

Reflections on Bharat, Asia and the World: A Mosaic of Perspectives

Venkat Pulla[†]

Abstract

Here is a signed editorial opinion on India's transformational first quarter of the year 2025. During that timeframe, I spent the entire month of February observing and listening to what some would describe as a chaotic social and political landscape—a moment in which some serious controversies and significant, yet under-publicised, events emerged in India's tapestry. When I returned to Australia, I sent out a Google form to a group of discerning research professors, consulting firm founders, engineers, social workers, and retired professionals. Their views were characterised by optimism and critical introspection. They presented as nationalists and patriots. Here is a unified narrative that reflects their considered perspectives on Bharat, Asia, and the world. There were eight respondents, and the synthesis incorporates their diverse points of view, reflecting the varied perspectives of each.

Keywords: Reflections on Bharat; Asia; The World

[†] Foundation Professor, School of Social Work, National Academy of Professional Studies, Sydney

Emails: vpulla@naps.edu.au; dr.venkat.pulla@gmail.com

© 2025 Pulla. This is an Open Access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0>), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

Introduction

Bharat is undergoing rapid technological development, while proudly maintaining its nuanced geopolitical alliances. For example, its foreign policy is multi-aligned, balancing historical ties with Russia with evolving yet balanced relationships with the US, Europe, and regional players. Bharat faces a one-sided obstructionism from Pakistan for its refusal to implement regional trade agreements and its continued support for cross-border terrorism, besides its unmanageable strife within. SAARC's inefficacy is a key reason for the establishment of forums such as the 'Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation' (BIMSTEC) and the 'Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal' Initiative (BBIN), stemming from the need for efficient trade, energy access, and infrastructure development. This flexible approach appears to enable India to navigate complex regional and global dynamics while safeguarding its national interests, thereby maintaining a balance between Russia and the US. Critically, a respondent maintained:

We would not have to worry about them (Russia and America) if we worry about ourselves and move up the economic prosperity ladder every which way. We are on our way.

Burgeoning Cultural Renaissance

People of all faiths in the world and the media, some publicly and some in private, acknowledged that Bharat's Maha Kumbh, 2025—the world's first and largest spiritual spectacle, wherein 660 million people took a holy dip across a period of 45 days, was not an easy task.

Even humble acknowledgment of gratitude must be noted, wrote one respondent. India's President Draupadi Murmu blessed 251 orphaned girls with gifts of sarees and proper clothes for the bridegrooms at Bageshwar Dham, Chhatarpur in Madhya Pradesh, using her own funds.

Bharat: Heritage, Identity, and Renaissance

'We have unwavering pride in Bharat's rich cultural legacy'. "Bharat" represents more than just a geographic location; it represents an idea, a vast repository of information, and a history of spiritual and intellectual quest that has matured over millennia, its Sanatana Dharma.

However, this pride is tempered with a piercing concern. 'We regret the decline of traditional values in contemporary culture.' Bharatiya culture is increasingly under attack, through means of (1) communal intolerance, (2) manipulation of public opinion, particularly vote-centred politics with the aid of foreign actors and foreign money.

Sad, though, to see that there appears to be an abandonment of moral imperatives in favour of political expediency—there is not a single party or politician who could sound like an exceptional hero.

Despite these problems, there remains hope—the conviction that Bharat is on the verge of a renaissance. All eight respondents were optimistic that youthful entrepreneurs and inventors are sensational, ushering in a new wave of progress. They urge to recount Bharat's blessings in artificial intelligence, space exploration, digital government and ever-increasing Unified Payments Interface (UPI).

Global Landscape: Conflict, Innovation, and Transformation

Extending the focus beyond Bharat, the discussion naturally encompasses the broader Asian context and the global arena. Recent years have witnessed remarkable scientific and technological breakthroughs, including discoveries on the far side of the moon, advances in medical research, and the recovery of global tourism from the COVID-19 pandemic. However, these achievements are juxtaposed against a backdrop of political turbulence. Conflicts in Ukraine, Russia, and the Middle East continue to cast long shadows over the region, underscoring the fragile nature of international

peace. A sentiment expressed in six responses is that while mass protests and political decisions are reshaping the world order, they can be questioned on their lack of moral clarity. Such phenomena, manifest as misinformation, AI-driven propaganda, and deepfakes, continue to undermine the credibility of the Indian government's fantastic welfare packages.

I am saddened that the typical Bharat citizen appears to align with the "winning side" rather than standing out for what is ethically correct, a trend that has far-reaching consequences for my country, India

State, Governance, and the Role of Citizens

The economic landscape remains uneven. Complex taxation systems and bureaucratic inertia are cited as critical challenges. Some responses call for sweeping reforms—from revising tax slabs to implementing more inclusive loan schemes for young entrepreneurs—to foster long-term economic stability. The message is clear: for Bharat to flourish, governance must be both efficient and responsive to the needs of its citizens. Despite the problems created by misinformation and the constraints of modern living, a strong notion that every individual can help shape a just and prosperous Bharat, along with an idea of responsible citizenship, emerges as a uniting element among all respondents.

This sense of engaged citizenship is critical for establishing a society that values both progress and social fairness—this cannot be an impossibility?’

