

# 'Middle class is key to prosperity in India'

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SADHGURU Jaggi Vasudev, the master of yogic tradition, wowed the last World Economic Forum (WEF) at Davos, Switzerland with his concept of Inclusive Economics. This, he said, is to be achieved "through a process of inner engineering that empowers top executives to establish true joy and balance within themselves." Explaining his presence at the economic summit, Sadhguru said human well-being still remained his main objective; what was attractive about the WEF was its potential to multiply that effort. In a chat with ET, he unveiled an action plan for motivating 'yogic commissars' of the world, to heal the divide between Artha (economics) and Moksha (liberation) with enlightened action. **Excerpts:**

**How do you read the Incredible India / India Shining phenomenon as evidenced by 9% economic growth and the sizzling 14K Sensex?**

This economic bus hasn't come our way because we've struck gold or oil. It's because of a certain calibre of human resource. The whole upsurge, however, has been sparked by less than 2% of the population. That's not sustainable. You've got to rope in a larger percentage of people and broaden the base if you are to realise the dream of millions.

**So how do we hang on to this bus to El Dorado?**

Before broad-basing, realise that over 60% of our population is in agriculture, which in many ways is most wasteful. We need extreme innovation to develop human resource of high quality that's employable. People who boast of India's 25 million graduates are living in a fool's paradise: Look at their quality. You can't employ most of them, even for domestic help. We're already approaching a crisis in human resources, even in the IT sector.

But the good news is as the economy trots at 10%, there's whole lot of infrastructure to be built. Right now, we have either very highly qualified people or those who are downright unskilled. The in-between segment has never been developed systematically. We

need to churn out loads of good carpenters, good electricians and a variety of other skilled workers. The big difference between China and India is just this: the Chinese may not have an upper segment as good as we have in India. But that middle segment — semi-skilled and skilled labour — is very well-trained, capable and reliable.

**So how do we get that?**

To move at least 20% of the population out of agriculture, you need modern methods of production, efficient systems of procurement, transportation, storage and sale of produce.

Right now, growing things is one thing. But beyond that, a more efficient agency needs to take over: our farmers just don't have that wherewithal.

**What do you mean by 'efficient agencies'?**

Not just government. The corporate sector has to move in to make it a viable proposition and involve large masses of people at some stage. Right now, there's this whole retail revolution waiting to happen. As people have more cash in their

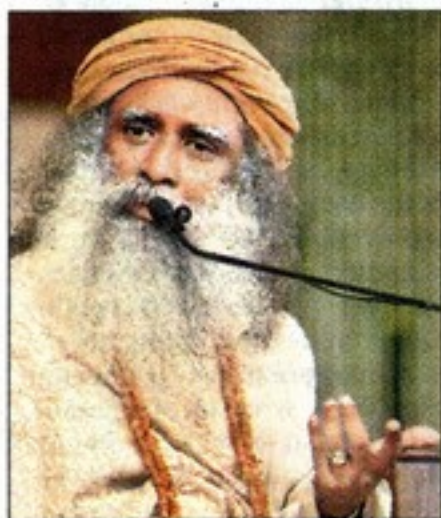
hand, it will fructify. But at the international level too, there's enormous scope for Indian agro-products if only we modernise, develop more product-specified agriculture and top-quality vegetables and fruit. Almost anything you want can be grown from North to South and East to West. But there's never been an intelligent approach to agriculture.

**What about the Green Revolution?**

Yes, we have managed to produce food for 1 billion people for the past three decades. Salute the ingenuity of the Indian farmer. But he's functioned in an absolutely rudimentary and ramshackle infrastructure. Though they feed millions, the farmers' own condition is absolutely abysmal — mounting debt, suicides and so on. All this needs to change, and fast.

**Who's to bell the cat?**

We do have a clear-cut vision to rejuvenate the rural spirit with new partnerships and initiatives. The first batch of modules is already up and running in Tamil Nadu.



Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev