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My dear young friends,  
Affectionate greetings.

Ordinary but educated young social workers have succeeded in ensuring all-around progress in villages through community effort based on the principle of self-reliance. In the backward and neglected area of Chitrakoot, village-dwellers have begun to experience a measure of prosperity. This experiment clearly indicates that if post-Independence India had harnessed her youth to ensure the development of her six lakh villages, rural India would today be the engine propelling the country towards a strong, self-reliant future. Instead, it presents a picture of abject misery. The fundamental, necessary thrust towards rural development has been missing from the very beginning.

As a result:

1. Crores of Indian citizens suffer the unbearable rigors of extreme poverty. Countless unemployed young people are destined to live in penury. Many of them are forced to take to criminal activities. Thus the country's youth, representing an enormous potential for constructive effort, is directionless.
2. Those in public life have no link with India's villages. Even a party like the Congress, with its long history and countrywide network, is no longer an all-India party.
3. Regional parties are growing stronger by whipping up casteist, communal and parochial sentiments. These narrow-minded parties have become indispensable in forming governments at the center, to the detriment of the nation. Always struggling with the pulls and pressures of their constituents, none of the shaky coalitions are able to focus on or work towards the national good. We appear to be edging towards balkanization, a dangerous state of affairs that none of our so-called political leaders is even attempting to avert. Instead, they are engaged