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#Thread

This thread is dedicated to one of the most underrated Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, whose tenure from 1998-2004 created a road map for the new India. We will discuss in details, his ideas, policies & vision which was far ahead of his era.

Iron Man of India■■■



When we talk about Vajpayee ji the first thing which comes to our mind is the Pokhran Nuclear test. No PM before him had the courage to conduct a test & take the West head on. Nuclear test changed India forever & it was a stepping stone in India's journey to become Super Power.



1/7

A sudden decision

Twenty years ago today, a sudden announcement by then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and his national security adviser, Brajesh Mishra, turned India's world upside down. On 11th and 13th May, India conducted a set of five nuclear tests, stunning the world. Those tests set India on a road that led to a global acknowledgement of India not merely a nuclear power. Very simply, it helped to get the global high table to make space for India.



Most of you must not be aware that conducting a nuclear test wasn't so easy. US Ambassador says after his meeting with Vajpayee in 1996, he was convinced that Vajpayee will conduct the Nuclear test & US ensured Vajpayee doesn't come to

power. 13 days in office & his govt fell

- The same INR report cited the signs of activity at the test site that began in November 1995, including improvements in security and “infrastructural upgrades,” and that made the Clinton administration worry that Rao might authorize a test.

- An August 1996 conversation between Ambassador Frank Wisner and BJP leader and future prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. According to an embassy message, Vajpayee’s “body language” indicated that he “would favor a test.”

Two years later on 11 and 13 May 1998, under Vajpayee’s leadership, the Indians held

PV Narsimha Rao was pure mercenary of US coz the IMF had bailed out India in 1991 & he had no courage to against US. Vajpayee said a country like India cannot be afraid of economic sanctions, we should look ahead for our future. US put sanctions on India but that didn't affect us

The government led by Prime Minister Vajpayee was willing to undergo the pain of economic suffering that these economic sanctions bought with them, than to agree to the demands of the global community. The Nehru–Gandhian ideology of self-reliance, along with the Hindutva ideology, played a very important role in India developing a hard policy position on the de-nuclearization issue. India has continuously suggested that it is a reluctant nuclear power, and has historically argued regarding the futility of possessing nuclear weapons. However, ‘Indian policy makers also suggest that although global nuclear disarmament is desirable, it is not feasible. The process of developing an ideology is part of the evolutionary process of a nation state, and India is attempting to locate itself within Nehru’s idealism, the western world’s realism, and its desire to be a counted as a major global power’ (Chakravarthi 2009). ‘There has indeed been a gradual evolution in India’s nuclear trajectory, which has revealed a transformation in India’s strategic thinking from the Gandhian brand of moralistic politics to one of a militarized thinking – a transformation justified given the geo-strategic insecurities facing the Indian polity’ (Das 2010).

As a result, the Indian policy community found US demands of de-nuclearization, to sign the NPT and to accept the terms of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty both morally and strategically unacceptable. In an interview, the then Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee remarked:

‘(Economic) sanctions cannot and will not hurt us. India will not be cowed down by any such threats and punitive steps. India has the sanction of her own past glory and future vision to become strong – in every sense of the term’ (Chawla 1998).

Although these sanctions did have a marginal impact on the Indian economy, but they failed to have any effect on the nuclear policies of the Indian government. Eventually, these economic sanctions were quietly lifted by President Clinton in May 2000, and officially revoked by President George Bush in 2001 (Hindu 2001).

Another important event in Vajpayee era was 1999 Kargil war & many war veterans describe Vajpayee as tactical genius who turned a strategic loss into a massive victory. Army played a huge role but even Air Force & Navy played vital role in

that war.

Plus his diplomacy was crucial

Kargil: Vajpayee turned a strategic loss to massive victory

By Anuj Cariappa

Published: June 29 2019, 6:07 [IST]



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New Delhi, June 29: During the Kargil conflict, the then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee was reluctant to use the Air Force and refused to give it permission to cross the Line of Control, former Air chief Anil Tipnis said on Friday.

Speaking at the launch of a book titled 'A Prime Minister to remember: Memories of a military chief', penned by former Navy chief Sushil Kumar, Tipnis recalled a meeting he and the then Army chief Ved Malik had with Vajpayee during the 1999 Kargil fighting.



