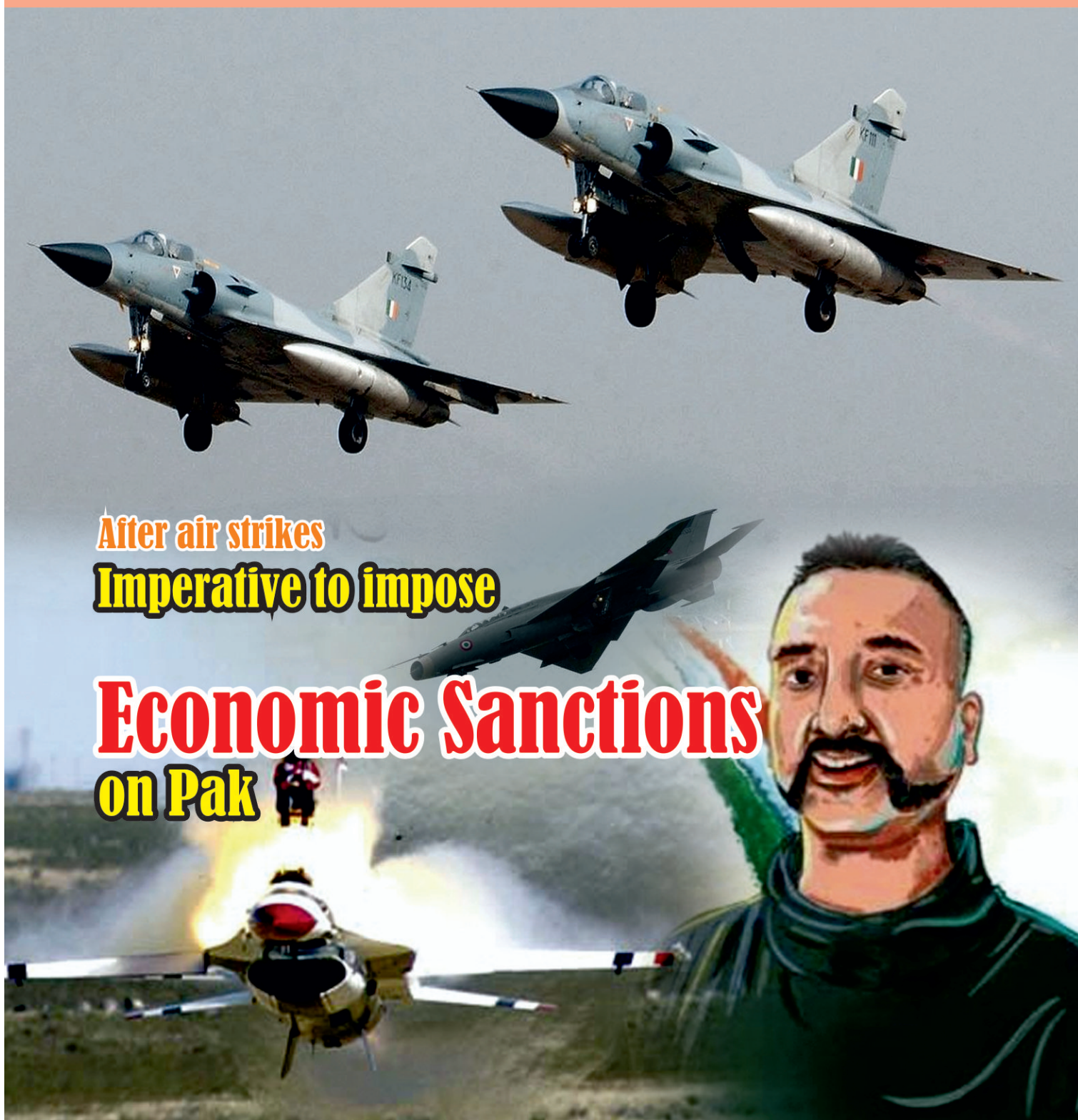


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MARCH 2019



After air strikes
Imperative to impose

Economic Sanctions
on Pak

VOICE OF SELF RELIANT INDIA

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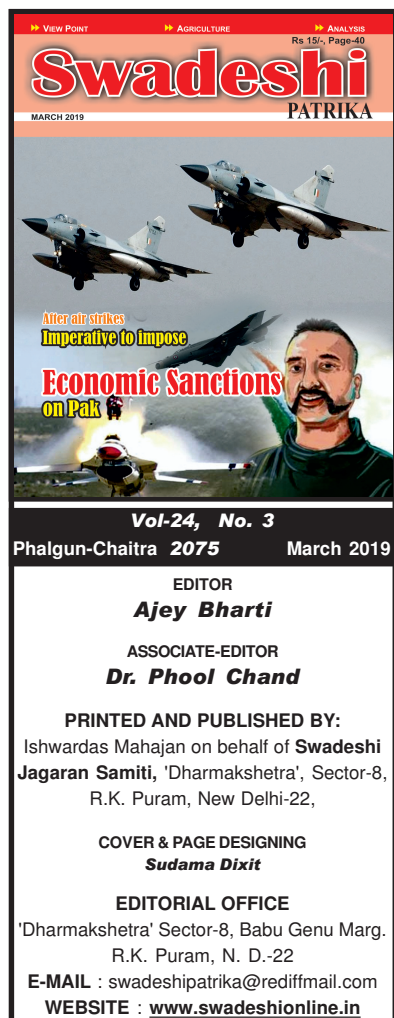
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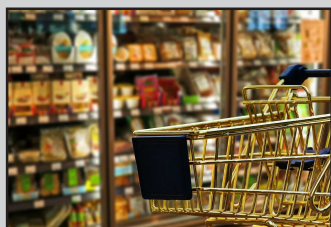
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On Level Playing Field No One Can Threat Others

Recently, it has been noticed that US President Donald Trump threatened to impose a "reciprocal tax" on countries like China and India if they do not match America's tariffs, reiterating a warning he had made before while referencing India's import duties on Harley-Davidson motorcycles. India being a reliable member of WTO, never put up import duty beyond bound rate (rate which prevailed as per WTO norms). Till now, India has always kept its import duties within the WTO bound rates.

Apart from this, there are the rates that countries commit themselves to at the World Trade Organization (WTO) that can't be exceeded. These are different from applied rates, which are the actual tariffs. Keeping these two rates in mind and their role, the decision by US to raise import duty on steel and aluminium is discriminatory in nature and will have some impact on India. Moreover, there is "disquiet" as the US has raised duties on certain items beyond the bound rates.

Trump on Thursday signed a pair of proclamations to levy 25% tariff on steel and 10% tariff on aluminium imported from all countries except Canada and Mexico. The penal tariffs have been imposed on grounds of national security. He repeated the threat about "reciprocal tax" at the signing ceremony. Now the biggest question is that how Trump justifies his decision as per level playing field mechanism.

– Om Panwar, Karol Bagh, Delhi

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Quote-Unquote



The 'shradh' on thirteenth day of sacrifice of the martyred soldiers in Pulwama has been completed in the right way.

Dr. Mohan Bhagwat
Chief, RSS



The United States has foolishly given Pakistan more than 33 billion dollars in aid over the last 15 years, and they have given us nothing but lies & deceit, thinking of our leaders as fools. They give safe haven to the terrorists we hunt in Afghanistan, with little help. No more!

Donald Trump
President, USA (1 Jan. 2018)



The power of the Lord always prevails with us to save the earth from the enemies of humanity. We are endeavoring to deliver the same message to the evil spirits, the victims with complete authenticity.

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister, Bharat



Even in Pakistan TV channels are criticising govt for helping terrorists, but in India some people think Pakistan gestures as saintly.

Dr. Ashwani Mahajan
National Co-convenor, SJM

After air strikes, imperative to impose economic sanctions on Pak

After cowardly act of Pulwama terrorist attack, India's reply was some thing which Pakistan had not even imagined. Killing of 44 CRPF jawans by a suicide bomb attack has not only shaken India, but even the whole world. After Jaish e Muhammad claiming the responsibility and state protection of the terrorist organisation by the Pakistan Government, for the sake of the humanity it becomes the bonded duty of the world, especially India to destroy terror factories in Pakistan and since govt of Pakistan is in denial mode then take the direct action, which India has very ably taken, intimidating Pakistan by destroying terror school and other places housing the terrorists. So called democratically elected government of Pakistan is actually a puppet of terrorist outfits, ISI and the army. Masood Azhar and Hafiz Sayeed have been the masterminds of all terrorist attacks from Mumbai to Pulwama. Governments, all around the world are unanimous on this issue; however, China has been scuttling all efforts to declare this dreaded terrorist a global terrorist.

Pakistan has been treading on the path of self destruction due to anti-India and pro-terrorist stance of the Pakistani rulers. This is coming in the way of the development of Pakistani people. If we compare India and Pakistan, this becomes evident. Pakistan is neck deep into debt. Today, when India has a foreign exchange reserves of more than \$400 billion, Pakistan has a negative \$2 billion. Today Pakistan is struggling to save its economic sovereignty, as it is facing the threat of repayment default. Rural roads is a dream in Pakistan and even urban infrastructure is in a very bad shape. We don't see any sign of development in Pakistan. Worsening state of the economy and deteriorating law and order situation in Pakistan, are keeping domestic and foreign investors away. For a long time China has been working on several infrastructure projects in Pakistan, which is multiplying the woes of Pakistan, as it is causing import surge, leading to foreign payment crisis and rising debt.

Today, the whole world is suffering from rising terrorism, and Pakistan is being seen as the biggest shelter house for terror. Whether it was the 'Twin Tower' attacker Osama-Bin-Laden or the mastermind of Mumbai and Pulwama terror attacks, all terror dons get shelter in Pakistan only. Dreaded criminals like Dawood also get safe heaven in Pakistan. Its unfortunate that despite that United Nations has not only not declared Pakistan as a terror state, even a dreaded terrorist Masood Azhar, could not be declared global terrorist as China keeps using its Veto power against this.

Pakistan had never given India the status of MFN due to the spirit of enmity, whereas India had liberally given this status to Pakistan. However, with the purpose of teaching Pakistan a lesson after the Pulwama terror attack, the Government of India has now revoked the status of MFN. As a member of the World Trade Organization, goods coming from Pakistan can not be restricted, but the import duty has been increased to 200 per cent on all the commodities coming from there. That is, in essence, now India will probably not import anything from Pakistan. Not only this, India can also ban its exports, which will affect Pakistan's textile and other types of industries and also availability of essential commodities.

Not only import duties, even economic sanctions can also be imposed on Pakistan. By imposing a variety of economic sanctions, the US is causing economic damage to many countries, including Iran. As part of economic sanctions, the United States has laid down on all the nations that any country who has financial dealings with Iran, their banks will block their payments and the US will stop economic dealings with them. In such a situation, all the countries are under pressure to stop economic dealings with Iran. Although, India has said that it does not consider any economic sanctions other than United Nations, these sanctions do impact economic acts of other countries. India can also move forward with the Allies in view of economic sanctions on Pakistan. Significantly, many countries are very upset with Pakistan for sheltering the terrorists of Pakistan.

An international agency 'Financial Action Task Force' (FATF) has placed Pakistan on the grey list, in context of money laundering and promoting terrorism. The institution says that there is a lot of flaws in Pakistan's system in terms of money laundering and prevention of financing of terrorism. In this list, there are countries like Syria, Trinnad, Yemen etc. But the special thing about Pakistan is that it is a nation of a large population compared to other such countries. The interesting thing is that for this reason the international investor keep distance from Pakistan. In the coming time, if it comes in the black list beyond the 'Grey List', then Pakistan can be isolated in the foreign policy and economic relations. What is needed today is that economic sanctions be imposed on the terror state Pakistan, so that it is forced to stop the terrorist activities on its soil to ensure peace in the world in general and this region in particular.

Sub-continent fights Singham war

India, Pak lose \$1500 m, Terror can end with assimilation

Playing Little Singham is the cheapest way of releasing energy and keep cool for many new generation kids. Usually it does not have a cost except for some bruises and then happily again play together.

Wish nations also could master that art. Nations are not let off with that ease. It has a cost on nation's ego, fancy of leaders, societal jingoism, and targeted violence against "real" enemies living next door and of course the military ops, which are not imaginary. And wars are led by vested interests.

All nations thrive on some kind of patriotism and veiled jingoism. The love-hate relationship between India and Pakistan for continuing the 1947 partition mindset has huge costs on both the nations.

Yes, the two-day war games have inflicted – for the satisfaction of all Indians – a heavy cost on Pakistan as it loses fighter jet. An F-16 today costs not less than \$ 15 million. The cost of flying 20 aircraft to India and dropping/losing bombs, closing airspace, heightened security and convincing its people is an approximate \$ 500 million.

It should not bring smiles. The cost for India is higher as MiG is crashed. A MiG-21 is said to have crossed a whopping \$ 25.1 million dollars. Coordinated flights from different bases far off the borders, stealth movements, closing of at least nine airports, detour for commercial planes because of closure of Pakistani air space, the cost of sophisticated bombs, heightened security double that Pakistan would have spent.

A trained pilot is injured and captured by the "enemy". Good the enemy prime minister Imran Khan despite some unsavoury comments decides to return



Coming out of the womb of Indian sub-continent or Bharatmata both the neighbours have tested that if one could slap, the other could hit back with fisticuffs. The result - the people loses and leaders rejoice.

Shivaji Sarkar



him with dignity. It showed jingoism could cost the sobriety of an international player. This does not include the cost of losing Mi 17 copter, which was supposedly not on a “war” sortie and killed six Indian Air Force personnel and a civilian in Budgaon in J&K. The copter itself costs \$ 16 to 18 million to US army. Lives are invaluable but the cost to families cannot be fathomed. The emotional loss to the nation can never be calculated.

Coming out of the womb of Indian sub-continent or Bharatmata both the neighbours have tested that if one could slap, the other could hit back with fisticuffs. The result - the people loses and leaders rejoice. Rulers and their rival opposition feel happy as they shoot barbs with the impending elections in mind.

The actual cost is heavier as the Atalji’s bus and Samjhauta Express, trade and many “normal” is stopped. The cost of resumption, which may be sooner than later, would be higher as diplomats, security and civilian officials fly to each other’s territories for renegotiations and re-demarcations.

Don’t forget it would also have a cost on the media as they also deploy their teams to start a “new normal”. This all at a time, when both the neighbours are striving to keep floating their economies as GDP continues to plummet.

India and Pakistan suffered more beyond the 1965 and 1971 battlefields. Both the nations had suffered high inflation, famine deaths and other losses. The political costs were heavier for Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Indira Gandhi despite they being the finest leaders of the Indian subcontinent.

Pakistan did not calculate the

cost of Bhutto’s 1000-year war cry. That led Pakistan into the trap of terrorists – first it promoted Khalistan, that bled itself as also India leading to Indira Gandhi’s assassination and then Islamic outfits for the last over 30 years. It has disturbed world peace and led to Afghanistan, Iraq and Arab wars.

Pakistan is responsible for the disturbed peace in Asia.

The inflicted cost for India, if the war continues, estimated at modest level is Rs 27 crore per hour, as per Shekhar Gupta in India today fortnightly. A 1000 hour or 41.6 day war would cost India Rs 27,000 crore if India wins, according to Gupta. The actual military estimation would be far higher. And after all such expenses, the target – arms, drugs, human traffickers and money launderers – would go unscathed as apparently the IAF bombings in Balakot in Pak-administered-J&K has done. The 300 deaths claimed heightened passion but IAF could not vouch for it.

Nation can neither thrive on passion nor on emotion. The worst is the unrestrained cacophony of undertrained TV channels and social media. A “patriotic” media conceals more, an IIMC study on Kargil in 1999 testify.

The 2014 was watershed for Indian democracy. Aspirations were high even in the Kashmir valley. Hurriyat was sulking. The finest decision of BJP and PDP coming together to form government raised hopes. But the hopes were belied as there was more dependence on brute force and pellet guns. Non-negotiation was boasted as signal of strong governance. It was not different from what the Congress unfortunately did for long.

The Valley people were dismayed. Hurriyat once again came back to centre-stage. The nation has lost an opportunity of assimilating its own people.

That is the folly. Neither India nor Pakistan could come out yet of the 1947 failed mindset. Communal harmony of Mahatma Gandhi, then a bold initiative against Jinnah’s two-religion-two-nation theory, did not succeed in the next seven decades.

Jinnah’s own Pakistan was split as it was found religion does not bind people.

Unfortunately against basic concept of secular Hindu tolerance and assimilation, a “rabid” Hindu emerged. Non-Hindus became targets of distrust. Cow vigilantism today is dividing the core Hindu rural farmers as the stray cattle rummage their corps.

The nation assimilates. Outburst of emotions distance, if not divide, its people.

The Hindus have the capacity to lead and make this nation the wonder of the world. They are good at heart and can take lead to assimilate not only different religious denominations within but beyond borders, even in Pakistan. It is the land of Buddha, who had transformed large parts of Asia.

The Singham war must start process of assimilating the people of the sub-continent or Akhand Bharat. That would be the real war beyond borders against the terror mafia.

PM Narendra Modi has dynamism. Used positively it can transform the sub-continent but for its success Modi has to replace his advisers. Let there no more be a Singham war for the happiness and prosperity of the region. □□

India may gain from trade war



After Donald Trump took over the rein of governance in the US, it has started imposing higher import duty on imports coming from the rest of the world. Other countries have also followed the suit and are increasing import tariffs. In this manner, a trade war has started in the world. According to the recent report of the United Nations, India is among some select countries which are going to benefit greatly from the current trade war. The report says that although this trade war will lead to a significant reduction in global trade, India's exports may grow by 3.5 percent.

Although foreign trade remained almost free during the early period of history, i.e. the tariffs or other restrictions on imports coming from other countries were minimal. But later on governments started imposing heavy import duties coming from other countries and sometimes it took the shape of competitive exercise. Basic idea of imposing tariffs on goods coming from other countries used to be protection of domestic industry from foreign competition. In the meantime, foreign trade theories propounded and an understanding developed between economists that if all the nations of the world remove tariffs and non tariff barriers and walk on the path of free trade, then all the countries will benefit because people will get cheaper goods. Countries will achieve the efficiencies in production according to their comparative advantage. Though, there was no flaw in these theories per se, if followed honestly, however problem started when the theory was used by for the benefit of a few against interests of many others. For instance, by using this argument of free trade, British government was able to impose cheaper machine made goods, against the interests of our small artisans and industries. Our industry decayed and dependence on agriculture increased. Economists named it de-industrialization. We can say that the industrialization of India ended due to free trade. Under the pressure of nationalist leaders in the freedom struggle, the foreign government was forced to impose tariff on goods coming from England, what was termed as discriminatory tariff, and that was the time when modern textile, sugar, cement and paper industries started getting established.

In the era of globalization in the last 28 years, protectionism has not only become a history, it is considered to be a curse rather. This period witnesses elimination of all types of tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade between countries, especially after World Trade Organization (WTO) came into being. In the name of rule based trading system under WTO agreements, now countries were



Past 25 years, we have seen that free trade has not done good to our industries and agriculture, therefore protectionism should not always be seen as a bad policy.

Dr. Ashwani Mahajan

bound by the agreements, to carry on trade based on the principle of free trade. In the initial years of the WTO, due to dismantling of barriers of trade, global market started expanding. Generally balance of trade of member countries didn't disturb much. But after the entry of China in the World Trade Organization, circumstances changed and today we see that more than 130 countries trading with China are facing trade deficit with China, that is, imports of these countries from China are more than their exports to China.

In such a situation, industries of these countries are getting destroyed and unemployment is increasing. However, simultaneously, some countries, mostly having partnership with China have been specialising in some products. For instance, production base for components used in electronics, telecom products, cars etc was established in number of countries. Due to free trade, supply chain of these components has become global, which is being called 'Global Supply Chain'.

Protectionist stance of the United States has caused a panic in the world economy in general and China and its supplier countries in particular. Those who believed that growth in international trade is the only way to spur growth in the world economy have started feeling that this is an end to world's economic growth. Though, it's true that as overseas demand increases, it leads to greater production at home, therefore growth in international trade provides an opportunity for expanding production. However, after US's protectionism, global export demand has started contracting, impacting production.

UN report is again confirming that India stands to gain from trade war if any disruption in the global supply chain take place.

However, we understand that whether it is protectionism or free trade, it's never one sided. After increase in tariff by the US, other countries are also forced to change their foreign trade policy and they too have started adopting protectionist stance. In such a situation, the question arises, where this game will end? Blind supporters of free trade have started arguing that this will block the path of development of the world. Prices will increase and the welfare of the consumers will get severely affected. Due to the global supply chain being interrupted, industries in different countries will be in huge danger now and unemployment will also increase, supporters of free trade argue.

India may in fact gain

Due to fast increase in imports from China, not only trade deficit has grown out of proportion, there has also been a huge crisis of foreign payments in these countries. Today, while the United States and some other countries are hiking import tariffs on their imports, countries like India are getting an opportunity to revive their industries which were forced to close down due to cheap imports. Significantly, India could not become any significant part of the global

supply chain. It is well known that parts of electronics and telecom equipment are mostly not made in India. The biggest losers on the Global Supply Chain by the US blocking of China's goods will be South-East Asian countries. In India, the companies producing automobiles, telecom, electronics, consumer goods etc, mostly import their components from other countries. Any disruption in the global supply chain may prove to be a boon for Indian manufacturing. Due to the increase in import duties by the government in the last one year, imports have started falling. This has helped India in halting the depreciation of rupee. And now this latest UN report is again confirming that India stands to gain from trade war is seemingly on the same lines.

It is true that increase in the import duties causes increase in prices of these commodities, impacting middle class. However, it would also encourage the production of these items in the country and if in this manner the 'Make in India' gets a boost then short-term losses to the middle class could be more than compensated by increasing production and employment in the country. We have to understand that in the past 25 years, free trade has not done good to our industries and agriculture, therefore protectionism should not always be seen as a bad policy. If our trade partners are adopting protectionism, one-sided free trade can be harmful to us. Need of the hour is to take advantage of increasing protectionism in the world, by protecting our industries and move forward to increase both manufacturing and employment in our country. □□

We Must Fight Back Against the 1 Percent to Stop the Sixth Mass Extinction



Oneness is the recognition that we are part of one planet, and we are one humanity. And unless we live with that consciousness and shape every moment of our production and consumption with that consciousness, we are going to destroy ourselves, which we are. The melting of the glaciers is one of the very severe indicators. The 1 percent, of course, is the symbol of the concentration of wealth under the rules of the neoliberal economies, that are basically, on the one hand, turning every natural resource into a war zone. Even the Venezuelan issue is really a war over oil. But war over seeds, that's my life's work, to keep

seeds free, because they literally are a war over control of seeds, by a poison cartel of three—Monsanto and Bayer, Syngenta and ChemChina, Dow and DuPont—all of them with their roots in Hitler's Germany and finding chemicals to kill people. No wonder they're still killing people. No wonder they're killing our butterflies and our bees and our pollinators.

And every indicator is showing we are not just in a severe climate catastrophe; we are in the sixth mass extinction. And both the species extinction and the climate catastrophe are two sides of the same coin.

We must understand that Monsanto does not have a patent on Bt cotton. And the Supreme Court did not give it a patent on Bt cotton. The only way it could have done it is by striking down India's law, Article 3(J) of our patent law. With intervention of civil society, including Navdanya amendments were shaped in parliament after the WTO trips forced us to amend our laws. 3(J) says plants, animals and seeds are not human inventions, therefore they're not patentable, because a patent is only granted for that which is invented.

By Bt we mean *Bacillus thuringiensis*, a soil organism which produces an endotoxin, which becomes a poison only in the gut of the caterpillar family. But in the plant, it's a readymade toxin, with a very broad spectrum of harm. And it's supposed to be a pesticide-producing plant. In fact, in the United States, it was approved as a pesticide. As a pesticide-producing plant, every cell of the plant is releasing a toxin at very high levels. It's supposed to control the bollworm pest. The bollworm has become resistant, which is in the nature of evolution. Life evolves to overcome threats.

Bt cotton seed does not have a patent, for the simple reason our laws don't allow it. Monsanto was illegally collecting royalties via Indian seed companies, because they couldn't do what they did in this country, which is sign licensing agreements directly with the farmers. In India, they signed the licensing agree-



Bt cotton seed does not have a patent, for the simple reason our laws don't allow it.

Monsanto was illegally collecting royalties.

Dr. Vandana Shiva

ments with the companies—with a lie that they had a patent. They signed on the U.S. patent, but India is a sovereign country, and patent laws are sovereign laws.

When they wanted to extract more royalties and the price of seed jumped 80,000 percent, this is the main reason why the suicide belt of India, where now 310,000 Indian farmers have committed suicide, it overlaps largely with the cotton belt. And 99 percent of the cotton seed is controlled by Monsanto. We have an anti-trust case in the Indian Competition Commission saying 99 percent seed is a prima facie monopoly. Eighty thousand percent jump in seed, and it doesn't work to control the pests. Farmers got into debt. That's the driver for farmer suicide.

When the Indian companies said, "We can't keep paying. Our farmers are dying. We can't extract more royalties," Monsanto sued them, using patent law, infringement. That's when civil society including Navdanya were involved. The attempt of Monsanto was to knock down India's law. They failed. Its control over media, that's why it's so important to have Democracy Now!, Because the media is so totally in the hands of the poison cartel. They lied about what happened in the Supreme Court that day.

