



Conference Purpose

Narayanan Komerath
Professor, School of Aerospace Engineering
Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta

- Honor the memory of a pioneer
- Recognize how far India has come
- Recognize the steep challenge ahead
- Build on the inspiration
- Lay out a roadmap
- Start moving along the roadmap



Generational Challenges

1900 – 1947: Freedom



1950s – 1970s: Food – Green Revolution



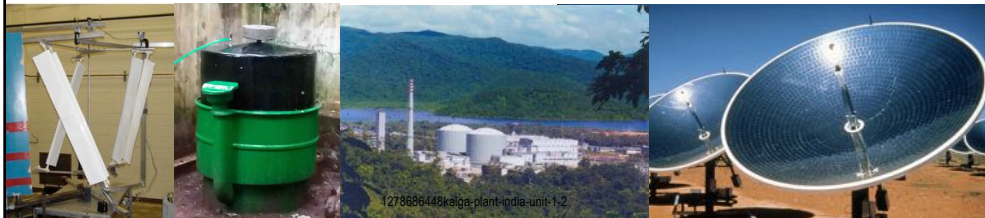
1970s – 90s: Technology, Defence



90s – 2010: Economic Growth



2010 – 2030: Sustainable Growth





Honor the memory of a pioneer

- 1989: FOREX reserves gone. Bold vision of **“A Developed India By 2020 with advances in 6 critical areas ”**
- Today: FOREX > \$424B, #6 in GDP, \$2.7T economy, heading to #3, \$5T.
- Inspired shift to “PURA”, per message of Vivekananda and Gandhiji

Steep challenge ahead

Main premise: energy is at the root of most development issues.

- Rural India is starkly short of energy.
- Denies education, health, connectivity, productivity.
- Poor productivity denies disposable income.
- All of the above deny equality and justice.

Working Group Approach




Tomorrow

- **Massively distributed, modern, diversified rural economy.**
- **Rural > 75% of GDP?**
- **Renewed environment**
- **Reverse migration to viable villages**

Today

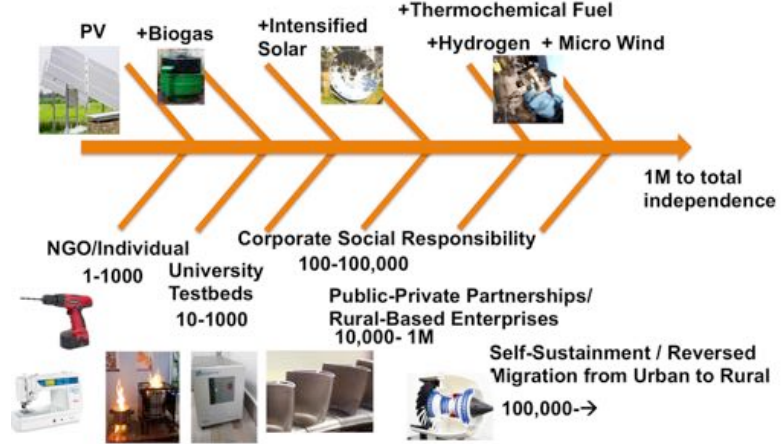
- **67% in 597,000 villages; Rural < 50% of GDP.**
- **Agriculture at mercy of monsoons.**
- **Problems in education, roads, healthcare.**
- **Decaying environment**
- **Migrate to choked cities**




WG 1: Roadmap for Rural Energy Self-Reliance

Questions

- Is Energy Self Reliance Roadmap appropriate? What corrections are needed?
- Initiating Rural-based Enterprise and energy self-reliance: Tradition + Technology
- Sustaining Rural-based Enterprise in the modern marketplace
- Appropriate level and types of infrastructure






WG 2: Renewing Mother Earth

Questions

- Reforestation
- Water Table replenishment
- Controlled-environment agriculture
- Pollution reversal
- Model Villages vs. wider-distributed PURA
- Role of Tradition



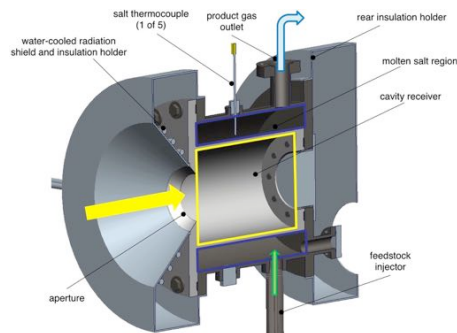


WG 3: Reaching New Resources Questions

- How to implement Advanced Concepts (India as leader)
- “AI” as threats / opportunities for rural distributed wealth generation
- Thorium cycle opportunities; desalination?
- Hydrogen Economy: leap-frog vs. gradual transition



Bio-reactor for intensified solar thermal
(courtesy Prof. Jane Davidson)



WG 4: Bridging Implementation and Research Questions

- Improving Justice, Healthcare and Governance through AI.
- Ending the Flood-Drought Curse; micro-water grid.
- Urgency of seed/ demo projects.
- Quality of Implementation.



River Interlinking Map 1981



WG 5: Global Alliance for Healthcare Questions

- Current education and practice of Ayurveda: first point of contact and coordinator for wellness & healthcare?
- Telemedicine
- Healthcare Economics



Pilot Projects

- Village School Energy + Skills
- Village Enterprise Development
- Rural Drone Retail Delivery
- Flood Predictor
- Hydrogen Village
- “Glitter Belt” Mesospheric Reflectors

