizens and marching towards a holistic development.

An array of academicians, economists, policy makers and others analysed the various issues and challenges of governance and development, finding creativeness and initiating robust solutions to achieve Good Governance and Sustainable Development.

Volume I of "Good Governance and Sustainable Development" comprises of two sections:

1. Political, Administrative and Legal Issues
2. Social and Economic Issues

This edited Volume I is the contribution of many eminent academicians, researchers and practioners. We hope this volume will provide immense help and an eye opener to all the researchers, planners and general public in their career and development.

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