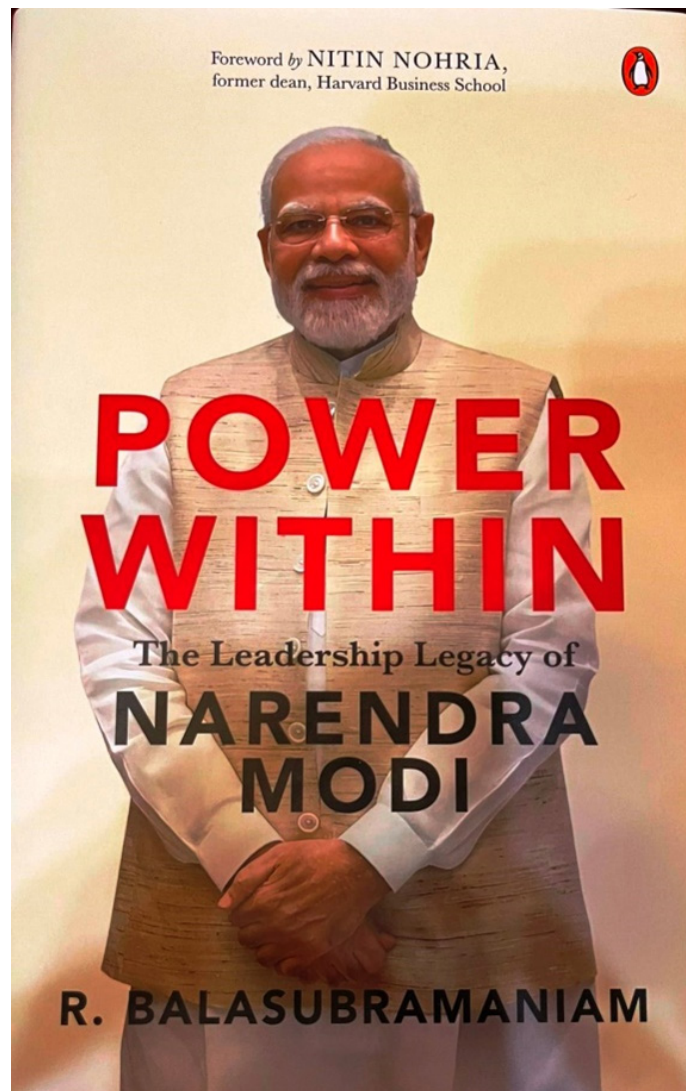


Transcending the Indic Style of Leadership



Power within the Leadership Legacy of Narendra Modi. Written by R. Balasubramaniam. New Delhi: Penguin Random House India, 2024, ISBN: 9780143469278.

The Indic style of leadership, as exemplified by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is a unique approach that blends Western and Indian leadership principles. At its core is the concept of "Seva" or service, where leaders prioritize serving society over personal interests. As depicted in the book the Key Principles of Indic

Leadership include (i) Inner Leadership: Recognizing one's inner strengths, values, and motivations, and aligning them with the broader purpose of serving society; (ii) Empathy: Leading with compassion and understanding the needs and emotions of others; (iii) Moral Authority: Earning trust and credibility through ethical principles and consistent action; (iv) Self-Reflection: Regularly questioning one's actions, motives, and impact on society; and (v) Empowering Others: Enabling and uplifting others to find their own "power within".

This approach emphasizes the importance of empathy, moral authority, and self-reflection in leadership. By integrating Indian



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civilizational wisdom with modern leadership principles, PM Modi's style offers a distinctive model for effective leadership.

Dr. R Balasubramaniam's book, "Power Within: The Leadership Legacy of Narendra Modi," provides valuable insights into this approach, showcasing how PM Modi's leadership has elevated India's role on the global stage.

The book is structured in ten Chapters spreading over four Sections, namely, (1) Introduction: The Leadership We Need, (2) Charting a Bold Course: Visionary Leadership in Action, (3) Artful Mastery: Communicating to Lead and Nurturing Human Connections, (4) Essential Traits: The Mosaic of Integrity, Tenacity, Resilience and Commitment, (5) Leading with the Soul: The Intersection of Leadership and Spiritual Growth, (6) From the Podium to the People: Decoding the Essence of Public Leadership, (7) Inspiring Change, Igniting Hope: Public Leadership as a Catalyst for Transformation, (8) Navigating Change: The Journey of Adaptive Leadership, (9) Vision Beyond Borders: Exploring Dynamics of Global Leadership, and (10) Epilogue: A Legacy of Transformation. On the other hand, the Sections are structured as (I) The Leadership Paradigm (containing first two Chapters), (II) The Personal Facets of Leadership (containing next three Chapters), (III) Public Leadership and Adaptability (containing next three Chapters), (III) Expanding the Leadership Horizon (containing last two Chapters).

The Introduction chapter of the Book delves into the nuances of Indic leadership. As PM Modi reveres the value-driven leadership while leading a state or a nation, also known as Rajadharma in Indian civilization, Balasubramaniam demonstrates a set of ten fundamental principles of Rajadharma, viz., (i) Righteousness and Integrity, (ii) Welfare of the Subjects, (iii) Impartial Justice, (iv) Protection and Security, (v) Economic Stability and Growth, (vi) Preservation of Culture and Religion, (vii) Consultation and Counsel, (viii) Environmental Stewardship, (ix) Ensuring Social Harmony, and (x) Personal Conduct (p. 13-14).

As described in the book by Balasubramaniam, PM Modi's leadership style is distinct from other Indian Prime Ministers in several ways. He's known for his Decisive Governance,

which has led to significant economic development, national security, and social welfare programmes. His vision for India's growth is built on technological innovation, infrastructure development, and international diplomacy, positioning India as a global powerhouse. One of the key factors that set him apart is his Connection with the People. Modi is often described as a "people's leader" who has a strong personal connect with the citizens, which is complemented by his active online presence. He's also known for his Administrative Reforms, which have brought about changes in governance, making it more efficient and effective. Some of his notable initiatives include: (i) Economic Empowerment: Launching programmes like Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, which has opened bank accounts for every Indian (p. 162), and the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, providing free cooking gas connections to the poor (p. 79); (ii) Social Welfare: Implementing schemes like Ayushman Bharat, the world's largest healthcare programme, covering over 0.5 billion Indians (p. 144); (iii) Infrastructure Development: Focusing on next-generation infrastructure, including more highways, roadways, railways, i-ways, and waterways, also known as PM Gati Shakti or the National Master Plan for Multi-modal Connectivity (p. 168-70). The author further elaborated how Modi's leadership has also been recognized globally, with him receiving various international honors, including the United Nations 'Champions of the Earth Award' (p. 160). Overall, PM Modi's leadership style is characterized by his ability to connect with the people, drive economic growth, and implement significant reforms, making him a distinct figure in Indian politics.

This Book is a powerful rejoinder of the critical role national leaders can play in shaping not just organizations, but societies at large, and it reinforced our belief in the transformative power of visionary leadership. The Indic leadership style, as depicted in this book, needs to be elaborated in the management case studies for the business schools across the world. This is a must read for the budding management professionals, public policymakers, public administrators, public sector leaders, business mentors, and academic researchers, who will not only enrich their knowledge through this book, but also learn how to inculcate transformative leadership.

Reviewed by

Dr. Anup Kumar Das

Centre for Studies in Science Policy,
Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi,
INDIA.

Email: anup_csp@jnu.ac.in

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