We have seen days when we used to have slave conditions for growing indigo, and Gandhi led the first satyagraha, the noncooperation, said, "We would rather die than grow indigo." And that's what triggered so much of the freedom movement. That's with love to you for democracy, for all life on Earth. That's democracy.

In central India. The central

India is called Vidarbha. It is the place where Gandhi moved to create his final ashram, to create a totally democratic society. And for him, democracy began with economic democracy. You've got to produce what you need. That's why he pulled at the spinning wheel. And for me, the seed is today's spinning wheel (Charkha).

We all know that Bayer, began with aspirin. They began, for Hitler's Germany, making Zyklon B, the gas that was used to kill millions in the concentration camps. They were part of IG Farben. IG Farben was the cartel that was tried at Nuremberg. One of Bayer's inventions is heroin.

It was called "heroin" because it made you feel like a hero. We know how the devastation of our societies, how the destruction of the economy of Mexico has created the drug trade; how the devastation of rural America, as well as the unemployment in the industrial belt, has created the opioid crisis; how Punjab, the land of the Green Revolution, 75 percent youth are now drug addicts.

So, Bayer bought out Monsanto. Bayer bought—so, Monsanto today is Bayer. And it's a German company. But these are global companies. They have no home. They have no loyalty. They are accountable to no citizens. All of them work through tax havens. You know, which is the place in America that's a tax haven, where all of the companies are registered? Delaware. Delaware. All of—including Monsanto. So, Monsanto was bought out by Bayer for the simple reason that they wanted to erase the name of Monsanto, which has become such a dirty name.

But when I wrote the book 'Oneness vs. the 1%', I wanted to really figure out, you know, what are the stocks, what are the ownerships. That's when I realized that the majority stocks in all the corporations that rule our world are owned by the investment funds, which is where the billionaires stock their money. The biggest, BlackRock, the second biggest, Vanguard, they were nothing 'til the 2008 Wall Street disaster. Last year, BlackRock was \$6 trillion—\$6 trillion. They lost 30 percent with one case, of Monsanto's Roundup Ready causing cancer. It's a Californian case of Dewayne Johnson.

Round Up Menace

Roundup is the herbicide that kills everything, but it has been known by the World Health Organization to be a carcinogen. Monsanto attacked the World Health Organization, like they attack anybody who speaks the truth and tells good science.

But a Californian jury has ruled. And the day the ruling came, Bayer lost 35 percent. So, when people feel, "Oh, these guys are too powerful," We must understand, "They're just three. We are 300 million species. We are 7 billion people. We are more."

And secondly, they are a bubble, that has exploded with fictions of financial multiplication, with rent collections. Basically, Monsanto and Bayer are nothing but rent collectors. They are the lifelords of today, like feudalism had the landlords. They do no work. They do nothing. They don't breed seed. They make poison, and then collect rents. I think we need a better world in terms of how we grow our food. □□

China blinks but still a big bias favouring Pakistan

Under the leadership of PM Modi India has been invoking on the path of 'neighbourhood first' as one of its foreign policy line and goals. In last years India under the leadership of PM Modi has been invoking on new set of 'developmental partnership' with China based on mutual understanding and cooperation, and its relationship with Pakistan has also witnessed 'sincere and cultivated efforts' from the Indian leadership to bring the positive side of Indo-Pakistan relations. Despite the India willingness the relations with Pakistan has remained differing and contested for much of the time given its 'non resolute response' to act against terror outfits based in Pakistan. Interestingly, while sometime elected civilian government has often evoked for 'good relations' with India, the ISI-military dominated establishment in Pakistan has always looked upon 'Anti India card' as a policy line to its domestic influence and check on the government.

After the recent terror attacks in Pulwama, India, which killed more than 40 Indian soldiers, the diplomatic relations between India and Pakistan, have reached its lowest point in years. After Pakistan based terror outfit Jaish-e-Mohamaneed (JeM) took the responsibility for the attacks, the IAF air strike in Balakot, Pakistan was a much needed befitting reply to terrorism originating from Pakistan also setting a 'new line' from India in its policy against terrorism.

More importantly, the relationship has acquired greater significance in the light of Pakistan's domestic and external challenges. With poor economy and booming fundamentalism, the 'politically volatile Pakistan' will never be in India's interests and goals. A stable regional order demands prosperous states with more secured strategic environment. While entire global community has been standing as one against condemning of Pulwama terror attacks in India, the position of China has changed but still a 'biased act' favouring Pakistan. This is largely because in the present day global politics that is deeply divided on the basis of geo-strat-



China adopts a changed but still a 'biased act' post Pulwama terror attacks.

Abhishek Pratap Singh



egy and security issues, trade and economics interests, nationalism and major power rivalry, Pakistan is one of the South Asian states to have been sustaining a 'deep trusted' relationship with China. Over the years, this bilateral relationship has been built on the principle of 'all weather friendship'. Both the countries have reiterated in their official diplomatic exchanges and statements about nature of bilateral relations being "higher than mountains, deeper than the ocean, stronger than steel and sweeter than honey". (PM Gilani, 2010)

In the given context it remains interesting to understand the why China's response on Pulwama has been of a different but biased in favouring Pakistan. Earlier too, Beijing has refused to lift its "technical hold" on a proposal to declare Pakistan based terrorist Masood Azhar as a 'global terrorist' under UN Security Council Resolution. China used its veto for 'four record times' to against UN resolution on Azhar.

Look back, we need to remember the attacks on Lal Masjid in Islamabad, Pakistan (2007), which led to the limits of 'strategic threshold' between both the sides. It still remains a 'testing times' of the good relations between China and Pakistan. The incident, which caused attack on one Chinese parlour and grabbing of seven Chinese personnel, led to a 'final deal' involving high Pakistani officers, Chinese diplomats and perpetrators in Mosque in due consideration to Pakistan China friendship. (Andrew Small, 2015) This remains important to analyse the importance of bilateral relation between both in difficult times.

One of the 'key reason' for

this balancing by China for this lies in the recent case of transforming this bilateral relationship to 'new heights' has been under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) program launched in May 2013. The project that involves almost 50 billion of US dollar investment runs to one of the most 'unsecured terrains' in Pakistan. CPEC remains a key link of China's Belt Road Initiative (BRI) in its outreach to the greater world in Africa, West Asia and Europe. China's access to the sea through Gwadar under CPEC will protect it from taking long route in west through the Straits of Malacca and around India. For China healthy relations with Pakistan, and "tactical understanding" with ISI-military establishment to protect the CPEC corridor from any kind of terrorist attacks and related vulnerabilities. Moreover, Pakistan's expectations from the project are high and are a central component of its foreign and economic policy.

Besides, China has spread its assistance to more than 60 countries through One Belt One Road projects. But the specific Pakistan programme 'CPEC' is the leading one in terms of Chinese government's priorities and execution. Pakistan has reassured China for the protection of CPEC and has established a 20,000-personnel Special Security Division drawn for the same from the army in 2015.

Another dimension of this relationship remains that China enjoys overwhelming popularity on the street in Pakistan — surveys show 88% Pakistanis view China favourably, compared with only 33% Indians. It is not in Beijing's interest to disappoint this constituency by giving in to India's repeated demands

to list Azhar. (Indian Express, 2019)

However, despite all this the India-China relations have also surpassed the testing times during 'Doklam incident', and the Wuhan spirit as agreed between both has certainly played a key role in China's tactical balancing after Pulwama attacks. China backed the UNSC resolution on the "heinous and cowardly terror attack in Pulwama that was unanimously adopted by permanent and non-permanent members countries of the global body. Moreover, the recent summit of RIC (Russia China India) countries 2019 in China reiterated for a closer policy coordination to eradicate the "breeding grounds of terrorism". It was an indirect reference to Pakistan based terror groups and activities. Chinese Foreign Minister stated for 'constructive role' in the changing times between India and Pakistan. The joint statement issued at the end of the RIC Ministers' meeting also spoke strongly against terrorism.

As the post Pulwama diplomatic development suggests, the Indo-China ties have certainly been able to note a 'new shift and position' of China on terrorism. This is much in line with the Wuhan Summit, which endorsed the idea that both the sides should bear in mind the need to "respect each other's sensitivities, concerns and aspirations." However, as China builds towards its more active role in the regional and global politics, it must take lead in war against terrorism that remains a challenge for the regional peace and stability. This shall also serve as a new source of confidence and trust between India-China ties in the longer run. □□

Holds PhD in China Studies from JNU and teaches at Delhi University.

Beyond budget: BJP's vision

BJP has submitted its last budget of its current tenure on 01 February 2019. The budget was different and considered good. Many even thought that this budget should have been the first budget of BJP instead of last as it brought many proposals that may help bring good days to Indian economy and Indian commons. There is lot discussion on many of its proposals but few drawn attentions to the vision for future presented in the budget. Budget, generally, talks of government revenue and expenses and include the proposals to meet the resource gap. It rarely talks of the future vision though address the development problems. BJP has thought of vision and dared to present it and that need attention. True, the identified dimensions are not new and Indian past political governments indeed had annual and five years plans to make India a developed country. The achievements however were below the targets. BJP government seems serious about its vision and desire to perform better to realize it.

BJP's vision for future

Honorable FM mentioned that the NDA Government have resolved many problems which were coming in the way of realizing full potential of society and economy and said that India is poised to become a Five Trillion Dollar Economy in the next five years and aspire to become a Ten Trillion Dollar Economy in the next 8 years thereafter. He laid out BJP's vision for ten most important dimensions in 2030.

The First Dimension of this Vision is to build physical as well as social infrastructure for a ten Trillion Dollar economy and to provide ease of living. The Second is to create a Digital India reaching every sector of the economy, every corner of the country and impacting the life of all Indians. Third, to make India a pollution free nation with green Mother Earth and blue skies. Fourth, to Ex-



BJP govt. presented a visionary budget on 01 February 2019 and that India is poised to become a five trillion dollar economy in the next five years.
Anil Javalekar



pand rural industrialization using modern digital technologies to generate massive employment. Fifth Dimension of Vision for India of 2030 is of Clean Rivers, with safe drinking water to all Indians, sustaining and nourishing life and efficient use of water in irrigation using micro-irrigation techniques. Sixth, coastline and ocean waters power India's development and growth. Seventh, help India become the launch-pad of satellites for the World and place an Indian astronaut into space by 2022. Eighth is to make India self-sufficient in food, export to the world to meet their food needs and produce food in the most organic way. Ninth dimension is of a healthy India and tenth, have a proactive and responsible bureaucracy which will be viewed as friendly to people.

Efforts made By BJP government

In FM's word, 'the major achievement of this Government was that we strived our utmost to change the mind-set and ignited the self-confidence of the nation'. He further said that 'We are moving towards realizing a 'New India' by 2022, when we celebrate 75 years of India's independence: an India which is clean and healthy, where everybody would have a house with universal access to toilets, water and electricity; where farmers' income would have doubled; youth and women would get ample opportunities to fulfil their dreams; an India free from terrorism, communalism, casteism, corruption and nepotism'. True, expressing desires and defining the dreams are one side of coin. It is important to know what efforts made to realize the dreams. In this

Against the perspective of world economic players, BJP talked about Swadeshi Model of Development and strategizing for Self-reliance.

BJP seems on right path.

First, BJP's last five years rule have helped India to become a bright spot of the global economy. The country witnessed its best phase of macro-economic stability during this period. India is the fastest growing major economy in the world with an annual average GDP growth during last five years higher than the growth achieved by any Government since economic reforms began in 1991. India is now the 6th largest economy.

Second, BJP government could control double-digit inflation and brought it to single digit. The average rate of inflation during 2009-2014 was a backbreaking 10.1% and was down to 2.19% only by December 2018.

Third, BJP gave a stable and predictable regulatory regime that helped Indian economy attract massive amount of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) during the last 5 years - as much as \$239 billion.

Fourth, BJP introduced Goods and Services Tax (GST) and other taxation reforms that smoothed Indian tax structure.

Fifth, BJP government stopped the culture of "phone banking" and adopted the 4Rs approach of recognition, resolu-

tion, re-capitalization and reforms in Banking sector. The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code has institutionalized a resolution-friendly mechanism, which is helping in recovery of non-performing loans of banks.

Sixth, the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 (RERA) and Benami Transaction (Prohibition) Act, 1988 are helping to bring transparency in the real estate sector. The Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018 will help confiscate and dispose off the assets of economic offenders who escape the jurisdiction of the laws in India.

Seventh, India has achieved 98% rural sanitation coverage and as many as 5.45 lakh villages have been declared "Open Defecation Free." It is a holistic programme and has succeeded in changing the mindset of our people.

Eighth, Introduced 10% reservation in educational institutions & Government services for poor.

Ninth, BJP aimed to provide urban facilities in villages while keeping the soul of rural life intact.

