

# **International Conference on The Idea of Bharat**

February 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017

*Each nation has a destiny to fulfill, each nation has a message to deliver, each nation has a mission accomplish. Therefore, from the every start, we must have to understand the mission of our own race, the destiny it has to fulfill, the place it has to occupy in the march of nations, the note which it has to contribute to the harmony of races.*

- Swami Vivekananda.

Bharat which is more a spirituo-cultural nation rather that a nation-state is unique in many aspects. Though constitutionally the country has two titles, while India denotes to the colonial understanding a geographical location, Bharat signifies the nationhood. The thousands of years of journey of this great people provides deep insights in the idea of statecraft, governance, individual-society relations, structures, purpose and methodology of education, organic relationship with nature, correlation between spiritual and material life and many more. Unfortunately, these aspects are not explored enough academically to make them relevant in the present context. On this background, BharatiyaShikshan Mandal is organizing a three days International Conference of researchers and intellectuals to unravel various aspects of idea of Bharat.

The most fundamental characteristic of Bharat is its ‘change with continuity’ approach rooted in the dynamic concept of Dharma (not religion). Dharma is the system that provides complete and comprehensive understanding of reason and relationship of different subjects and objects existing in the universe. The sage who have experienced and experimented with various techniques of enquiry within and without, provided insights for understanding and living a purposeful, healthy and happy life.

The obvious corollary of this Dharmic approach is experiencing oneness in the apparent diversity of the universe. It is not just unity in diversity but a constant realization that the essential spirit that exists in every being and non-being is the same. Still, it allows various unique ways to manifest it, hence the diversity. That is the reason Bharat has been the land of origin for so many sects and religions at the same time a homeland for almost all the denominations of world religions. Bharat has been a land of so many languages still, there were no differences or disputes on the basis of languages till the advent of post-colonial political state.

Another important aspects associated with the centrality of Dharma is spirituality as the basis of nationhood. Though Bharatiya thinking did not denounce the material aspects of life, it was governed by the Dharmic principles. Western living and purpose of nation-state is worldly,

power hungry and militaristic, while Bharatiya thinking is balanced, human and inclusive. These basic civilizational values and uniqueness has shaped much of Bharatiya world-view, philosophy, knowledge system, principles of statecraft, legality, literature, architecture, art music etc. Bharat was the historical extent of Bharatiya culture beyond the Bharatiya subcontinent.

The education and knowledge system of Bharat was basically decentralized and society nurtured rather than centralized – state driven structure. Though kings were facilitators in providing security to the educational institutions, the content and context of education was defined by the educators as per the need and nature of the pupils. The teachers or Gurus were placed at the highest pedestal in the society and their words used to be regarded as final and doctrine. There are many traits which can be explored in terms of pedagogy, teaching-learning and research methods in the present context.

The scientific knowledge of Bharat was never delinked from the spiritual knowledge. The centrality of zero is evident in both the spiritual and material realms. At the same time application part was equally important. Though technological application can definitely be assimilated from the Anglo-Saxon civilization, the basic principles must be stressed through the integral Bharatiya ethos.

What do we make of complete geography of Bharat described in the Sanskrit literature right from RigVeda through the other three Vedas, Brahmanas, Panini, Kautilya and various Puranas. What do we make of the concept of Bharat being the oldest living civilization of the world? If there was nothing like a Bharat then what the Greeks were looking and writing about? With whom, Arabs, Chinese etc., were doing trade and established diplomatic relations? Which country were the European travelers searching for? Which country was known around the world “sonekeechidiya” Land of Golden sparrow?

The fact remains that no other country is blessed with such a continuous corpus of literature in the realm of intellectual disciplines like mathematic, astronomy, medicine, metallurgy, polity, social philosophy and indeed the pure philosophy. This is the country which gave the holistic concept of vasudhaivkutumbakam, ekam sat bhudhavigyanam and atithi devo bhav. It is Bharat only which recognizes the entire nature as a single entity and right to life for all living being.

### **Objectives of the Conference**

Bharat is the fortunate land where we have had the resources and the thoughts of intellectual giants and stalwarts of knowledge and civilization as Bharadwaj, GautamBudhdha, Nagarjuna, to scholars in Nalanda – TakshashilaVishvavidyalaya to Kautilya to Swami Vivekananda, Maharshi Arvind, Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia and PanditDeenUpadhyaya. These great scholars would themselves warn us about following anything or any system blindly. They insist that our actions should be based on our intellect, need, welfare of the world, and the practicality of the situation all of which come together when one follows what is one's Dharma. From the past, through the present, to the future is their mantra, which is in tune with the Bharatiya ethos.

We here in the BharatiyaShikshan Mandal are trying to judiciously use our resources for the betterment of the system and for which we need to keep meeting in form of intellectual sessions and conferences where we could do the required churning of thought and knowledge and put the right policy perspective on science and technology, society, ethics, Dharma, health, medicine, laws and legality, studying history writing etc. in respect of the Bharat. An all-inclusive effort can only make this exercise beneficial for us.

The conference aims at contributing a new paradigm, an innovative method of improving the existing knowledge and its structures. By taking along the expertise, experience and knowledge of the participants in this conference, better alternatives to the existing system of knowledge could be built. This conference like the earlier conferences of the Shikshan Mandal would be an epoch making exercise in this spirit.

This conference should be a thorough churning of knowledge and in this case first emphasis should be bringing forward challenging as well as constructive ideas for understanding the idea of Bharat and the way Bharat sees the world mutually. In the spheres of science, technology and health and medicine, this conference can be a paradigm shift in extending the existing knowledge of medicine to a new level where Bharat becomes completely capable of curing its people and also teaching other civilizations, better means of well-being.

**The objectives of the conference can be summarized as –**

- (i) To rekindle the basic postulates that constitutes the idea of Bharat, that we cherished for thousands of years; and
- (ii) to revisit the fundamentals with applied approach in the present context;
- (iii) to encourage the researchers and scholars to evolve a Bharatiya paradigm of understanding and analyzing phenomena, social, scientific, legal, commercial etc. through quality research
- (iv) To invite a variety of well researched approaches towards the idea of Bharat from across the corners of the world.

**The sub-themes of the Conference are as below:**

- 1) Society Driven Education For All
  - Character Building Education
  - Contextual Content Generation
  - Indigenous Historical Prospectus
  - Teacher Education
- 2) Delivery System Righteous Prosperity
  - Entrepreneurship society
  - Bharatiya Trading System – Decentralized and Resource based Human centric production
  - Global trade outreach
  - Benevolent Governance

- 3) Nature friendly Productive Agriculture
- 4) To evolve ideal social order
  - Law to live not to Punish
  - Self Restrain Vs Legal Restrain
  - Complementarily Relationship – Individual, family, society
  - Spiritual Autonomy and Moral Collectivism
  - Law of Being
- 5) Science and Technology
  - Concept of Time
  - Science and Spirituality
  - Ancient roots of science and technology
  - Socially Relevant Technology
  - Holistic concept of Wellness
- 6) Art and Aesthetic
  - Art for Education and Enlightenment
  - Art for Entertainment and Inclusion
  - Art for Performance and Self actualization
  - Art for Exhibition and tradition
  - Art for Betterment and Divinity
- 7) Global Vision
  - Family value for World peace
  - Cooperative International Relationship
  - Celebration of Diversity
  - Benevolent Science
  - Optimum Utilisation of Resources