

Why India Needs a National Security Doctrine – Now

By Lt. Gen. K J Singh

The writer is a former Army Commander and currently Haryana State Information Commissioner.

The NSS could spell out clear-cut ends, ways and means, yet bank on delegation, synergy and operational freedom. It is also a pre-requisite for the operationalisation of theatre commands

At a recent book-release function, the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) made an interesting comment about the formulation of a National Security Strategy (NSS). He reportedly stated “When we talk about the National Security Strategy, I believe it consists of policy, processes, and practices to succeed. In our country, probably all three are addressed. The only thing missing is a written policy. I don’t know why people insist on that.” This statement, signalling a major shift in policy, merits analysis and debate.

The obvious questions are: Why have we been engaged in this exercise, with multiple drafts going to and fro, for the last two decades? More importantly, an apex-level Defence Planning Committee chaired by the National Security Advisor was set up in 2018 to formulate the NSS and National Defence Strategy. However, the status and progress of the much-publicised exercise are not known. Currently, we are managing with the cryptic and inadequate RM’s Operational Directive.

One is tempted to even ask if what the CDS said reflects his personal opinion or whether it was an official policy articulation — as it was in an academic environment. In this context, it bears reiteration that Manohar Parrikar, former defence minister, first announced a major shift in nuclear policy — jettisoning the “No First Use” doctrine, which was later retracted — by describing it, as his personal opinion in a seminar. The lengthy explanation by the CDS, and listing of recent successes like Balakot, indicate a desire to scuttle the ongoing endeavour to codify the NSS. He even cited Israel’s example, which doesn’t have a written document.

It is well known that most relevant nations, including the otherwise opaque China, not only promulgate an NSS but also publish periodic white papers. Even Pakistan has promulgated its first National Security Policy (2022-26). Neither Israel nor Pakistan can set the template for us, as our challenges are different and require a customised approach. Hence, the issue must be clarified post-haste.

A well-crafted NSS would foster a “whole of nation” approach and build synergy for harnessing comprehensive national power (CNP). It would also enable the setting of milestones for capability-building for modernisation, infrastructure and the Atma Nirbhar mission. The current status of defence planning is worrying and in transition as Defence Plans (five years) and Long-Term Perspective Plans (15 years) have been discontinued. The new formats of the Integrated Capability Plan (10 years) and Defence Capability Acquisition Plan (5 years) are yet to stabilise. At the same, the government must be commended for enhanced traction for and visibility of defence modernisation.

The present system of reviews by the Parliamentary Standing Committee and Auditor General are sub-optimal. These need to be backed up with net-assessment and statistical tools both for periodic audits and, more importantly, for predictive and dynamic goal setting. The NSS, as a reference for peer review by think tanks, will hopefully reduce ambiguity and build meaningful accountability.

The most critical issue is related to operational clarity and ease of decision making. The NSS is relevant in a system where Army Commanders don't even undertake a meaningful handing-over procedure – the process is brief and primarily ceremonial. As per informed opinion, while theatre responses during the Doklam crisis were commendable, strategic guidance was sketchy. The current model has delivered but that is largely due to the competence of the present leadership. The system suffers from over-centralisation and, in the long term, needs to be replaced by a de-centralised Directive Style of Command (DSOC).

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Why India Needs an Internal Security Plan for The Next Five Years

By Prakash Singh

The writer was formerly Director General of BSF, DGP UP and DGP Assam

A country projects its strength at the international level in direct proportion to its internal cohesion, its ability to resolve the differences within and not have any swamps where terrorists or extremists of any shade can breed.

The dust of elections has settled. The NDA government is firmly in the saddle. The Prime Minister already has a formidable list of achievements to his credit. At the international level, India has prestige, which it probably has never had since Independence. Our economy is on a high trajectory. China has, for the first time, realised that it can no longer bully India and that, beyond a point, India would not shrink from a bloody confrontation.

The government should have a well-orchestrated plan for the next five years. On internal security, the following nine points should merit serious attention.

One - internal security doctrine

Ideally, the country should have a national security doctrine (NSD). The National Security Advisory Board has, from time to time, worked on it and prepared drafts. For inexplicable reasons, those were never approved. All significant powers have an NSD through which they describe the internal and external challenges facing the country and prescribe the policies for dealing with them. If there are any problems in developing the NSD, its internal security component at least, which is simpler, could be worked out. There is too much adhocism in dealing with the internal security challenges, especially when there is a change of government.