Tenth, construction of rural roads has been tripled. 15.80 lakh habitations out of a total of 17.84 lakh habitations connected with pucca roads. Provided free electricity connection to almost every household. Launched the world's largest healthcare programme, Ayushman Bharat, to provide medical treatment to nearly 50 crore people. Fixed the minimum support price (MSP) of all 22 crops at minimum 50% more than the cost.

Eleventh, launched assured income support programme so to help the small and marginal farmers. Also launched a mega pension yojana namely 'Pradhan Mantri

Shram-Yogi Maandhan' for the unorganised sector workers with monthly income up to Rs 15,000.

Economic model choice is important

Indian commons are humble citizens and desire far less from governments. Indian lifestyle is also simple and of few needs. The tragedy is that Indian governments are consistently failing to ensure that the economy help Indian commons to meet their needs of minimum life style. Indian National congress led the country for most period after independence and shaped all Indian economic policies so far. The economic models adopted were for urban development and help urban consumer satisfy their need first. Rural India made to provide the resources for this development. Indian economic problems were also understood not from perspective of Indian people and India as

nation but from the perspectives of world economic players and or with reference to the economic crisis issues highlighted in the form of GDP growth and fiscal deficit or current account deficit. Against this, BJP talked about 'Swadeshi' model of development and strategizing for self-reliance.

True, BJP has not changed the basic model of economic development of congress governments but preferred a model that ensures sustainable progress of all, particularly small and marginal- people and sectors. The reference in the vision in regard to the rural industrialization to generate massive employment, Cleaning of Rivers, efficient use of water in irrigation, developing coastline and ocean waters so to power India's development and growth, making India a launch-pad of satellites for the World and place, making India

self-sufficient in food, aiming at a healthy India and to have a proactive and responsible bureaucracy can be considered in line with the swadeshi model.

Need more efforts

It will not be enough to be clear about vision, BJP government need to strategize to achieve it. Let this last budget of this tenure become the first budget of new tenure and help BJP to do more for Indian commons that too from rural areas. It should however be understood that protecting long term national interest and facilitating socio-economic development with justifiable treatment to weak and vulnerable is possible only through self-reliance. And self-reliance is possible only through swadeshi model of development. Wish BJP would get more opportunities to implement its vision. □□

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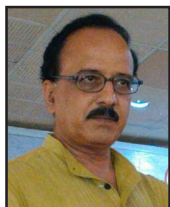
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Agriculture can alleviate employment woes



If only agriculture can be turned economically viable and ecologically sustainable, it can easily take away much of the pressure the country faces in creating additional employment. All it requires is a paradigm shift in economic thinking, which begins by first treating agriculture as an economic activity. Making farm livelihoods sustainable should be the first step towards achieving the objective of ensuring gainful employment for the marginalised communities. — **Devinder Sharma**

In March 2018, an estimated 2.5 crore people, more than the population of Australia, applied for about 90,000 positions in the Indian Railways. In 2015, over 23 lakh candidates, including 22 lakh engineers and 255 PhD holders, had applied for 368 posts of peon in the Uttar Pradesh state secretariat. As many as 7,000 people, most of them college graduates, applied for 13 vacancies for waiters in Maharashtra's secretariat. Undoubtedly, the job scenario across the country is appalling.

This is borne by the fact that India's unemployment rate rose to a 45-year high during 2017-18, as a newspaper reported, quoting the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) study conducted between July 2017 and June 2018. At a time when India's economy has been on a growth trajectory in the past four years - growing at an average exceeding 7 per cent per annum — the failure to provide jobs to millions of people is a clear-cut pointer that relying on a higher GDP is not the answer to creating more jobs. Whether we like it or not, it is now becoming apparent that a higher GDP does not translate into more employment opportunities.

Although Finance Minister Arun Jaitley dismisses the study, saying "if the economy is growing at 12 per cent nominal growth in the past five years, it would be an economic absurdity to say that such a large growth, the highest in the world, doesn't lead to the creation of jobs," but the question that needs to be asked is:



where are the jobs? While all-out efforts are being made to show that job creation is on track, a report by the Centre for Monitoring of Indian Economy (CMIE) deflates the claims when it shows that in the past year, almost 1.1 crore people lost their jobs. "An estimated 91 lakh jobs were lost in rural India, while the loss in urban India was 18 lakh jobs. Rural India accounts for two-thirds of India's population, but it accounted for 84 per cent of the job losses," the report said.

Growth without jobs is meaningless. The indication that a higher GDP does not automatically lead to more jobs was clearly visible in the UPA era when despite a high growth exceeding 8.3 per cent on an average, only 1.5 crore jobs were created in 10 years (2004 to 2014). This was against the annual intake of about 1.2 crore fresh entrants in the job market every year, which meant that against the need to provide 12 crore people with employment, the UPA government could provide only 1.5 crore jobs. Ten years is not a small period, and it is here that policy-makers failed to realise the inability of economic growth to create more jobs.

Still worse, a Planning Commission report had worked out that between 2004-05 and 2011-12, about 14 crore jobs were lost in agriculture. Many economists term the migration from agriculture to be a welcome sign. Going by the World Bank prescription, which was doled out back in 1996, India was directed to go for a population shift, translocating 40 crore people from rural to urban areas in the next 20 years, by 2015. While most government economists have blindly followed the World Bank

Since, agriculture is the biggest employer, the resolution of the monumental unemployment lies in the crop fields.

prescription, I have always termed these 40 crore people being forced to migrate from the villages as 'agricultural refugees'. In the absence of alternative employment opportunities, these millions are swarming into the cities looking for menial jobs. Without any definite strategy to employ them, no one knows what they will do in the urban centres. If the objective is to move people out of agriculture simply to meet the growing needs of cheaper labour for infrastructure, industry and real estate, in other words to provide for dehari mazdoor (daily wage), there is something terribly wrong with the way dominant economic thinking is perceived. The general understanding is that those moving out of agriculture will be automatically absorbed by the manufacturing sector. It was primarily for this consideration that the National Skill Development Policy aimed at reducing the population involved in agriculture from 52 per cent to 38 per cent by 2022. But the reality is that during the period, agriculture saw an unprecedented rate of migration; manufacturing, too, slumped, causing a loss of 5.3 crore jobs. More recently, another 1.06 crore jobs were lost in the manufacturing sector during the four-

year period (2011-12 to 2015-16).

Since agriculture is the biggest employer, employing 52 per cent of the population as per the 2011 Census, the resolution of the monumental employment crisis that India faces actually lies in the crop fields. If only agriculture can be turned economically viable and ecologically sustainable, it can easily take away much of the pressure the country faces in creating additional employment. All it requires is a paradigm shift in economic thinking, which begins by first treating agriculture as an economic activity, which has multi-faceted roles cut out. Making farm livelihoods economically sustainable should be the first step towards achieving the objective of ensuring gainful employment for marginalised communities. Once agriculture becomes economically viable, providing more income to 60 crore people, it will reignite the rural-based industry, and in the process trigger a reverse migration.

Whether we like it or not, only agriculture has the ability to reboot the economy. The increased demand a refurbished agriculture will create will be phenomenal, leading to a spurt in industrial production. This may not be there in the economic textbooks, which still emphasise on reducing the population in farming, but it is time to look beyond. If the Constitution can be amended umpteen times, I see no reason why dominant economic thinking cannot undergo a transformation for the better, in tune with the changing times. It's time to accept that agriculture is truly the mainstay of Indian economy. □□

Source: https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/comment/agriculture-can-alleviate-employment-woes/729010.html?fbclid=IwAR0xP1PB9Rag0f6b0DPUkrSFbVEb2614ALjji4POK9sGZlt-dcen_GAb4c

Civilisational continuity

Prime Minister Narendra Modi largely stuck to his developmental agenda during his visit to Jammu, Srinagar and Leh on February 3, 2019, inaugurating projects worth Rs 44,000 crore but disappointing the faithful in Ladakh and Jammu by failing to address their core anxieties. Ladakh was expecting a grant of divisional status to redress decades of neglect but perhaps Modi has kept that for another day. His major focus was on education and healthcare, the prime concerns since 2014. He launched the University of Ladakh, a long-standing demand recently granted under President's rule and laid the foundations for two All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Jammu and Srinagar.

At Jammu, however, he acknowledged the unresolved problems of Kashmiri Pandits before massive crowds: "We haven't forgotten their persecution. I always feel their pain and I am committed to delivering justice." He spoke about the importance of the now-shelved Citizenship Bill and the rights of Hindus, who had to come to India to escape religious persecution in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh. This is a clear hint that Modi intends to pursue this if returned to power in the coming elections.

Given the Kashmir-centric bias imposed on the region from 1947, Modi surely understands that much can be achieved under President's rule. Indeed, it is time to take the bull by the horns and begin by granting Indian citizenship to refugees from West Pakistan from 1947 and end the sense of betrayal which pervades the Hindu psyche in the region. Scrap the State flag, the issue for which Syama Prasad Mukherjee sacrificed his life, and begin the debate on filling the 24 Assembly seats reserved for the Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (POJK) regions with nominations from among the POJK refugees. Part III of the Constitution of India, pertaining to Fundamental Rights, should be bestowed upon citizens of Jammu & Kashmir without further ado.



From Kashmir to Kerala, be it the Sabarimala issue or the rights of citizens in Jammu & Kashmir, there is a need to look at everything through the prism of the Constitution.
Sandhya Jain



The List of Swadeshi-Videshi Commodities	
Product Name	Swadeshi Product - Use
Bath Soaps	Sintoor, Nirma, Savstik, Maisoor Sandal, Vippro-Sikakai, Madimix, Ganga, Synthol & Home Products etc.
Deterzen Soaps	Nirma, Aankto, Vimal, Hepolin, T-Series, Dait, Fena, Ujala, Shudh, EG, Ghadi, Gentle, Manjula and Home Products etc.
Beauty Products	Tips & Toj, Shrangar, Synthol, Santoor, Emami, Boroplus, Tulsi, Viko, Termaric, Arnika, Hair and Caire, Hemani, Perashoot, Faim, Kedila, Sipla, Dabar, Franki, Efka, khandelwal, Torant Farma, Unicum, Jhandu Farma, Himalya, Maharishi Ayurved, Balsara, J.K. Dabur, Jhandoo, Sandoo, Vaidhnath, Himalya, Bhaskar, Borolin, Bajaj Sevashram, Kokoraj, Move, Creck Cream, Park Avenue and Home Products etc.
Toothpaste	Babool, Promise, Viko, Ankar, Dabar, Misvak, Ajay, Harbodent, Ajenta, Garwary, Brush, Clasical, Egle, Bandarchhap, Vaidhnath, Emami and Home Products etc.
Shaving Cream/ Eraser	Godrej, Emami, Super, Super-Maix, Ashok, V-Zon, Topaz, Premium, Park Avenue, Lazer, Vidhut, J.K. and other Home Products etc.
Bisket, Chocklete Milk's Products	Nutrin, Shangrila, Champion, Ampro, Parle, Sathe, Bekman, Priya-Gold, Monaco, Krackjack, Gits, Shalimar, Paury, Rawalgaun, Clasical, Amul, Nutramul, Vijaya, Indana, Syfal, Asian, Verka, Madhu, Mahan, Gopi, Himghi, Vita & other Home Products etc.
Tea, Coffee	Girnar, Tata-Tea, Asam-Tea, Society, Dankan, Brahmputra, Tej, Tata Cafey, Tata-Tatli and other Home Products etc.
Cold Drink	Guruji, Oanjus, Jampin, Nero, Pingo, Fruity, Aswad, Dabur, Mala, Rajars, Besleri, Rasna, Humdard, Mepro, Rainbo, Culvart, Cetemblika, Ruhafja, Jai Gajanan, Haldiran, Gokul, Bikaner, Vekfield, Noga, Priya, Ashok, Mothers Resapi, Uma, H.P.M.C Product, Him & other Home Products etc.
Ice-Cream	Amul, Himalya, Nirula, Mother Dairy, Vinde, Verka and other Home Products etc.
Food Oil, Food Products	Maruti, Postmen, Dhara, Raket, Ginne, Swikar, Kornela, Rath, Mohan, Umang, Vijaya, Span, Perashut, Ashok, Sphola, Kohinoor, Madhur, Engine, Gagan, Amrit, Vanaspati, Ramdev, MDH, Avrest, Bedakar, Sahkar, Lijit, Ganesh, Shaktibhog Aata, Tata Salt and other Home Products etc.
Electrical Product, Home Use Product/ Watch	Videocon, BPL, Onida, Slora, ET&T, T-Series, Nelco, Westen, Uptron, Keltron, Kosmic, TVS, Godrej, Crawn, Bajaj, Usha, Polar, Ankar, Surya, Orient, Sinny, Tullu, Crompton, Lyads, Blu Star, Wholtas, Cool Home, Khaitan, Eveready, Jeep, Novino, Nirlep, Elight, Jaico, Titan, Ajanta, HMT, Maxima, Alvin Ghadi, Bengal, Maisure, Hawkins, Prestige, Pressure Kukar and other Home Products etc.
Write's Product	Giflo, Wilson, Kaimlin, Rehwlan, Rotomac, Cello, Estic, Chandra, Montex, Camel, Bittu, Plato, Triveni, Flora, Apsra, Natraj, Hindustan, Lotus, Cammy, Link and other Home Products etc.
Shoes, Chappal, Bootpolice	Lakhani, Liberty Standard, Action, Paragon, Flash, Crona, Welcome, Rexona, Lotus, Red-Tep, Phenix, Vayking, Billi, Karnoba, Kiwi Shoe Polish and other Home Products etc.
Readyment Cloths	Peter England, Hawan Husan, Lui Philip, Colourplus, Alen Sali, Maphatlal, Trende, Cambriz, Duple Wool, Jhodiak, Arvind Denim, Don, Prolin, TT, Lux, Amul, VIP, , Rupa, Raymond, Park, Avenue, Altimio, Newport, Killer, Fling Machine, Dux, Kolkata, Ludhiana and Tripura

