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**SHASHI THAROOR'S INDIA SHASTRA: REFLECTIONS ON NATION IN
OUR TIME: A RE-READING**

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Abstract:

Shashi Tharoor has gained global recognition for his diplomatic work, while his eleven books have also established him as a prominent Indian author with visionary ideas. Maybe writing both fiction and non-fiction has helped him effectively convey his understanding of various aspects of human life. His complex perspective on life is showcased in a total of ten works, four of which are fictional and six are non-fictional. The ability to see the future is a crucial aspect of innovative literature. The absence of vision is a hindrance to the creation of imaginative literature, and the evolution of art is somewhat connected to our fascination with the writer's ability to envision. Tharoor seems to be a unique visionary in this respect "A rising star in the international fictional universe" (shashitharoor.in1).

Keywords: India, Foreign, Human, Shastra, Veda, etc.

The book *India Shastra: Reflections on the Nation in our Time* discusses the current state of India's politics, society, and religion, as well as its role in the rapidly changing global landscape, as indicated by its title. The book's cover captures the essence of tradition and innovation, reflecting the overarching themes and atmosphere of the book. The book contains recent articles written by the author for different media outlets and target audiences. The book completes his trilogy on India, following his earlier works, *India: From Midnight to Millennium and Beyond*. The series demonstrates Tharoor's strong interest in India and its diverse aspects.

The book is divided into eight parts, starting with Mr. The victory of Narendra Modi in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections brought about a new wave of political issues. The first section is titled "India Modi-fied." The author provides a summary of the 2014 Lok Sabha Elections and focuses primarily on the actions taken by the new government during their first six months in power. He understands the Prime Minister's strong desire for a cleaner India, with a focus on smaller government, effective administration, and related priorities. He strongly criticizes the Prime Minister for not addressing the increasing communal tensions and points out how the BJP's control of the Lok Sabha has emboldened extremist Hindu groups, causing greater anxiety among minority communities.



Tharoor states that despite expectations, Modi and the BJP showed humility and restraint in the first six months of their term, refraining from the expected arrogance and boasting that might have been warranted by their decisive win, except during specific campaign events. Right after being elected, Modi adopted a conciliatory and inclusive approach in both his speeches and his actions.

I was a beneficiary of this unexpected generosity, on the very day of his victory, when I received a startling tweet of congratulations from him on my own victory in my constituency. Let us work together to move India forward; he declared his message to me (Tharoor, *ISRNT*, 5).

The second section of the article looks at Modi's India and its global diplomatic efforts, while the third part focuses on the government's international strategic initiatives. Tharoor suggests that progress and achievement in certain areas can lead to further development in a continuous cycle of improvement.

historical expense tells us that development in a democratic society creates an educated and enlightened middle class which creates for itself additional opportunities to explore and expand the political arena. Empowered people articulate themselves better while they press for social and political freedoms with the need to create an open line of discovery so that their voices are heard and priorities noted (Tharoor, *ISRNT*, 158).

Tharoor has a wide-ranging list of published works and currently holds a position as a Member of Parliament representing Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. Furthermore, he also held the position of Minister of State in the previous UPA government. Tharoor has gained extensive experience at the United Nations, participating in various missions before moving into a career in politics. He has demonstrated active engagement in the academic community. After authoring numerous books about India, he is widely regarded as an authority on the subject by a significant portion of the population.

The second chapter of the book focuses on the foreign policy initiatives carried out by the Modi administration in India and its relations with the world. The current government is prioritizing the use of diplomatic channels to promote and facilitate trade. However, Mr. Modi's concept of diplomacy is. Modi prioritizes building his own reputation rather than establishing strong relationships with other countries through genuine interest. As Tharoor highlights,

The Modi notion of diplomacy as stoutly resisting the siren call of foreign countries while haranguing others about the strengths of your own is wrong-headed and downright dangerous (Tharoor, *ISRNT*, 59).

The author commends Mr. Modi for his commendable actions. Modi is held in high regard and greatly respected. Modi is carrying on the work of previous leaders by prioritizing India's relationships with its neighboring nations, particularly Pakistan and China, while also providing assistance to Afghanistan. He describes Chinese President Xi Jinping's highly



anticipated visit to India in September 2014 as underwhelming. This assessment of the government's worldwide approach demonstrates a deep comprehension of global affairs.

The 'Legacy' part extensively covers the political heritage of previous legislatures, the path to Independence, and the impact of British rule. Tharoor's writings on imperialism demonstrate his keen critique of the colonial administration. Moreover, this part of the text brings attention to the accomplishments of often forgotten people, such as First World War soldiers, as well as the enduring impact of Mahatma Gandhi, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Swami Vivekananda, Rabindranath Tagore, and many other important individuals, all of whom have played important roles in shaping India's history. The dedication of Gandhi, Nehru, Patel, and Ambedkar to building a modern and diverse independent India should not be overlooked. As previously mentioned by the author,

[...] each day over a billion Indians govern themselves in a pluralist democracy is testimony to the deeds and words of these four men and the giants who accompanied them in 1940s to the march of freedom (Tharoor, *ISRNT*, 104-105).

The work delves into the enigma of India and the conflicting perspectives on its nature. The concept of 'progress' is gaining traction, emphasizing comprehensive growth that goes beyond just GDP and economic indicators. Currently, the primary objective is to improve the welfare of people. The author firmly believes that India demonstrates how democracy and development can successfully coexist. He confidently portrays a bold vision of a young nation moving forward into the 21st century, whether it's a casually dressed individual with untidy hair exploring a temple amidst debris with a Smartphone in hand, or a newly eligible voter advocating for change with determination.

The author emphasizes continuous and rigorous training as the primary means to achieve greatness. He correctly points out that this can be achieved by preserving innovation, increasing productivity, utilizing skilled workers, and similar methods. The writer believes that India's successful space missions, Mangalyan and Chandrayan, are a remarkable achievement. Furthermore, the author emphasizes the importance of integrating innovation by pointing out the significant impact that e-administration has had on change. Nevertheless, Tharoor also emphasizes the importance of promoting renewable energy in addition to traditional energy sources. Tharoor argues that it is important to harness the potential of the underemployed youth as a valuable economic resource by equipping them with the necessary skills to prevent the annual increase in unemployment.

Tharoor's portrayal of individuals, society, and ethics differs from the approach taken by previous writers. They are individuals who serve as models, similar to people found in everyday life, and they are represented in a practical and authentic manner that is true to their background and experiences as portrayed in the books. Tharoor's family members are as intricate as individuals, displaying both restraint and impropriety. The author's main goal in portraying the characters is to skillfully craft them with a blend of fiction and reality, creating a vivid and imaginative depiction.

In summary, it can be aptly stated that an author not only captivates their reader with their writing and storytelling skills, but also cultivates empathy, insight, authenticity, and self-



discovery. However, he should be aware of his own strengths and weaknesses in a deliberate manner. Introducing this new category of writing will be a great success and a true triumph for the writing world.

These correspondences are not mechanically worked out, they are suitably modified, sometimes hinted at rather than fully spelt out; and on occasion they are given an ironic twist in a spirit of self-mockery, which is so characteristic of postmodernism (Naik, 47-48).

Tharoor, a highly knowledgeable individual, has intelligently brought forth his vast understanding of world history and current events to address a topic that often provokes narrow-minded thinking in many Indians.

References

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