Two - Internal Security Ministry

The Ministry of Home Affairs has become much too heavy and therefore unwieldy. Internal security matters, which demand immediate attention, quite often do not get the prompt and thorough attention they deserve. It is high time that a young, junior minister working in the MHA is given independent charge of internal security. Rajesh Pilot showed what a difference such an arrangement could make.

Three - Jammu and Kashmir

The state is far from normal in spite of the Home Minister's claim that terror incidents are down by 66 per cent since the abrogation of Article 370. Terrorists recently struck at four places in the Jammu region. Obviously, they are desperate to explode the narrative of "Naya Kashmir". We cannot be complacent about the objectives of the Pakistani deep state. The government must take early steps to reorganise the security grid, restore statehood to J&K and hold elections for the Assembly.

Four - the Northeast

The Prime Minister has called the Northeast "a piece of our heart". The beating of the heart is unfortunately not healthy. A Framework Agreement signed with the rebel Nagas in 2015 had raised great hopes, but these remain unfulfilled because of the NSCN (IM)'s insistence on a separate flag and constitution. The government should meanwhile insist on rigorous implementation of the suspension of operations agreement and ensure that the rebels do not engage in extortion and forcible recruitments. Manipur has been a disaster. Ethnic conflicts continue to simmer with occasional outbursts of violence. The Home Ministry's formation of a multi-ethnic peace committee has not been productive; it is time for the PM to take charge of the situation himself. The problems of illegal migration, drug trafficking and arms smuggling would require a comprehensive approach.

Five - the Naxal problem

The Minister of State for Home Affairs, Nityananda Rai, in a statement made in the Rajya Sabha on February 7, claimed that the implementation of the "national policy and action plan" had resulted in a consistent decline in violence and shrinkage of the geographical spread of left-wing extremism's (LWE) influence. Violence and the resultant deaths had declined by 73 per cent from a high in 2010. Rai further stated that the number of police stations reporting LWE-related violence had come down from 465 police stations across 96 districts in 2010 to 171 police stations across 42 districts in 2023. So far, so good. With Naxals on the backfoot, it is now time for the healing touch. The government should offer them the olive branch, declare a unilateral cease-fire for a month, persuade them to come to the negotiating table, address their genuine grievances, and try to mainstream them.

Six - Intelligence Bureau/CBI

The two premier central police organisations, Intelligence Bureau and the CBI, require restructuring. The IB was set up through an administrative order on December 23, 1887. It is high time that it is given a statutory basis, with safeguards to prevent the misuse of intelligence to bolster the party in power. The CBI was set up through a resolution passed on the April Fools' Day in 1963, and it derives the power to investigate from the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946. It is an anomalous arrangement and, as recommended in the 24th report of the parliamentary committee, "the need of the hour is to strengthen the CBI in terms of legal mandate, infrastructure and resources".

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Opening Up the Tibet Front?

By Srikant Kondapalli

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China's recent aggression in every direction in its neighbourhood is leading to a storm building up for itself. Its massive and intrusive military build-up and exercises across the Taiwan Straits, South China Sea and on the borders with India are not only unnerving for the countries involved but are also causing them to push back.

The non-resolution of the border stand-off since 2020 has created an armed stalemate on India's borders. Another front, albeit a politico-diplomatic one, is opening on the Tibet issue with the US congressional delegation's visit to Dharamshala.

China upped the ante following the visit of Nancy Pelosi to Taiwan in August 2022 when she was Speaker of the US House of Representatives. China's military crossed the median line that separates it from Taiwan and has kept up its intimidatory tactics ever since.

On April 8 this year, it conducted "combat readiness patrols" in response to US House Speaker Kevin McCarthy's visit to Taiwan. These Chinese intrusions have intensified after Taiwan's presidential elections earlier this year. Yet, it seems, Beijing's two-pronged approach – applying military pressure from outside and running influence operations inside Taiwan -- are not working.

China's heightened political rhetoric on 'One China', frequent military activities, attempts to diplomatically isolate Taipei, or foment internal political struggles in Taiwan have raised concerns about potential miscalculation and accidents leading to an escalation in the Taiwan Straits.

Another potential conflict is emerging in the South China Sea between China and the Philippines at the Second Thomas Shoal. China claims 80 per cent of the whole region, despite The Hague tribunal quashing its claims in July 2016. On June 17, China's coastguard vessels rammed into a Filipino military boat, armed with a domestic legislation to seize any foreign personnel in the disputed seas.