The List of Swadeshi-Videshi Commodities	
Product Name	Videshi Product - Not to be Used
Bath Soaps	Lux, Liril, Lifebuoy, Piyers, Rexona, Humam, Jai, Moti, Caime, Dev, Ponds, Pamolive, Jonson, Clearcil, Detol, Lesansi, Jesmin, Gostmist, Lakmay, Amway, Kwantum, Margo.
Deterzen Soaps	Sunlight, Wheel, Ariel, Check, Duble, Trilo, 501, OK, Key, Rebail, Amway, Kwantum, Serf, Excel, Rin, Vimbar, Robin Blue and other products of Hindustan Liver Ltd.
Beauty Products	Johnson, Ponds, Old Spice, Clearcil, Brilcream, Fair & Lovely, Velvet, Medicaire, Lavender, Nicil, Shawar to Shawar, Kyutikura, Liril, Lakmay, Dainem, Organix, Painten, Roots, Head & Sholder, Amway, Kwantum, Clinic, Nihar, Coco Caire, Gluxo, Newrights.
Toothpaste	Colget, Siwaka, Closeup, Pepsodent, Segnal, Maclins, Prodent, Amway, Kwantum, Akwa Fresh, Neem, Oral-B, Forhuns.
Shaving Cream/ Eraser	Pumolive, Old Spices, Niviya, Ponds, Playtinum, Zelet, Seven-O-Clock, Vilmen, Viltage, Erasmic, Swis, Lukmay, Danim.
Bisket, Chocklete Milk's Products	Britania-Good day, Tiger, Marry, Neslay, Kedvary, Bornvita, Horlix, Boost, Milkmade, Kissan, Maigi, Phairex, Anixpray, Complain, Kitket, Charge, Eklayer, Modern Bred, Britenia Bread, Maltoa, Hiwa, Mylo.
Tea, Coffee	Bruck Brand, Tajmahal, Red-Level, Daymond, Lipton, Green Level, Tiger, Nescafe, Neslay, Delka, bru, Sunrise, three flowers.
Cold Drink	Layer, Pepsi, 7-up, Mirenda, Team, Coca-Cola, Mecdowel, Magola, Goldsport, Limca, Citra, Tumps-up, Sprit, Dux, Fenta, Kedvery, Kenda dry, cresh.
Ice-Cream	Kedvery, Dalop, Nice, Product's Brook Brand, Quality Wals, Baskin-Robins, Yanki-dudals, Carnetto.
Food Oil, Food Products	Dalta, Cristal, Lipton, Anpurna Salt, Aata and Chapati, Magi, Kisan, Tarla, Brook-Brand, Pilsbari Aata, Capton Cook Salt and Aata, Modern Chapati, Kargil Aata.
Electrical Product, Home Use Product/ Watch	GIC, Philips, Sony, TDK, Nippo, National-Penosonic, Sharp, GE, Whoolphool, Samsung, Devu, Toshiba, LG, Hitachi, Thamson, Electrolux, Aky, Sansui, Kenwood, Awa, Alwin Freeze, Career, Konka, taperwayer, Japan Life, Omega, Timex, Rado.
Write's Product	Parker, Paylet, windser-nutton, feber-caicel, lugzer, vik, mat-black, Koras, As, Rotring.
Shoes, Chappal, Bootpolic	Bata, Fluma, Power, Chairy-blasm, Aadidas, Rebok, Nike, Lekoooper, Gaisolen.
Readyment Cloths	All product of Lee, Berlington, Aro, Lacost, Sonphisco, Levis, Paipe Jins, Renglar, Benaton, Red & Tayler, Boyford.

This List is published on demand from the Readers.

Modi is surely aware that Kashmiri is an ancient classical language that could have been the official language of the State but for Aligarh Muslim University alumnus Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah imposing Urdu. Kashmiri in Sharda script should replace Urdu in educational institutions; Jammu can have Dogri and Ladakh Bhoti. Hindi and English would continue as link languages with the rest of India. Though the subject of Article 370 and 35-A is before the Supreme Court, the Prime Minister should promise that these will be scrapped by presidential order and the State fully integrated with India, as desired by Maharaja Hari Singh, who was repeatedly rebuffed and humiliated by Jawaharlal Nehru. It is for Modi to set the agenda; the BJP does not owe anything to Sajjad Lone; he can take a walk if he cannot accommodate nationalist sentiments.

Meanwhile, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and Dharam Sansad of religious leaders have expressed concerns over sustained assaults on Hindu traditions and sensitivities by vested interests. In Sabarimala, people with no locus standi persuaded the Supreme Court that entry of women of a prohibited age group was imperative for gender justice, equality or parity. Keen to deliver a 'landmark judgement', the court invented Constitutional morality and waded into liberation theology, a concept invoked by Christian clergy of Latin America, who stood with their people against American-backed, Vatican-endorsed dictatorships.

Sabarimala has been on the evangelical hit list for decades; the inquiry into the fire and desecra-

tion of the shrine in 1950 hinted at missionary involvement. In September 2006, a non-Hindu actress, Jaimala, claimed to have entered the temple at the age of 27, which was revealed in a devaprasanam conducted by astrologer Unnikrishna Panicker, who had old links with her. This incident was linked to the incrimination of Chief Thantri Kantaru Mohanaru in a sex scandal involving a Christian woman of allegedly questionable morals. We must see these incidents as a calculated assault on Hindu society, a continuum of the plot against the Kanchi Acharyas.

Sabarimala's unique rites and customs, including restrictions on women of a certain age group, qualify it as a denominational temple under Article 26 of the Constitution. Ayyappa, son of Shiva and Vishnu as Mohini, is Naishtika Brahmachari (eternal celibate) and performs eternal tapas (penance); hence women of reproductive age (10 to 50 years) do not disturb him. This age group spontaneously reacted to the verdict with the #ReadytoWait movement.

This forced the RSS, the Prime Minister and the Dharam Sansad to appreciate that the threat to a unique practice in a remote corner of the country is a threat to Dharma itself because the myriad forms of worship comprise the unity of Sanatana dharma. Claptrap like unity in diversity is the cross of Abrahamic faiths with their notion of singular divinity. For Hindus, diversity reflects unity of creation.

The Supreme Court's majority verdict ignores Article 26 of the Constitution which bestows the fundamental right of freedom to manage religious affairs. Activist PM Ravindran has noted that if

the court had to apply the fundamental right to equality to the fundamental right of freedom of religion, it should have invoked to Article 25(2)(b) which is specific to Hindu religious institutions. In *Sri Venkatramana Devaru and Others Vs State of Mysore and Others* (1958 SCR 895), a five-judge Bench tackled the conflict between Articles 25(2)(b) and 26.

The trustees of Sri Venkataramana of Moolky Petta temple were managing the temple on behalf of the Gowda Saraswath Brahmins. After the Madras Temple Entry Authorisation Act (Madras V of 1947) permitted Harijans entry into Hindu public temples, the trustees claimed the temple was private and outside the Act. The Government rejected this claim. The Bench addressed the question of whether the right of a religious denomination to manage its affairs in matters of religion guaranteed under Article 26(b) is subject to and can be controlled by a law protected by Article 25(2)(b), throwing open a Hindu temple to all classes and sections of Hindus. The judges held that Article 25(2)(b) protected the right to enter a temple for worship but the right is not absolute and unlimited.

Applied to Sabarimala, this means that women of the restricted age group do not form a separate class or section and, hence, the restriction is not violative of the law. As this verdict was questioned in the Sabarimala petition, it should not have been overturned without reference to a seven-judge Bench. Perhaps the review will take note of this crucial point.

(The writer is Senior Fellow, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library; the views expressed are personal)

Scrap the Indus Water Treaty

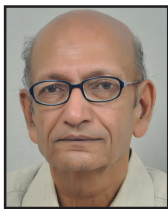
India has imposed 200 per cent import duty on goods imported from Pakistan in retaliation to the Pulwama attack. This is not likely to go very far though. Pakistan's exports to India are barely 1.4 per cent of her total exports. Cutting off these imports are not likely to make a major dent on the Pakistan economy.

India's efforts to push Pakistan into a financial corner is also not working. Pakistan has been able to raise funds from China and Saudi Arabia to tide over her economic problems. The Saudi Crown Prince gave lip service to the need to counter terrorism during his recent visit to India. He did not mention Pakistan's role in the same which shows his leanings. Even the International Monetary Fund has agreed to consider lending money to help Pakistan tie over her economic difficulties. Our efforts to isolate Pakistan on the economic front will, therefore, come to a naught. Our military options are also limited given that Pakistan, too, is a nuclear power. This is amply demonstrated by the escalation of cross-border firing from Pakistan after Pulwama. Pakistan knows that India cannot launch a conventional war hence has no hesitation in provoking us.

In this situation we should consider using water as an instrument of war. The total river water available in Pakistan is 145 million acre feet (MAF). Of this the Indus river system provides 113 MAF. India allocated the water of three of these rivers—namely, Indus, Chenab and Jhelum—totaling 80 MAF to Pakistan under the Indus Water Treaty.

The balance 33 MAF from Beas, Ravi and Satluj was allocated to India. India, however, was not able to use all of this water allocated to it and was allowing some of it to flow to Pakistan. Water Resources Minister Nitin Gadkari has announced that India is taking steps to stop the flow of her share of waters to Pakistan.

Eighty MAF water flows from India to Pakistan. This is more one-half of



Cornering Pakistan financially would not work and hence, water should be used as an instrument of war to create insurmountable difficulties for Pakistan.
Dr. Bharat Jhunjhunwala



the 145 MAF river water available to Pakistan. This water sustains the agriculture, industries and cities during the eight lean months from November to June. Cutting off this supply of water will create unsurmountable difficulties for Pakistan.

We will have to circumvent the Indus Water Treaty to implement this strategy. The Treaty provides that any change will be made only by mutual agreement; and in the event of a dispute, it will be referred to the World Bank for mediation. Thus we cannot withdraw from the Treaty unilaterally.

There is a way out. We can scrap the Treaty altogether. The Preamble of the Treaty says that India and Pakistan have entered into the Treaty “in a spirit of goodwill and friendship...” This friendship has been shattered by Pulwama. Thus the very basis of the Treaty has been eroded.

As said above, the Treaty provides that any modification will be done only by mutual agreement. However, since the very basis of the Treaty has been removed, India would be justified in abrogating the Treaty unilaterally. It is a well-established principle that a law must be interpreted in the light of the Preamble. The Treaty falls if Pakistan works contrary to the principles of goodwill and friendship.

There is no International law that binds India to honour the Treaty. The United Nations has passed a non-binding resolution that an upstream country will take into account the interests of the downstream country in managing its international rivers. But “taking into account” does not mean giving away all the waters of certain rivers to the downstream country. The role of the World Bank is only

of mediation.

The Bank can make the two parties sit across the table and discuss. The Bank cannot impose its decision on the two countries. The Treaty is silent on the course of action that a country may take if the mediation fails. We can abrogate the mediation clause along with the Treaty as a whole.

There is a deeper question that we must face. How is it that a handful of jihadists are able to keep the whole world on ransom? The strength of the jihadists lies in their being able to combine inner strength and outer action. The Hindu religion has two paths—external (pravritti) and internal (nivritti).

The Buddhist religion similarly has Mahayana and Hinayana. These paths are generally considered mutually exclusive. A person following the external path does not make much effort to connect with the Divine within. His external works are, in the main, driven by human energy only.

On the other hand, a person following the internal path disconnects with the external world. He taps into divine energy but is not able to channelize the energy for the betterment of the world. He is like a supercharged battery without a cable to take the energy to the light bulb.

