

# THIRD CONCEPT

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- ❖ **US Global Empire**
- ❖ **India-Bangladesh Relations**
- ❖ **WTO & Developing Countries**
- ❖ **Water as Human Right**
- ❖ **Tagore on Environment**
- ❖ **Gandhi & HRD**



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**Third Concept** aims at providing a platform where a meaningful exchange of ideas can take place among the people of the Third World. The attempt will be to communicate, debate and disseminate information, ideas and alternatives for the resolution of the common problems facing humankind. We welcome contributions from academics, journalists and even from those who may never have published anything before. The only requirement is a concern for and desire to understand and take the issue of our time. Contributions may be descriptive, analytical or theoretical. They may be in the form of original articles, reactions to previous contributions, or even a comment on a prevailing situation. All contributions, neatly typed in double space, may be addressed to:

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## INSIDE

Editorial	
Independence Day	5
<i>B.K.</i>	
The US Global Empire Today	7
<i>Eddie J. Girdner</i>	
India-Bangladesh Relations in 21st Century	16
<i>Dr. S.P.Vats &amp; Yogender S. Rangi</i>	
WTO Dispute Settlement Mechanism & Developing Countries	25
<i>Biranchi N.P. Panda</i>	
Nehru: Nationalist to Internationalist	34
<i>Rohit Kumar &amp; Balbir Singh</i>	
Water as a Human Right	37
<i>Dr. Monica Chutani</i>	
Tagore's approach to Environment	40
<i>Ms. Bhabani Saharia</i>	
Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and Development	43
<i>Farooq A. Bakloo &amp; Asma</i>	
Gandhi on Environment	46
<i>Shesanjali Panda</i>	
Gandhi and Human Resources Development	50
<i>Dr. Sunita Samal</i>	
Jajmani System in Yadgir District	53
<i>Raghavendra Mallanna &amp; Dr.L.Srinivas</i>	
Indo – US Nuclear Agreement	56
<i>E. Elaiyasundarrajan</i>	

## Independence Day

Observance of Independence Day on 15 August each year has seemingly become an annual ritual for most of us who celebrate it like any other national holiday without understanding its real significance. Our political leaders have also come to regard the occasion as a mere ritual which is observed by assembling at Red Fort where national flag is unfurled to be followed by Prime Minister of the day addressing the nation from the ramparts of Red Fort.

How many of us comprehend the real import of our tryst with India's destiny, which Nehru made us to understand at the stroke of the midnight on the eve of Independence is a debatable matter at this juncture. On that occasion Nehru had reminded us: "It is fitting that at this solemn moment, we take the pledge of dedication to the service of India and its people and to the still larger cause of humanity." Our jawans on the borders and the framing community are among those who are fulfilling this pledge of dedication to the service of the nation in true sense of the term. There are hard working, noble hearted and honest officials also who fall in this category, albeit they constitute a minority. This band of dedicated people is a neglected lot. One Rank-One Pension promise remains unimplemented. Farmers are committing suicides without getting any attention from the present dispensation at the helm.

Scams have become the order of the day and scammers get scot-free by hoodwinking the system through legal loopholes or political patronage and law stares to the face of the poor and marginalized people. Those who command political, monetary and muscle power are the real beneficiaries of this so-called Independence. Commitment to the nation has become a far cry. It is considered to be the duty of the poor and down-trodden, and majority of them are already reeling under appalling poverty, mal-nutrition and lack of adequate healthcare facilities. We are reminded of President Eisenhower's sane advice: "Freedom has its life in the hearts, the actions, the spirit of men and so it must be daily earned and refreshed – else like a flower cut from its life-giving roots, it will wither and die." Time has come for the political class to undertake a serious introspection and change its discourse. Indulgence in populist rhetoric to grab power by hoodwinking the masses even in this age of Internet and social media and ignore the mass aspirations is not going to last long. New breed of leadership should emerge to guide the destiny of the nation in a right direction. The old stereotyped leadership is dominating almost all political parties, which seldom allows the youth to come to the forefront and take the lead.

This obsolete system needs to be transformed and replaced by those who believe in: "Ask not what India can do for me, but ask what I can do for India." Young leadership with this set of thinking can really transform India. Thomas Paine has aptly observed: "Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom, must, like men, undergo the fatigue of supporting it." Frankly speaking, there is no dearth of talent and leadership qualities among country's youth. Tragedy is that corruption, nepotism, political interference and red-tapism disallows such talent to emerge to the fore. Many reality shows telecast by the electronic media from time to time attest to the fact that there is no dearth of talent in the country and what is needed is to hunt them and prune them for the task of national reconstruction.

Those who should shoulder this responsibility are scared of this very idea for fear of losing their privileged position and power. However, the prevalent system of patronage and parasitism is not going to last for long because 'the old order changes, yielding its place to new' is on the way and another Independence Day in the near future may see someone like Lal Bahadur Shastri hoisting the Tricolour at Red Fort.

Hope sustains life and India's hope is the hope of its 1.2 billion people which cannot be belied because:

Life laughs at you when you are unhappy ....

Life smiles at you when you are happy .....

But, Life salutes you when you make others happy

— BK