Navy's role in 1999 Kargil war is less known to majority. Navy created a blockade around the Pakistan sea coast which blocked goods carrier ships to Pak.

Pak was short of fuel & their fuel reserve was almost less than a week. They had to withdraw frm war, as they couldn't sustain



role of navy in kargil war



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The Indian Navy also **prepared to blockade the Pakistani ports** (primarily the Karachi port) to cut off supply routes under Operation Talwar. The Indian Navy's western and eastern fleets joined in the North Arabian Sea and began aggressive patrols and threatened to cut Pakistan's sea trade.

Result: Indian victory: India regains possession of [Kargil](#)

Location: [Kargil district, Jammu and Kashmir](#) (now Ladakh), India

Date: 3 May – 26 July 1999; (2 months, 3 weeks and 2 days)

 [https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kargil_War)



[Kargil War - Wikipedia](#)

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Looking at economic parameters, Vajpayee's economic performance was far superior to that of PVNR & Manmohan Singh era. When Vajpayee handed over economy to MMS, GDP growth rate was 8%+ & inflation was less than 4%
When MMS handed over to Modi GDP was 5% & inflation was around 10%

His bigger achievements were on the economic front. He carried on the spirit of economic reforms introduced by the PV Narsimha Rao government in 1991. When Manmohan Singh took over from Vajpayee in 2004, the economy was in a great shape—the GDP rate was above 8 per cent, inflation was below 4 per cent and foreign exchange reserves were overflowing.

The steps Vajpayee took on the economic front not only gave his party, the BJP, the image of a true economic right-wing hitherto viewed as a nativist party not comfortable with

modern trends, but also put India on

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Look at the inflation figures of the Vajpayee era, the rate was constantly under 4%. Whereas if you see inflation in the Manmohan Singh era, it was mainly in double digits. The difference lies in the policies of both the Prime Ministers.

Clearly Vajpayee was miles above Manmohan

2014		5.8%
2013		9.4%
2012		10%
2011		9.5%
2010	MMS	10.53%
2009		12.31%
2008		9.09%
2007		6.2%
2006		6.7%
2005		4.4%

2004		3.82%
2003		3.86%
2002	ABV	3.98%
2001		4.31%
2000		3.83%
1999		5.7%
1998		13.13%

Lets look at Dollar prices during the Vajpayee era and compare it with the Manmohan era.

1998- ■ 39.5

2004- ■ 44.5

2014- ■ 63

During 6 yr tenure of Vajpayee the difference in dollar price was just ■5 wheras Manmohan made Dollar prices to rise 1.5 times compared to ABV era

Similarly, lets compare the Petrol prices in Vajpayee era with the Manmohan's era

1998- ■ 24

2004- ■ 35

2014- ■ 77

Petrol prices hiked by ■ 10 in the Vajpayee era whereas petrol prices almost doubled by the end of Manmohan era. By 2013 it was above 80, with petrol bonds ■

One of the flagship project of Vajpayee era was Golden Quadrilateral project where all four metro cities were connected by national highway. Vajpayee said better infrastructure is the only way to bring development. Modi has continued whr Vajpayee ji left. Our Infra getting strong

thumping majority.

The remarkable schemes launched by Atalji to strengthen the Indian economy operates as precursor for today's economic development. When he left office, GDP was 8.4 per cent, inflation was below 4 per cent and foreign exchange reserves were also quite good. Needless to say, that UPA-I got the benefit of good economic conditions in the coming years.

Like the lines of fate, roads are the road to progress, whether it is 'Bharat' (rural area) or 'India' (urban area), the country has witnessed massive infrastructure development. The Golden Quadrilateral project connecting the four metropolitan cities- Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata helped India attract foreign direct investment and will always remain a major pride of NDA-I. The project was modelled on the lines of the US National Highway System. Vajpayee firmly believed that development of construction and infrastructure would act as a harbinger of economic growth. The project revived the demand for steel and cement and gave impetus to the commerce and real estate sectors. Another contribution by Vajpayee in developing the country's dying infrastructure is the launch of a rural road scheme called Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana (PMGSY). The objective of this project was to provide all-weather connectivity to the villages till then unconnected.