The Jihadists are able to connect the internal divine energy with the external works. The New World Encyclopedia defines Jihad as follows: Jihad refers “to the religious duty of Muslims to strive... both for the sake of internal, spiritual growth, and for the defense and expansion of Islam in the world...”

The Encyclopedia quotes the Dictionary of Islam as “jihad as having two meanings: an inner spir-

itual struggle (the ‘greater jihad’), and an outer physical struggle against the enemies of Islam (the ‘lesser jihad’).” Thus when the terrorists flew the airplanes into the World Trade Tower or staged Pulwama, they simultaneously were promised the internal Jannat and external expansion of Islam.

The Hindu and Buddhist religions are not able to match this power of Jihad because they defend themselves with external works disconnected with the divine power. The army man sacrifices his life for the “country”—which is, of course, highly laudable, but it is still short of sacrificing for the Divine. He draws energy from the 135 crore people of the country, but not from the Divine. This is the reason that Hindu youth are not entering into Pakistan as jihadists.

Dying for the country would provide them with external glory but not internal Moksha. Thus, while the youth of Pakistan challenge the Indian army as individuals, the youth of India ask the army to combat them. We need to ask why Hindu youth are not entering as “terrorists” into Pakistan? Indeed, the Gita can be interpreted to indicate the combination of the internal and the external:

“By worship of the Lord, who is the source of all beings and who is all-pervading, man can, in the performance of his own duty, attain perfection” (18:46). However, the main thrust of both the theory and practice of Hinduism is a separation of the internal and external paths. Hinduism, Buddhism and even Christianity have to learn from the jihadists and connect the internal and the external worlds. Only then reform themselves to be able to combat global terror. □□

Economic History of Early Medieval India: Challenging Marxist Notion

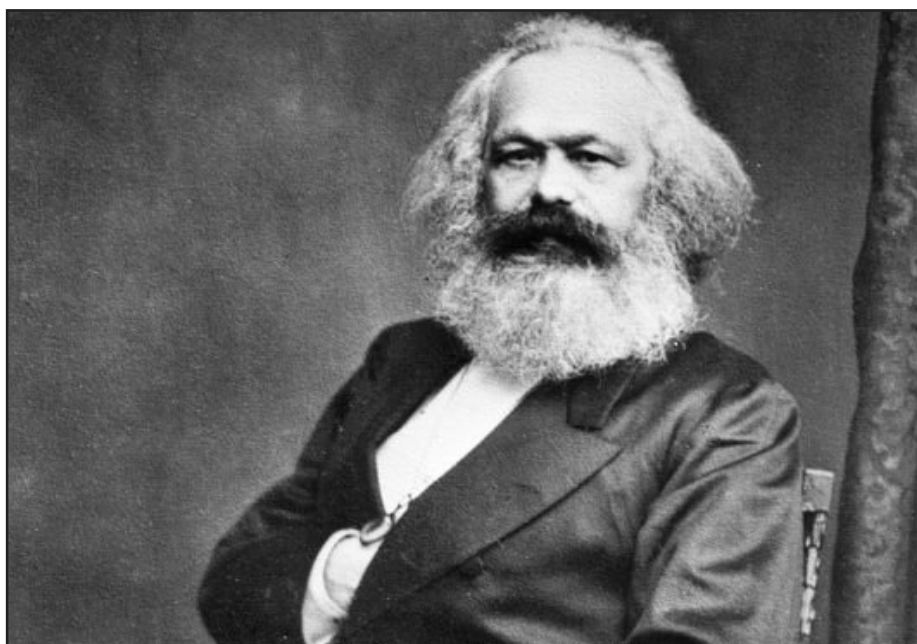
The economic history of early Medieval India has been popularly portrayed as an age of "Economic Feudalism". The period from post-Gupta era to the coming of Delhi Sultanate (AD 6th century–AD 12th century) has been conceived as a period of agrarian expansion and urban decline for India. This period is seen as that of decline of urbanism, urbanization, trade and currency. For "Left of the centre" historians urban "Revolution" after the decline of Indus Valley Civilization came into India only with the coming of Delhi Sultanate. We Indians did not have a notion of "urbanization/urbanism" and it is the Central Asians who brought once again urbanization to India. This is once again a Marxist notion of Indian history. This notion is entirely borrowed from Henry Pirenne's theory of "Feudalism in Medieval Europe" in which a thesis of urban decline was argued for Medieval Europe as the society was based on the Manorial rural countryside.

Based on the model of Medieval Europe, the Marxist historians of India imported the idea of "only village based Indian state and society for early Medieval India" from Medieval Europe. Feudal lords, warriors and impoverished peasantry are the mainstay of their argument to support the classical thesis of "Indian Feudalism". However, a close reading of epigraphical records clearly disprove the theory of "Economic Feudalism" for early Medieval India and prove that India at that time of agrarian expansion witnessed emergence of semi-urban and urban centres, trading and exchange centres, copper currency and manufacturing centres. In order to prove, "Economic Feudalism" historians of



It is a misnomer to label early Medieval Indian history as land-based "Economic Feudalism". Evidences prove that the period witnessed urbanism, intra and inter-regional trade and copper and later silver currency.

Prof. Nandini Sinha Kapur



the 960s, 70s and 80s collected a large number of epigraphical records of early Medieval India which were largely land grant charters coming from the early Medieval Empires of India, the Pratiharas, Rashtrakutas and Palas, Chandellas, Gahadvalas among others.

Land grant charters were construed to be the only means of payment and in lieu of currency, land grants were the mainstay of early Medieval Indian economy. There were two types of land grants: religious and secular. Religious landgrants not only consisted usually consisted of an amount of land (mostly virgin) or a village or villages (as in case of Southern India) along with wells or ponds. Religious grants (Devadana or Brahmadeyas) were donated either to Brahmanas or temples.

Secular land donations were given to administrative, military and state-functionaries in lieu of cash salary. Absence of cash-currency in early Medieval India and a spurt in land donations apparently strengthened the theory of "Economic Feudalism".

But a close look at the epigraphic evidences and latest research have highlighted and proved the presence of urban, exchange and manufacturing centres along with usage of Karshapana (copper currency). A concentration of earlier research on the Gangetic belt and selective data collection by a particular genre of historians promoting a specific political ideology neglected a series of economic evidences to credit India with early Medieval urbanization. When a batch of historians had to prove, "Economic Feudalism" influenced by biases and prejudices they had to ignore obvious evidences eco-

nomic dynamism for pre-colonial India. Before we examine a series of epigraphic (inscriptions) sources that prove emerging urban dynamism for early Medieval India, it is important to explain the phenomenon of land grant economy in rural India. We forward an explanation alternative to the popular Marxist thesis.

We have seen in the last few articles on early Medieval Indian history that the period between the sixth and the thirteenth centuries was essentially a period of state formation. These centuries witnessed state formation processes at local, sub-regional and regional level in the parts of northern India, central India, western India and southern India. State formation meant reclamation of agricultural land and agrarian expansion. Hence, there emerged a series of rural centres.

Hence, both arable and virgin land came under the jurisdiction of newly emerging local, sub-regional and regional states. Therefore, a large number of land grant charters were issued to local and migrant Brahmanas and temples as means of legalizing and popularizing political sovereignty of "new kings/rulers".

Land grants were religious and cultural means to popularize the rule of new dynasties, orient loyalties and resource-mobilization/mobilization of taxes by local and regional states. But these rural centres over a period of time definitely grew into important exchange centres both at the local and regional level (particularly those on trade and link routes). There are Pratihara inscriptions which mention market/exchange centres in Gopadri (present Gwalior) in

which horses were brought for economic transactions (sale and purchase). Ghatiyala Inscription from Rajasthan (another Pratihara record) clearly indicate conversion of a tribal hamlet occupied by the Abhiras into an agrarian settlement with a range of economic activities beyond agriculture. Let us take the similar case of a tribal cum hilly settlement of Aranyakupagiri Mewar of the seventh century.

Aranyakupagiri was a Bhil tribal centre located on a low grade copper ore belt. A migrant community of Mahajanasa came and settled there. They started with mining (Akara) and built a temple of goddess Aranyavasini. As they settled, this settlement not only grew into a semi-agricultural settlement but essentially a manufacturing unit in metallurgical goods. Weekly fairs appeared at the newly constructed temple and attracted a sizable visitors. Hence, this exchange centre encouraged commercial activities. Another inscription of the seventh century from Southern Rajasthan clearly mentions "Vithi" (streets), "Hatta" (weekly fairs/exchange centres) and "Drammas" (term is derived from ancient Greek term Dracma meaning money/coins).

Atapur (one of the early Medieval capital towns of Mewar) emerged as an urban centre by the tenth century with description of eating places in markets, variety of transportation and outside visitors. The epigraphic records from western India repeatedly mention 'Mandapikas' (custom houses). Both the royal families and merchants made grants of commercial cesses for religious festivals from Mandapikas. We had a very vibrant economic life which does not support the thesis of "Economic Feudalism". □□

New Studies Confirm Dangers of Glyphosate

Since the 1960s uproar over the dangers of widespread agriculture use of the weed killer, DDT, no other herbicide or agriculture chemical has stirred as much widespread opposition as glyphosate. Glyphosate is the main and only publicly disclosed ingredient in the world-leading herbicide, Roundup from Monsanto/Bayer. With fierce opposition from many EU member states, in 2018 owing to a sly maneuver by the former German Minister of Agriculture, the EU Commission ruled to continue allowing the controversial pesticide. Now recent tests have added to the body of evidence that glyphosate is carcinogenic and should be banned immediately. — F. William Engdahl

On February 10, 2019 the scientific journal *Mutation Research* published the results of a major new study on the possible cancer-causing effects of glyphosate-based herbicides (GBH). The authors noted, “We investigated whether there was an association between high cumulative exposures to GBHs and increased risk of non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL) in humans. We conducted a new meta-analysis that included the most recent update of the Agricultural Health Study (AHS) cohort published in 2018 along with five case-control studies. Using the highest exposure groups when available in each study, we report the overall meta-relative risk (meta-RR) of NHL in GBH-exposed individuals was increased by 41%...” The study authors concluded that there was a “compelling link between exposures to GBHs and increased risk for NHL.”

A 41% greater risk of lymphoma is significant. Rachel Shaffer, a co-author of the study at the Uni-

versity of Washington, stated of the results, “This research provides the most up-to-date analysis of glyphosate and its link with Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma, incorporating a 2018 study of more than 54,000 people who work as licensed pesticide applicators.”

The University of Washington study supports the 2015 conclusion of the WHO International Agency for Research on Cancer, which classified glyphosate as a ‘probable human carcinogen.’ The GMO and related agrichemical industry has done everything imaginable to counter the impact of the independent IARC report.

Roundup today is the world’s most widely used herbicide. Since commercialization of GMO crops in the USA after 1996, the amount of Roundup-bearing glyphosate has dramatically increased worldwide. In the United States alone, usage increased nearly sixteen-fold between 1992 and 2009. What is not often understood, the patented GMO crops are modified to resist the toxic Roundup, nothing else.



In addition to killing weeds on GMO soybeans or corn, Roundup or other GBHs are sprayed again on crops just before harvest to accelerate their dessication, giving the crops a far higher glyphosate residue. Given that at least in the USA GMO crops have permeated the entire food chain, exposure to glyphosate and related toxins has spread as well.

EU Stalls on glyphosate ban

Despite decisions by numerous EU member states against use of glyphosate following the 2015 IACR finding, and millions of citizen petitions to the Brussels EU Commission calling to not renew the license for glyphosate, the powerful agrichemical lobby to date is dominant.

The EU has just published results of a 2-year study of effects of GMO corn on rats. It is a response to an earlier shocking study, the first ever over the 2 year normal rat lifetime, of effects of Monsanto GMO corn and of the associated glyphosate-bearing Roundup weed killer. The 2014 Seralini study found very significant chronic kidney deficiencies in the GMO-fed rats as well as cancer tumors and early death among other alarming results. Monsanto and the agrichemical industry launched a de facto war to discredit the damning Seralini study. One result of that effort is the EU-funded 2-year study known as G-TwYST that has just been released.

The EU study of the effects feeding rats Mon NK603+ Roundup is misleadingly titled: "Lack of adverse effects in subchronic and chronic toxicity/carcinogenicity studies on the glyphosate-resistant genetically modified maize NK603 in Wistar Han RCC rats". That

Monsanto has become target of thousands of lawsuits and the stock price of parent, Bayer AG, has declined significantly on a negative outlook.

makes it sound like they found no problems, unlike Seralini's group. However when we take the trouble to actually read the study, buried deep in the text is the following:

"...the mortality rate of the male rats fed the 33% NK603+? Roundup diet was significantly higher than that of the corresponding control group. The most common cause of premature death in both groups was a pituitary pars anterior adenoma, 12 in the control group and 17 in the group fed the 33% NK603 diet. The next most common cause of premature death was a kidney chronic progressive nephropathy, 1 in the control group and 3 in the group fed the 33% NK603+? Roundup diet."