The ensuing skirmish left a Filipino soldier with a severed finger and two vessels destroyed. The incident came close to what Philippine President Marcos has declared as a red line – any Filipino casualty. The US invoked the 1951 Mutual Defence Treaty with the Philippines, but tensions did not subside.

Closer home, China has not accepted the olive branch extended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his remarks to Newsweek last month. On the other hand, it has been exerting military pressure on the borders and in India's neighbourhood, specifically in Maldives, Sri Lanka and Nepal. Despite 21 meetings at the military level for "dis-engagement and de-escalation" on the borders, three areas still remain contentious.

China is opening another front in Tibet. In August 2020, China's Communist Party began "sinicising Tibetan Buddhism" and enhanced Han Chinese intrusions. China built more than 600 "well-off society" villages on the borders with India, Nepal, Bhutan and was even preparing to do so in Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir. Nearly one-third of these built-up structures came up on the path that the Dalai Lama took in 1959 while fleeing to India. It is an indication that Beijing is preparing to affect a transition to the 15th Dalai Lama. Beijing has announced that it will exercise a "golden urn" process of selecting the 15th Dalai Lama, a bid to cause schisms among Tibetans.

The bipartisan US congressional delegation's visit to Dharamshala on June 18-19 came in the light of these developments and was meant to apprise the Dalai Lama of the Resolve Tibet Act that the Biden administration is considering signing into law.

Among other things, the delegation suggested resumption of the stalled dialogue between China and Tibetan representatives, stopping Chinese disinformation about Tibetan history and culture and, intriguingly, "self-determination" for Tibet.

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What Modi 3.0 Should Do to Make Bharat Vishwa Bandhu and Vishwa Guru

By Amitabh Mattoo

The writer is dean, School of International Studies, JNU, and former member of National Security Council's Advisory Board.

In a precarious international system, the self-declared 'enlightened world', is looking East with trepidation and expectation. Xi Jinping's China poses the greatest threat to values, Western way of living — but in India, there is hope for the future.

After Prime Minister Narendra Modi's meetings with the beleaguered “steering committee of the free world” at the G7 outreach summit at Apulia on the Adriatic coast of Italy, it is clear that a fractured and fragile world needs India and its leadership, almost desperately so — much of the West seems to have run out of steam and ideas.

In a precarious international system, the self-declared “enlightened world”, including the Holy See, is looking East with trepidation and expectation. While Xi Jinping's China poses the greatest threat to the values, interests and the Western way of living and thinking, in India there is hope for the future. Clearly, this episodic Western romance with India is not new, but this time it is not another New Age Helena Blavatsky's search for spiritual masters. Instead, it is a fresh faith in the promise of India — in almost every sense of the word: As a vishwa mitra, a vishwa bandhu, a vishwa guru and even as a vishwa rakshak (friend, family, guru and protector).

Can India live up to these heightened expectations? Can India build the capacity to take on a new leadership role? Can Bharat draw from the vast reservoir of thinking that existed much before the West was constructed as an idea? Only if India learns to act with a combination of alacrity, audacity, and the flexibility required to deal with an uncertain world and rapidly changing circumstances. These strengths are needed to transform Bharat into a global mediator; a manager of the region; and act as a mobiliser against the looming threat from China. And only if Bharat learns to value the huge pool of wisdom that continues to exist within the country, including in the sacred geographies of the land.

Consider this: In the middle of March, at the height of the violence in Gaza, Israeli's mercurial Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who seemed to have little time for outside advice, made an exception. He agreed to meet, on March 11, with a special envoy from a trusted friend. The proposal that Ajit Doval, India's National Security Advisor, carried on behalf of Modi was audacious: The Israeli leader should announce a unilateral ceasefire during Ramadan, and to allow Indian humanitarian assistance to reach affected civilians.

Contrary to expectations, Netanyahu was not dismissive and surprisingly well disposed, and the proposal almost translated into reality. But it finally broke down because the trust deficit among the principal stakeholders was far too wide to be bridged quickly. Only two weeks later, on March 25, did the United Nations Security Council adopt a resolution demanding a ceasefire to be respected by all parties during Ramadan.