Yet another view:

We need a more enlightened, nonpartisan understanding among the country's political elites.

Language Battlefields Again

Language and culture are once again the frontrunners on the battlefield. This is not about the preservation of ancient languages, such as Pali or Sanskrit, which come with their own history. The efficacy and usage of Hindi is being seen as an imposition of a dominant language at

the expense of Tamil in Tamil Nadu. While the advocates seem to see a three-language formula as a balanced approach that respects both tradition and modernity, for the Tamil, language is not merely a tool of communication but is intrinsic to their heritage. A view:

It is not language alone; they are even anti-Hindu and even anti God despite so many temples in Tamil Nadu.... and such obstinacy is unfathomable.

Patriotism and National Unity

Patriotism, yes. But to think that there is only one form that everyone ought to accept and channel through is absurd. Respondents emphasised that true patriotism is not about narrow nationalism, but rather about embracing a vision of unity that values the nation's diversity while striving for common progress. In an era of expanding political and cultural divides, this inclusive kind of patriotism is viewed as a critical antidote to the forces of divisiveness and tribalism that seem to parade every day.

We are not there yet. We do not have a thinking mass. We shy away from heated controversies. Our expression of dissent in Bharat is still the destruction of public and private properties; we do not even spare an autorickshaw in those bonfires. We do not realise for a moment that the driver may not even own it and has a family to feed.

At the same time, there is a recognition that patriotism must be fostered through concrete actions. Some comments emphasise the significance of innovative administration, good public policy, and community-led initiatives in developing a feeling of national pride. Whether it is via encouraging start-up enterprises, improving public services, or celebrating the nation's scientific and technological triumphs, there is a widespread notion that development on several fronts would automatically promote a revitalised feeling of unity and purpose among citizens.

And yes, why do we underestimate the role of socialisation and educational

institutions in nurturing a value about our Bharat?

Environmental Issues and Urban Challenges

Bharat and its people and enterprises do not appear to be concerned about urban congestion, pollution, and a lack of fresh air in cities, which demand immediate attention. While electric vehicles appear to be a significant step towards reducing emissions, concerns remain regarding their environmental impact, including the harmful particles produced by brakes and tyres. Some respondents say that Bharat is favourable for hybrid vehicles, which will provide a more balanced response in the coming decade if they are integrated into larger urban planning and public transportation plans.

International Relations and Global Order

On a worldwide scale, reflections show a mix of anxiety and cautious hope. Geopolitical tensions, economic inequities, and the rise of nationalism in major democracies are all significant concerns for the future of international relations. Respondents expressed concern about the increasing influence of foreign money used in the manipulation of public opinion by non-state entities in Bharat.

I believe that our nation has a role as a responsible global citizen, with its rich cultural heritage, rapid technological advancements, and deep-rooted spiritual values. If we carefully examine ourselves, we present an alternative development paradigm; we are not conventional, unlike the ones the World Economic Forum (WEF) promotes.

Bharat is in Transition and Equally a Nation in a Hurry

The combination of 'transition' and 'hurry' must be viewed as a task with immense possibilities. The call for open, responsible, and inclusive governance is an ongoing theme. There is a widespread recognition that the future of Bharat and the global community will be determined by our ability to change old institutions, empower individuals, and construct systems that respond to everyone's needs.

The respondents emphasised the importance of dismantling entrenched bureaucracy, making judicial officers, administrative officers, and educational institutions genuinely benefit people. Reforms that promote economic fairness, protect democratic obligations, and harness technology for the common good are urgently required. One crucial voice summed it up for all:

Every citizen has a role to play, whether it is actively participating in democratic processes, pioneering in technology and entrepreneurship, all that is required of him or her is to uphold the values of honesty and integrity in everything that he or she does.

Conclusion: A Vision for the Future

To recapitulate, the opinions presented here offer a diverse view of Bharat, Asia, and the world. They express significant pride in being citizens of Bharat, a nuanced optimism about technological and scientific advancements, and a strong desire for governance and human flourishing. The collective viewpoints acknowledge the challenges of a rapidly changing world, such as economic disparities, environmental calamities, geopolitical tensions, and public opinion manipulation.

This editorial is written in the spirit of open dialogue and mutual respect, encouraging readers to reflect on their own experiences and join the global effort to make the world a more sensible, caring, and humane place. A final note to underline is the confidence of each of my respondents that Bharat would provide that leadership and a model for other nations in the world.

Conflict of Interest

There has been no pecuniary interest in undertaking this editorial

Author Contribution Statement

I accept full responsibility for synthesising the viewpoints of my eight responses. All of them remain unidentified since six of them requested it. The quotes thus remain modified.

Acknowledgement

The author is grateful to the anonymous reviewer

About the Author

Dr. Venkat Pulla, Fellow, Australian Association of Social Workers, FAASW, MA, PhD, is a Tata Institute of Social Sciences alumnus and Tata

Dorabji Scholar, has a career spanning four decades, and is also Adjunct Associate Professor of Social Work, James Cook University, Townsville, Australia. His ORCID ID is <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0395-9973>. He can also be reached at: venkat.pulla@jcu.edu.au