The EU study ignored this in the conclusion and concluded that no long-term animal studies for risk assessment of GMO plants was needed.

Fat rats...

In order to get their benign result, the EU study authors had to explain away the increased mortality in male rats fed Monsanto NK603 GMO corn with Roundup related to pituitary tumors. To do so they claimed that the GMO-Glyphosate fed rats ate more, leading to a "strong increase" in body weight between the 12th and 24th month of the feeding trial, compared with the non-GMO-fed control group.

Significantly they did not ask why GMO+Roundup fed rats were significantly fatter than non-

GMO+Roundup fed rats. That could shed light on the causes of the epidemic obesity in USA and EU populations over the past 20 years as glyphosate use has soared. The EU scientists conveniently ignored both increased deaths in the males fed NK603 maize+ Roundup, or the increase in body weight in the same animals. GMWatch asks the relevant question: "This misrepresentation of the study findings raises the question of why scientists funded with EU taxpayers' money would apparently downplay such results, misleading the public and the scientific community".

In August 2018, a California jury ruled in favor of a school groundskeeper exposed to significant Roundup over years, who contracted non-Hodgkin lymphoma that he claimed was due to Roundup exposure. The court ordered Monsanto to pay \$289 million to Dewayne Johnson. Since then Monsanto has become target of thousands of similar lawsuits and the stock price of parent, Bayer AG, has declined significantly on a negative outlook.

It's time to ask for more than transparency in government studies of effects of the agrichemicals. The accepted precautionary principle requires government agencies to protect the general health and safety when there is any doubt. That pervasive human and food-chain exposure to glyphosate is associated with higher cancer, obesity, organ damage and other risks is clearly indicated. The prudent response would be calling for total ban unless and until effects are fully and independently determined. □□

Source: <https://journal-neo.org/2019/02/26/new-studies-confirm-dangers-of-glyphosate/>

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Dilemma of growth figures

GDP figures once again came under the scourge of controversy recently. By GDP we mean money value of the final goods and services produced within the geographical boundaries of the country in one year. On November 28, 2018, the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog, along with Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) published the revised figures of growth for the years between 2005 to 2012. According to these new figures, the rate of growth of GDP has been reported to be very low during these years. According to reported figures, the average growth rate in this period is estimated to be only 6.82 percent. Significantly, between 2005 and 2012, UPA government was there and according to the figures published earlier, the rate of growth of GDP was 7.75 percent, which was much more than reported now. The main opposition party, Congress is alleging that the NITI Aayog, which is a think tank of the government, has deliberately lowered growth figures and tried to undermine the achievement of the UPA government.

It is worth mentioning that in the previous series, the GDP and other national incomes estimates were published with the base year 2004-05. In order to improve GDP and other national incomes estimates, and to make them comparable with latest years, their methodology and base year is changed from time to time. If the base year is very old, it is difficult to compare national income estimates with latest years. Not only this, due to ever going changes in the economy, it is imperative to change the methodology of measurement of GDP and national income. That is why, in 2015 a new series of national income estimates was introduced, changing the base year from 2004-05 to 2011-12 and methodology of estimating GDP and national income. After these changes, GDP data for the base year of 2004-05 and of 2011-12 shows a wide gap. With these changes the

Dilemma of growth figures accelerated due to the huge difference in growth rates between the old and the new 'back series'.

Swadeshi Samvad



rate of growth of GDP during the first year of NDA regime looks better than the rate of growth between 2011-12 and 2013-14 of the UPA regime. Data with these changes was published in 2015. According to which, the growth rate of 2014-15 was estimated at 7.3 percent. According to this series, in the last two years of the UPA regime, the rate of growth in 2012-13 and 2013-14 was shown to be 4.4 percent and 6.8 percent respectively, and that too was higher than the earlier estimates.

At that time also, the opposition parties had alleged that the government intentionally made these changes to boast more about their achievements. But that criticism did not get much ground because in the new series, the growth of GDP during the UPA regime was also shown to be greater than earlier estimates. The reason for this was that after incorporating the data of companies not listed in the stock market, the contribution of manufacturing was shown better with new series, and since it was done for previous years also, the GDP of last two years of UPA government also improved. Although many people had expressed differences about the new series, political criticism of that change didn't gain much currency.

What are the new figures?

With the new base year (2011-12) and estimation methodology adopted in 2015, since the GDP and other national income estimates were not comparable with the estimates with old base year (2004-05) and methodology, to facilitate comparison of previous data with new series, there was a need for reassessment of earlier data on the basis of new base year and meth-

The new 'Back Series' of 2011-12, has now been estimated to 6.7% over the UPA claim of 7.8% between 2004-05 and 2013-14.

odology. This has been an essential part of national income estimation. So whenever the base year changes, the previous series is also re-evaluated, which is called 'back series'. This 'back series' is not being released for the first time; this is an essential part of ongoing national income estimation. Before that Prof. Sudipto Mandal also published the 'back series' data of the GDP earlier this year, which the Indian government did not consider authentic.

Why is the dispute?

The publication of 'back series' data has never been the subject of controversy. What happened now that these figures are being criticized? It was during the UPA regime that with 2004-05 as base year, the growth of GDP was estimated to be 7.8 percent between 2004-05 and 2013-14. However, after using the 'Back Series' of 2011-12, it has now been reduced to 6.7 per cent. Opposition parties and some economists feel that it has been deliberately done with the intention of underestimating the achievements of the UPA regime. If we accept the data of the 'back series', it would mean that the Indian economy never crossed the 9 per cent growth mark, while in the old series, for the year 2010-11, growth was estimated at 10.78 per cent and

growth rate had been more than 9 percent for at least four years.

It is for the first time that NITI Aayog has been involved in estimating GDP figures. Congress party says NITI Aayog, as an arm of the government has influenced these figures for political reasons. Though, the Vice Chairman of the NITI Aayog has accepted this challenge, the question remains whether NITI Aayog has any role in the national income estimation? Past Chief Statistician Pranab Sen seems right that NITI could have been avoided in national income estimation exercise, as this controversy has eroded the credibility of CSO as an institution.

It is difficult to comment on whether the new figures are correct or old were correct, or none of the two. But with new figures, requisite detailed explanations are missing, which has given rise to speculative criticism. At the same time, we have to understand the distinction between the Sudipto Mandal series and the new series. However, we must understand that the major reason for the criticism of new NITI -CSO 'back series' has been the huge difference in growth rates between the old and the new 'back series'. It is also important to note that at global level, the credibility of our data is also under scanner. The Vice Chairman of NITI says that the current back series has been assessed according to the methodology suggested by the United Nations. He also maintains that in previous years the contribution of service sector has been overestimated and CSO also believed that the same was not right. All said and done, it will be interesting to watch this debate in coming days. □□

To

Sh. JP Nadda

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, New Delhi

Subject: ICMR-Pfizer collaboration- a serious case of Conflicts of Interest

We are writing to you to highlight a serious issue of conflict of interest with far reaching implications on public health. We understand that National AMR Action Plan (NAP-AMR) is a highly ambitious and well-designed strategy to tackle the challenge of Antimicrobial Resistance in our country and to contribute to the global efforts. AMR division of ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research) is responsible for coordinating the research component in the field of AMR. Being a stakeholder in the NAP-AMR, it is important for the ICMR-AMR division to be very impartial in the research and surveillance activities it carries out. Biased scientific data will result in faulty policies that could seriously undermine health care field and welfare of our country.

ICMR-Pfizer collaboration: As per the ICMR notification dated 01.02.19 (Ref. No.AMR/97/2017 ECD-II), on ICMR-Pfizer jointly decided to collaborate. Also, ICMR-Pfizer AMR Centre will be funded by funds provided by Pfizer as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) allocations under existing ICMR-Pfizer MoU. ICMR is currently supporting the surveillance, infection control and antimicrobial stewardship through a network of 20 hospitals across the country. As part of ICMR-Pfizer collaboration, it is proposed to expand the surveillance and stewardship efforts to the nursing homes /district hospitals”.

Various published sources reveal that the collaboration is based on the MOU signed between ICMR and Pfizer in 2017. ICMR has already conducted joint workshops and extensive media advertisement along with Pfizer. Pfizer has agreed to provide around 6 crores to the project and expected to deliver similar amount of funds yearly for 5 years. In this context we wish to put on record that there is no fund crunch for ICMR AMR activities. In addition to ICMR's own fund, 9 million US dollar (Rs. 64 crores) fund is available from the Global health security agenda over the next 4 yrs. Further, we wish to bring it to your kind notice that no selection process has been followed to choose Pfizer. In fact ICMR just accepted Pfizer offer and is planning to reach out to MSD as well. Though ICMR has the practice of asking for COI (Conflicts of Interest) disclosure for research projects, this was not followed in the case of committee members involved in the Pfizer collaboration. NCDC, the nodal agency for coordination of National action plan is not involved in the Pfizer collaboration.

ICMR-Pfizer collaboration on AMR is a blatant example of Conflicts of Interest (COI) that can derail the policymaking and implementation of our National AMR Action plan.

Conflicts of interest of Pfizer: The surveillance data generated by ICMR network is used for policymaking process. If this network is utilized for industry sponsored academic activities and surveillance, in all likelihood, the National policy prepared based on this data will be biased. Firstly, the network will be utilized by Pfizer to generate data that can preferentially help the company and to conduct post marketing surveillance of its own products. Secondly, the company will influence the committee members to develop training programs and academic modules that favour the company products. Thirdly, The Pfizer project is planning to collaborate with various medical societies and even liaise with the Drugs Controller General of India. Pfizer will utilize ICMR AMR division to influence experts, individual doctors, institutions, medical societies and the Drugs Controller General of the country. Fourthly, Pfizer could be utilizing ICMR, a reputed Government body, for such funding activities, to influence a section of the medical community the company has direct marketing interest in. Therefore, in a way Pfizer would be utilizing the AMR division of ICMR as an extension of its marketing arm.

Conflicts of Interests of the ICMR-AMR Committee: The funds provided by the Pfizer will be distributed through the selected surveillance centers for academic and surveillance activities. So, the ICMR AMR committee and the surveillance centers can have undisclosed financial Conflicts of interest in the Pfizer collaboration. Moreover, ICMR-AMR committee members were not asked to disclose their Conflicts of interests. This is a serious error. Lack of transparency in the activities of the AMR division of ICMR, is the reason behind the inefficient utilization of public funds. The unethical collaboration with Pfizer is also a result of this lack of transparency.

Our suggestions: We do understand that industry is an important stakeholder in the global efforts to tackle AMR. If ICMR wishes to go ahead with Public Private Partnership (PPP) model with pharmaceutical companies, we suggest ICMR to follow the established norms for such associations. Industry support to AMR activities, if any, should be in the form of unrestricted educational grant, with multiple companies providing grants to a common pool. World Health Organization document pertaining to the subject of PPP (Options for Sustainable Funding of a Voluntary Pooled Fund to Support Health Research and Development WHO/EMP/PHI/2016.08) clearly states, “Pharmaceutical companies would have to be willing to contribute collectively, for example, through their industry associations”.

To eliminate or at least reduce COI (Conflicts of Interests), no single company can be selected as a partner to a specific AMR related educational or surveillance activity.

All members of the ICMR-AMR committee and other individuals involved in the surveillance and educational activities of the network, whenever there is a direct or indirect industry involvement, must disclose their Conflicts of interest, in the WHO COI disclosure format.

We request urgent action by the office of Hon. Health Minister.

We request health ministry to take necessary measures, on an urgent basis, to cancel the unethical Pfizer-ICMR collaboration and investigate the circumstances that led to such an unethical collaboration. We also request health ministry to ensure AMR surveillance system of our country is transparent and cost effective.

Dr. Ashwani Mahajan (All India Co-convenor)

CC.: Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.

18-02-2019

To

The Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

Government of India, New Delhi.

Request for banning Chinese social media & e-commerce apps & Chinese telecom equipments

Respected **Narendra Modi Ji**,

The dastardly terrorist attack at Pulwama has shaken the conscience of the nation. At this time, we believe it is the duty of all Indians to take steps to prevent the economic gain of any nation or individual that directly or tacitly supports such terrorists in continuing their activities unabated.

We welcome the various moves made by the Ministry of Finance including the withdrawal of Most Favoured Nation as well the increase in customs duties for all products imported from Pakistan.

It is widely known that the Chinese government continues to block our nation's attempts to designate the chief architect of these terror attacks as a 'global terrorist'. At such a time, we believe it is imperative that the government create similar hurdles for Chinese companies that are using India for their economic gain. As has been said often, data is now considered the new oil. We should not allow Chinese companies to capture Indian user data without any restrictions and monitoring.