The Gaza initiative is one of a series of extraordinary Indian attempts to intervene meaningfully in complicated international situations through a synergy of diplomacy, intelligence and the use or threat of use of force that have characterised some of the “shadowy efforts” during Modi 2.0. The breakthrough with Mohammed bin Salman of Saudi Arabia, the proximity to Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan of the UAE, the LoC ceasefire through a back channel with Pakistan's ISI and the Army, the attempts at organising a meeting between Putin and Zelensky all exhibited unprecedented chutzpah. Today, India's strategic autonomy and its unwillingness to take sides — particularly in a knee-jerk manner — have given it, as the PM has put it, the space, influence and weight to suggest out-of-the-box ideas which have traction at the high table of international relations.

Much, however, will depend now on Modi 3.0, on not just the Prime Minister and his team, but on Modi's ability to tap into thinking beyond Western ideas — particularly from Indian traditions and other voices in the Global South. Let us face it, the stilted bureaucracy is incapable of providing support by way of new ideas, neither are the fly-by-night operators who manage think tanks (with neither cerebral energy nor armoured gear), sponsored often by funders of dubious foreign provenance. Reaching out to homegrown talent and scholars with their deep knowledge of shrutis and smritis, and other ancient Indian texts should be on top of Modi 3.0's agenda. The Prime Minister's Office must tap into this ocean of wisdom, spread across Bharat, and in multiple institutions that are the natural repositories of Indian knowledge and fresh ideas.

Throughout history, it has also been evident that no country ascends to great-power status without securing stability and influence in its immediate neighbourhood. From the Roman Empire to the United States, from the Mauryan Empire to the Vijayanagara and Chola kingdoms, peace in the neighbourhood has been a critical component of their rise to prominence. India cannot afford to overlook the significance of its neighbourhood as it takes on a global role as a mediator.

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G-7 Summit and Participation of India

By Vappala Balachandran

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In October 1973 the oil producing countries' cartel OPEC (Organization of Arab Petroleum Export Countries) announced oil embargo against those countries that supported Israel. This embargo, called as "The First Oil Shock", together with the 1979 Iranian Revolution, called "The Second Oil" Shock, created serious turmoil in global economy.

After the first shock, US Treasury George Shultz invited his counterparts from West Germany, France, and Britain for a meeting of G-4 in Washington DC to discuss the fall out on advanced Western countries. Later Japan was admitted, and the meeting was called as G-5.

The 1975 summit was held in France where Italy was invited, making it as G-6. The 1975 meeting elevated itself into a Heads of State status. It issued a statement known as "Declaration of Rambouillet" on free trade, multilateralism, cooperation and more importantly, rapprochement with the Eastern Bloc of Communist countries.

The 1976 meeting in Dorado, Puerto Rico decided to admit Canada and then it became G-7. Since 1977, the group started inviting European Commission. Thus, the present G-7 meet every year, members being Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, United Kingdom (UK) and United States of America (USA) as well as European Union (EU) as a "non-enumerated member".

From the 1980s/1990s the Group expanded its agenda into international security issues by discussing Iran-Iraq War and Soviet war in Afghanistan. During the 1994 summit in Naples, Russian representatives held a separate meeting with G-7 during what is known as "Yeltsin bonhomie" years (1991-1999). Thus, the Naples meeting was called G-7+1. In 1998 Russia was formally invited, when it became G-8.

However, Russia was suspended in 2014 when President Vladimir Putin annexed Crimea. In later years members wanted Russia to join but Putin chose to declare that it would leave G-8 which came into effect in 2018. During the Trump's presidency an effort was made to get Russia back into the group with the backing of Italian president.

However, Russia publicly declared on June 10, 2018, that it was happy to work with the bigger group G-20. In 2020 US President Donald Trump suggested inviting Russia, India, Australia, Brazil and South Korea as members but the proposal was rejected by others.

However British Prime minister Boris Johnson invited Australia, India and South Korea as “guest countries” and “to deepen the expertise and experience around the table” for the 2021 summit at Cornwall, UK. Since then, India is attending G-7 meetings as “guest”.

Initially only trade and finance subjects were discussed. Later the meeting expanded into other subjects like democratic values like liberalism, pluralism, climate change, international security and lately Artificial Intelligence (AI). The meeting usually starts with a day’s session attended exclusively by G-7 members. Later invitees arrive and attend what is called “outreach sessions”.

This year the exclusive session-1 on June 13 discussed Africa, climate change and development, while session-2 analysed Middle East. After the arrival of President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, the entire afternoon session was devoted to Ukraine. On June 14 the meeting discussed Indo-Pacific affairs and economic security while the afternoon session was devoted to Artificial Intelligence, Energy and Africa-Mediterranean. Our PM addressed the outreach session on 14th. G-7 meetings also afford bilateral meetings which are very useful in discussing bilateral issues.

However, there is a growing feeling that G-7 which was originally formed to stabilise global economy has lost its focus and has become only a “Super-rich Talking club” by meandering into other issues like security and power blocs, thereby stepping into controversial areas that bedevil solutions. The present meeting was almost exclusively devoted to strengthening Ukraine’s resistance against Russia and not any other problem.

Also, without China, no solution can be found to any of the security issues. Other formations like G-20, BRICS are able to solve many problems which G-7 is unable to do. The Council on Foreign Relations, New York feels that G-20 was most effective during the 2007-08 financial crisis.

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2024 Lok Sabha Elections: A historic Reflection of Democratic Resilience and Evolution

By Alok Virendra Tiwari

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Despite existing challenges, such as the underrepresentation of women, India’s democratic elections consistently reinforce the nation’s commitment to empowering its citizens and fostering fair participation in politics

India recently concluded a historic six-week-long national election, which has garnered considerable attention both domestically and internationally. With nearly 970 million voters, India boasts one of the world’s most momentous elections. The election’s outcome is of significant interest, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi has secured a third consecutive term, making it a pivotal moment in the nation’s political landscape.

India possesses a deeply ingrained commitment to democracy, rooted in its historical and philosophical heritage, showcasing a tradition of democratic ideals. The adoption of the sacred Constitution in 1950 solidified India’s status as a democratic nation, symbolising its dedication to civil rights, freedom, and equitable resource distribution.

In the Lok Sabha Election of 2024, the resurgence of the Congress party and a high voter turnout in India displayed the nation's democratic vigour. The Congress surprised many by increasing its seat count substantially from 52 to 99, signalling a significant shift from the expected dominance of the BJP.

India, well-known for its massive democracy, conducted the election with millions of voters, intricate mobilisation strategies, and the growing impact of social media. The election results reflected the country's commitment to inclusive democracy, with diverse voter demographics participating actively, including women, senior citizens, and individuals with disabilities. The huge election mobilisation involved over 1.5 crore polling and security personnel, utilising various transportation methods and monitoring teams to ensure the smooth operation of the electoral process.

Acknowledging the challenges it faces, India's rich democratic tradition, inclusive ethos, and historical contributions highlight its significance as a democratic nation. The complexities of India's democratic landscape demand continuous efforts to address issues like political conflicts and growing inequalities. Despite these challenges, India's commitment to democratic values remains resilient. India's democratic narrative reflects a legacy of democratic principles mirrored in the diverse contributions of influential philosophers and leaders. These historical foundations culminated in the establishment of a democratic system following the adoption of the Constitution in 1950. The democratic ethos of India is further exemplified by its emphasis on public morality, freedom of expression, and the right to dissent — essential elements of a vibrant democracy.

As evident in the 2024 elections, democracy in India has further deepened. With inclusion of representation of women and Dalits and tribal communities, India showcased its strong democratic principles. The 2024 Lok Sabha elections in India marked a significant reorientation of the political landscape, particularly in relation to the participation and performance of Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) candidates. Out of the 543 Lok Sabha seats, 131 were reserved for SC and ST categories, emphasising the critical role these communities play in India's democracy.

The 2024 Lok Sabha election outcomes have exhibited significant shifts in the democratic landscape within the government. In the 2024 Lok Sabha election, Narendra Modi's BJP and its allies clinched 292 seats, establishing themselves as the most prominent party. The BJP's supremacy in the northern and western regions through its visible developmental programmes and policies has been pivotal in their impressive performance. Furthermore, despite facing a formidable opposition alliance led by the Congress party, the BJP's strong electoral display has reaffirmed their ongoing influence in shaping India's national politics.

The BJP's enduring control in numerous states and their strategic partnerships continue to fortify their position throughout the country. These outcomes not only indicate the BJP's capability to uphold and broaden its influence in critical areas, but also highlight the party's consistent impact on India's political landscape, solidifying its fundamental role in shaping the nation's future governance. This transition highlights the evolving nature of coalition politics in India and underscores the growing importance of broader alliances and cooperative governance within the democratic framework.