This allowed small and marginal farmers to find a better market for their produce; Due to lack of holding capacity, they were earlier forced to sell it

Another flagship scheme was Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, where 171k habitats were identified which could be connected via roads & since its inception in 2001, 166k habitats are being connected wid roads, which brings rural India in the mainstream & its remarkable achievement

PMGSY- Road Travelled So Far and the Path Ahead

As this Lok Sabha [reply](#) details:

- Out of 1,78,184 habitations as per Census, 2001 identified for coverage under PMGSY, 1,71,655 habitations have been found feasible.
- Of this, 1,66,209 habitations have been connected through all-weather roads as on June 30, 2019.
- Since the inception of the scheme, a total of 6,01,779 kms roads have been completed under the various interventions/verticals of the scheme.

So, what is the budget allocation for year for rural roads and what exactly does PMGSY-3 mean? Since 97% of the rural habitations are already connected, now the government has

Vajpayee was fan of disinvestment whr he said Gov's job is to govern & not to run businesses. He sold many imp PSU to private sector which accelerated growth in those sectors, especially telecom. Modi has taken forward same legacy whr recently Air India was sold to Tata Group.

Vajpayee's commitment to reducing the government role in running businesses and industry was reflected in the formation of a separate disinvestment ministry. The most important disinvestments were Bharat Aluminium Company (BALCO) and Hindustan Zinc, Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Limited and VSNL. These initiatives of the Vajpayee government, not free from controversies, set the tone for the government's role in future.

Vajpayee was the architect of the telecom revolution in India, whr he opened the telecom market in 1999 & his IT policy Act of 2000 was the stepping stone for today's digital India whr policies were made for e-commerce & digital currency. Modi once again working on same principle

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[9th June, 2000] An **Act to provide legal recognition for transactions carried out by means of electronic data interchange and other means** of electronic communication, commonly referred to as "electronic commerce", which involve the use of alternatives to paper-based methods of communication and storage of information, ...

 <https://eprocure.gov.in> › cppp

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Information Technology Act, 2000

In 2021, India's first river linking project got all the necessary approvals & in Budget 2022, Nirmala ji allocated funds for the river linking project. The foundation stone was laid by Vajpayee, who envisioned how we can control draughts & flood, to conserve river water

“The agreement heralds the beginning of inter-state cooperation to implement the vision of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee to carry water from areas that have surplus water to drought-prone and water deficit areas, through the interlinking of rivers. 22 Mar 2021



<https://www.livemint.com> › india › f...



First river interlinking project to be signed today - Mint

Manmohan Singh put complete roadblock in the river linking project saying there are environmental issues to realise this project. Manmohan was always driven by the NGO's who are the backbone of the Left ecosystem which will try to stall all important infra projects of India.

The project **mitigates the effects of drought and climate change in India** by connecting the country's northern and southern rivers. ... There are environmental concerns,” India's Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh, said at the Hindustan Times Leadership Summit this weekend, Outlook India reports.

“Expert opinion will be taken. 3 Nov 2009



<https://www.circleofblue.org> › world



India's Leaders Argue Over River Linking Plan - Circle of Blue

Let's not forget that it was Vajpayee ji who started excavation of the Janmabhoomi in Ayodhya, the ASI report of 2003 presented irrefutable evidences in the court whr finally the judgement came in the favour of Shree Ram. Unfortunately Vajpayee ji passed a year before the verdict

One need not go beyond this description because the findings confirm the views of the Hindus that a Hindu temple (dedicated to Lord Ram) was destroyed to build a shrine just above it. One reiterates the view that this evidence ultimately resulted in the decision of the Court not to shift “Ram Lalla” from the place He is occupying now and one has to thank AB Vajpayee again and again for facilitating the orders of the Court to carry on excavation at the disputed site”

This irrefutable evidence has not been liked by many “intellectual” archaeologists and historians some of whom expressed doubts about the efficacy of the findings of the ASI. One such opinion was that of the “secular” archaeologist Irfan Habib, who said: “It’s not a logical judgment with so many parts going 2-1. One does not accept the logicity of the judgment.” He said that the judgment appears to legitimise the events of 1949. He also expressed surprise that the two judges questioned the date of construction of the Babri Masjid as well as the involvement of emperor Babar or his commander Mir Baqi since there have been clear inscriptions to this effect before the demolition. Other historians like DN Jha, Supriya

Another game changer was the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan whr kids in the age group of 6-14 yrs were entitled to get free elementary education. Within 4 years of its launch, the drop out rate came down by 60%. India started its new journey towards educating rural India.

5. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

It was a social scheme to provide universal access to free elementary education for children aged 6-14 years. Within four years of its launch in 2001, the number of out-of-school children dropped by 60 per cent.

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Vajpayee played important role in the Indo-China relationship. He was instrumental in 1979 as External Affairs Minister & in 2003, he laid another foundation stone in the trade between 2 emerging economies. This policy definitely helped both the nations in overcoming trade issues

Vajpayee leaves behind a lasting legacy in India-China relations



By Abhishek G Bhaya 

“As two of the world’s largest and most populous developing countries, India and China should remain in close touch on global issues of concern to developing countries,” former Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee said during his landmark visit to China in 2003, setting the foundation of cooperation between the Asian neighbors that has led to a range of bilateral and multilateral engagements ever since.

Vajpayee was also a genius when it comes to foreign policies. He had set a perfect balance in his relationship with US & Russia. US which had initially put sanctions after Pokhran test, had withdrawn those sanctions & were extending their hand in trade & military agreements.

Talking about Vajpayee, Mr Jaishankar said, "If we are to look at the essence of his approach to international relations, it is evident that it focuses on responding effectively to global changes." Where the United States was concerned, the former prime minister introduced policy corrections that reflected the end of the Cold War and the new global balance, he added.

"At the same time, he kept India's course steady vis-a-vis Russia, despite the turbulence of that era. With China, whether as the foreign minister or as the prime minister, he sought a modus vivendi that was based as much on mutual respect as on mutual interest," Jaishankar said.

With Pakistan, Vajpayee strenuously tried to dissuade the neighbouring country from its path of sponsoring cross-border terrorism, he said.

In 2003, India signed an agreement with Tajikistan Gov to operate Air Bases in Tajikistan which were abandoned by Russia in 1980's. They paid 10 Million dollar to develop Farkhor Air base & later spent 70 Million to develop Ayin Airbase, right on the head of Pakistan.

In 2002, the news leaked that India was setting up an airbase at Farkhor and the Indian government has to accept that. Russian assistance was also involved in the process. The airbase was in a rundown condition as it was not used since the 1980s when the Soviets abandoned it. The Indian Government issued a \$10 million tender to a private builder in 2003 to restore the airbase by 2005. But the builder defaulted and the Border Roads Organisation jumped into action to complete the work. By 2006 there were reports that the Indian government was considering the deployment of a squadron of Mig 29 at Farkhor airbase.

India also spent 70 million dollars to completely renovate and modernize the Ayni Airbase. India constructed a 3200

In 2002, Vajpayee signed a strategic Military agreement with United States where logistic information, military information will be shared between the two countries. It was very crucial step to counter Pakistan on the international level & now India was emerging as a vital player

Since 2002, India and US have gradually upped their military ties by signing a series of strategic agreements. Here's what each of them brings to the table

India and the US inked the long-pending Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) — a key military pact on geo-spatial cooperation during the recently concluded '2+2' Indo-US Talks on October 27. With this, the two countries now have four agreements that cover areas of military information, logistics exchange, compatibility, and security between them.

All of them are foundational defence pacts that a country needs to sign to enter into a kind of military alliance and obtain leading-edge weapons and communications systems from the US. This is what each one entails...

Last but not least, April 2002, BJP National Convention in Goa, whr Modi offered to resign as Guj CM, there were mixed reaction in BJP

Vajpayee explicitly said that India doesn't need to prove its secularism to anyone. He supported Modi saying 'let msg be clear, Hindutva is back'

mood. Departing from his prime ministerial grandeur he delivered a speech that could have been a replay from his heady Jan Sangh days. "We don't need lessons in secularism from anyone," he thundered. "India was secular even before the Muslims and Christians came."

"There are two faces of Islam," he continued, "one, pious and peaceful, and the other, fundamentalist and militant." "Wherever there are Muslims, they are unwilling to live in peace."

The final sentence may have been unintended. But coupled with the uncompromising defence of Modi, it sent an unambiguous message to the party: Hindutva was back.



Apologies for another long thread but I have highlighted most areas from economics, policies, infrastructure, foreign policies, war, Hindutva, etc. Whr Vajpayee ji played a huge role in taking India forward.

He is an Iron Man of India

Pls RT, like & comment to share your views.