The International community has been closely monitoring India's election, with over 50 countries taking a keen interest. In the event of Modi's triumph, it signifies a continuation of his policies and potentially shape India's domestic and foreign policies for the coming years. The aftermath of India's 2024 Lok Sabha elections reveals intriguing democratic shifts and voter sentiments. The victory of the BJP-led NDA for a third consecutive term highlights the enduring trust and support of the Indian people in Prime Minister Modi's leadership. Despite not reaching the ambitious 400-seat target, the election results solidify the NDA's mandate to advance its progressive agenda for the nation.

Prime Minister Modi's imminent return for a historic third term emphasises his unwavering popularity and the people's endorsement of his transformative vision. The performance of the INDIA bloc underscores the evolving political dynamics, providing a platform for diverse voices and perspectives within the political arena. However, it also showcases the NDA's resilience in navigating a more competitive political environment, showcasing the enduring appeal and robust leadership under Prime Minister Modi.

The evolving political landscape highlights the vibrancy of India's democracy, with the NDA well-poised to address the nation's challenges and opportunities in the upcoming years. This underscores the evolving voter sentiments and the need for adaptability in the face of changing political currents. Prime Minister Modi's third term in office reflect sustained support from voters. This outcome emphasises the continued popularity of the party and its potential to form a stable and effective government.

Following the conclusion of the election, it is evident that the voter sentiments leading up to the election were multifaceted, reflecting the diverse socio-political fabric of India. Modi's leadership has been associated with economic development and boosting India's global standing. A victory for Modi has solidified his influence.

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India is Proud of: Murukan S - Auto Driver He Has Rescued Thousands



Imagine being shooed away from public spaces, begging to eke out a living, scrounging for food in garbage bins and sleeping on the footpaths—that is a typical day in the life of a homeless person.

Various non-profit organisations across the country have been working towards bettering the living standards of the homeless and destitute, but apart from a few temporary night shelters scattered across the country that only offer temporary accommodation, little has been done from the government's side to tackle the crisis of homelessness.

Founded by Murukan S, who is an autorickshaw driver from Kochi, Kerala, the organisation, which is also known as Theruvora Pravarthaka Association, has rescued over thousands of homeless children, elderly and ailing people from various cities in the state and has given them the dignity of life that even the government has failed to lend.

Supporting Murukan in his selfless endeavour is his wife, Indu R, an MBA graduate who left her job to join her husband in his cause. Although the society was only established and registered in 2007, Murukan has been involved in the rescue and rehabilitation of the homeless for over 18 years now, during which he managed to turn a new page in the lives of over 8000 people.

In a world where the lives of the downtrodden are conveniently overlooked by those in power and position, what prompted the young man to act otherwise?

“I had been once amongst the homeless and had it not been the kindness of Brother Mavooris, a well-known social worker who rescued many children, including me, and rehabilitated us to Don Bosco Snehabhavan, who knows whether we would have even survived or not? For nine years, the orphanage became my home and helped me turn a new page in life,”

Maybe the memory of a childhood that was spent on the streets was still fresh in the mind of the young man, who decided to help those who weren't as fortunate as him to have an angel like Brother Mavooris in their lives.

“I was 16 when I had made the decision. It wasn't very easy, as I didn't have a steady flow of income that could facilitate my endeavours and in no way was, I going to ask anyone for money from the government or the public. In the past 18 years, I have done all kinds of menial jobs that includes even cleaning sewers just so that could continue with my crusade,” he remembers.

Murukan has dedicatedly worked for this cause for almost two decades now, and his efforts have not gone unrecognised.

In 2012, he was felicitated with the National Award for Child Welfare by Former President Pranab Mukherjee. This was followed by the Times Now Amazing Indians Award in 2016, which was presented to him by the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, in Delhi.

Murukan consolidated all the prize money that he had received and set up a trust under Theruvoram, which is managed by a team of 11 committed individuals. “I realised that with all this money, I could actually do something that would really impact the lives of countless people in the state with a roof on their heads,” he says.

With an aim to build a home for the homeless, Murukan went ahead and purchased a plot measuring 4000 square feet in Alappuzha with all the money he had saved.

“There are many people in the world who are rich enough to erase poverty but couldn't quite care any less. What is the point of garnering all the riches if one can't put it to good use? My aim is to not just provide a shelter but also propel a change in the society and I won't stop until I achieve it,” says a determined Murukan.

It is the inner strength in any human being to do something for the needy people, S Murukan is one such example.

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