In the past two years there has been a proliferation of Chinese social media and e-commerce companies and other applications in India. These apps have been known to have various security risks. In fact, the Ministry of Defence had in December 2017 asked all armed forces officials to uninstall over 42 applications with Chinese origins that had significant security risks. During the Doklam crisis, the government had also begun investigations into UC Browser sharing the location of Indian users to Chinese servers & Chinese propaganda content to Indian users.

A number of apps including TikTok and Helo have in recent weeks been called out by the media as well as various concerned citizens for having undesirable content. Such apps have been banned in various countries including Indonesia. These apps are known for sharing the details of children and being an open ground for child pornography and possibly anti-national activities. In this regard we believe that the Indian government should take necessary steps that would involve banning such apps.

We also need to ensure that Indian startups are not hurt by such Chinese companies which are flush with cash and would harm the Indian start up ecosystem, our data sovereignty and most importantly our security.

Finally, India needs to curtail the operations of Chinese telecom companies in India, which have already secured many vital and sensitive 4G contracts in India. There is a clear case for enforcing national security provisions in telecommunications. This is what many other countries have done with Chinese Telecom equipment being banned from several important markets. This has increased the Chinese desperation to capture the Indian market. As a recent BSNL tender will show, they have underbid the lowest bid by Rs. 250 crores, which is impossible to achieve unless they have State support.

Chinese companies have also made inroads into the 5G sector in India. The induction of 5G equipment will increase the security threat manifold. It is therefore even more essential that these NextGen networks be set up by Indian companies to ensure national security. This one measure will kick-start creation of many high-tech high-paying jobs in our country and lead to rapid development.

Only an internally strong country can face the two-front attacks by our two-faced neighbours. Swadeshi Jagran Manch has always stood for promoting indigenous capabilities, for national security and national economic security. Swadeshi Jagran Manch therefore requests that further imports of Chinese Telecom equipment be banned as part of a comprehensive counter-strategy against Pakistan and its real State supporter - China. We must stop supporting the companies of an enemy State and take a more comprehensive view of national security, otherwise this will be a recurring problem, as history has shown.

We look forward to strict action from your office in this regard.

With best regards,

Dr. Ashwani Mahajan (All India Co-convenor)

SJM expresses concern over ICMR-Pfizer collaboration

Swadeshi Jagran Manch, the economic wing of the RSS has written to the health minister expressing concern over the conflict of interest in the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) collaborating with the multinational pharma company, Pfizer for a project on anti-microbial resistance (AMR). SJM urged the minister to cancel the collaboration on an urgent basis and investigate the circumstances that led to such “an unethical” tie-up.

While acknowledging that industry is an important stakeholder in the global efforts to tackle AMR, the SJM letter stated that industry support for AMR activities should be in the form of “unrestricted educational grant, with multiple companies providing grants to a common pool” as recommended by the WHO in its document on public-private partnerships. “To eliminate or at least reduce COI (Conflicts of Interests), no single company can be selected as a partner to a specific AMR related educational or surveillance activity,” added the letter.

“Firstly, the network will be utilized by Pfizer to generate data that can preferentially help the company and to conduct post marketing surveillance of its own products. Secondly, the company will influence the committee members to develop training programs and academic modules that favour the company products. Thirdly, The Pfizer project is planning to collaborate with various medical societies and even liaise with the Drugs Controller General of India. Pfizer will utilize ICMR AMR division to influence experts, individual doctors, institutions, medical societies and the drugs controller general of the country. Also, Pfizer could be utilizing ICMR, a reputed government body, for such funding activities, to influence a section of the medical community the company has direct marketing interest in,” stated the SJM letter adding that Pfizer could be using the AMR division of the ICMR as an extension of its marketing arm.

TOI had reported how the ICMR had entered into an MoU with Pfizer in 2017 under which the company, from its CSR fund, would give Rs 7 crore to set up an AMR centre in Delhi and to enhance the surveillance project for antimicrobial resistance.

The SJM has also demanded that all members of the ICMR-AMR committee and others involved in the surveillance and educational activities of the

network, whenever there is a direct or indirect industry involvement, must disclose conflict of interest in the WHO COI disclosure format.

“Lack of transparency in the activities of the AMR division of ICMR, is the reason behind the inefficient utilization of public funds. The unethical collaboration with Pfizer is also a result of this lack of transparency,” said Ashwani Mahajan of SJM. Pointing out that there was no fund crunch for the AMR project, SJM questioned why the funds and collaboration with Pfizer were required and pointed out that no selection process had been followed to choose Pfizer for collaboration.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/swadeshi-jagran-manch-expresses-concern-over-icmr-pfizer-collaboration/articleshow/68173228.cms>

Swadeshi Jagran Manch: Rise of online Chinese cos alarming; ecommerce regulation in India

The Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM) has written to PM Narendra Modi asking that the government create barriers for Chinese companies operating in India, reports News18. Chinese companies should also not be allowed to log Indian user data, SJM said. This is because China refuses to ‘designate Masood Azhar as a global terrorist’, after Azhar’s Jaish-e-Mohammad terror attack killed over 40 Indian soldiers in Pulwama, Kashmir.

The SJM said that Chinese companies were making profits from Indian users and that India should not support China’s economic gain since it ‘supports such terrorists.’ It also raised concerns about the increasing host of social media and ecommerce companies from China which had Indian users.

The SJM said that India should “curtail the operations” of Chinese companies in India in order to enforce national security.

Note that, in December last year, SJM’s research found that Indian users were placing over 200,000 orders on Chinese ecommerce companies daily. It



added that these companies were delivering via courier and postal gift shipments, violating Indian laws related to payment gateways, custom duties and GST, and harming the Indian MSME trade market.

Further, it said that China was promoting its own small industry through subsidized delivery via China Post. It said that since these companies were not registered in India, there was no grievance redressal mechanism and that there was a risk of 'hazardous, prohibited, unsafe or substandard goods arriving in India.'

Note that SJM is not opposed to only Chinese companies doing business in India. Last month, the organisation passed a resolution asking for an e-commerce policy which would lean towards small retail traders and protect their interests. In its opinion, e-commerce giants like Flipkart & Amazon were flouting laws causing damage to the livelihoods of offline traders.

Last week, the Swadeshi Jagran Manch asked the central government to:

- Make registration and having a local Indian office compulsory for ecommerce companies which follow the marketplace model
- Have an annual inspection mechanism to verify companies' adherence to local norms
- Have a code of conduct for the ecommerce marketplace model "to keep it neutral"
- Disallow cashbacks from marketplace group companies
- Have a suitable accounting standard

Ashwani Mahajan (national co-convener, SJM) told the publication that according to a recent RTI, the DIPP did not have a roster of ecommerce marketplaces in India which followed the marketplace model.

<https://www.medianama.com/2019/02/223-swadeshi-jagran-manch-commerce-regulation-chinese-companies/>

Swadeshi Jagran Manch wants registration of e-commerce cos to be made mandatory

SJM appealed to the central government to make the registration of e-commerce entities – falling under marketplace-based model and having local offices in India, be made compulsory. An inspection mechanism should be made to annually verify that such entities comply all terms and conditions of the revised e-commerce rules, that came into effect from February 1.

SJM, in its communication to the union minister of commerce and industry Suresh Prabhu, emphasised that a code of conduct for marketplace model be prescribed to keep it a neutral marketplace. The



new rules bar online retailers from selling goods, exclusively on their platforms. Major e-commerce firms, including Amazon and Flipkart, had written to the government seeing an extension to the deadline, unsuccessfully.

SJM national co-convener Dr Ashwani Mahajan said e-commerce entity should be defined as the entity conducting e-commerce business and which is either a company incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956 or the Companies Act, 2013 in which person(s) resident outside India participates in its ownership or control directly or through its subsidiaries, associates or joint ventures, or a foreign company covered under section 2(42) of the Companies Act, 2013.

"A recent RTI revealed that the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) has no register of e-commerce marketplaces, who are permitted to run a business on e-commerce of marketplace model as permitted by consolidated FDI policy. Therefore, the registration should be binding," noted Mahajan. Further, SJM argued that cash back should not be allowed by group companies of marketplace entities to buyers and the government should prescribe suitable accounting standards.

- SJM emphasised that a code of conduct for marketplace model be prescribed
- New rules bar online retailers from selling goods, exclusively on their platforms. Several big firms had written to the government seeking extension to the deadline, unsuccessfully

<https://www.dnaindia.com/mumbai/report-swadeshi-jagran-manch-wants-registration-of-e-commerce-cos-to-be-made-mandatory-2720893>

SJM Demands Restriction On Chinese Companies Operating In India

Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM), has requested Prime Minister Modi to take steps to limit the operation of Chinese companies in India in response to China's continuous blocking of India's efforts to designate Masood Azhar as a global terrorist.

In the aftermath of the Pulwama terrorist attack in Kashmir which left 44 CRPF personnel dead, India moved to list Masood Azhar, the JeM chief, as a global terrorist. However this attempt, like the previous ones, were thwarted by China which holds a permanent seat the UN Security Council and is an 'all-weather friend' of Pakistan. The US, the UK and France which are the other permanent members of the Council have supported India's position. JeM, a terrorist outfit based in Pakistan has claimed responsibility for the Pulwama terror attack. In a letter addressed to PM Modi, SJM co-convenor Ashwani Mahajan said that "dastardly terrorist attack in Pulwama has shaken the conscience of the nation and at this time steps should be taken to prevent the economic gain of any nation that directly or tacitly supports such terrorists."

India runs a massive trade deficit of close to \$60 billion with China, which is also its biggest trade partner. Also, exports from India like pharmaceuticals and agro-products have been artificially restricted by the Chinese authorities through opaque regulatory requirements.

<https://svarajyamag.com/insta/chinas-protection-to-masood-azhar-swadeshi-jagran-manch-demands-restriction-on-chinese-companies-operating-in-india>

No charges on cancellation of ticket within a day of booking

Air travellers can now cancel tickets without having to pay any amount within a day of the booking and also claim enhanced compensation for loss of baggage from airlines as the Ministry of Civil Aviation on Wednesday finalised the new passenger charter, prescribing a series of consumer-friendly measures. However, as per the new charter, zero cancellation charge won't apply if the tickets are booked less than seven days before the scheduled departure time of the flight. In case of less than seven days between the date of booking and date of travel, the airline can charge cancellation fee limited to the total of base fare and fuel surcharge. Other components like tax, user development fee, airport development fee and passenger service fee will have to be refunded.

Passengers have often complained that airlines collect charges like user development fee, airport development fee and passenger service fee from them even if they cancel their tickets. Currently, airlines charge a fee between Rs 3,000 and Rs 4,500 even if a ticket is cancelled immediately after the booking.

The passenger charter also prescribes uniform penalties on carriers for poor services such as missing



connecting flights and denial of boarding due to over-booking. Passengers can now also make legitimate corrections in their name within 24 hours of booking without paying any charges. Currently, any change or correction in name is considered as cancellation and charges apply. A traveller has to then book a new ticket. The compensation for loss or damage to baggage has been fixed at Rs 350 per kg, nearly 75 per cent more than what airlines usually pay now. The upper limit for compensation has been enhanced to Rs 20,000, up from Rs 3,000 currently.

Airline executives believe the penalties are steep and will be an unnecessary burden. "We already follow DGCA guidelines on passenger service benchmark. There was no need for this (passenger charter). Cancellations' revenue help airlines keep tickets low for other flyers," an official from a low-cost carrier said.

The ministry has also introduced compensation for passengers for missing connecting flights if onward journey is on same PNR. Passengers would be paid between Rs 5,000 and Rs 10,000 depending on the duration of the flight. Currently, there's no compensation of any kind in monetary terms for missing connecting flights. Compensation for flight cancellation by airlines in the last 24 hours of the scheduled take-off has been abolished. Under the new rule, the carriers can offer refund to the passengers or arrange an alternate flight. Under the current system, the flyers are given compensation of up to Rs 10,000 in addition to the ticket refund.

Civil Aviation Minister Suresh Prabhu said the charter will bring uniformity in passenger services. "The Directorate General of Civil Aviation's civil aviation requirements list out the rights of the air passengers. A minimum benchmark has been set now. We want passengers to have a world-class flying experience. This would be beneficial for the airlines too in the long-run," he said. —FE

<https://indianexpress.com/article/business/aviation/new-passenger-charter-no-charges-on-cancellation-of-ticket-within-a-day-of-booking-5603954/>

Popular Chinese app TikTok now in child privacy row

The popularity of China-based video social networking app TikTok has risen quickly to become a craze among teenagers, especially in India, but not without its share of controversies. Barely 10 days after Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's (RSS) economic wing Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM) called for a ban of the app in India, allegedly for helping spread child pornography content, the operators of TikTok have agreed to pay \$5.7 million (nearly Rs 40 crore) to settle the US Federal Trade Commission (FTC) allegations that the company illegally collected personal information from children.

The FTC's complaint alleged that Musical.ly now known as TikTok — violated the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA), which requires that websites and online services directed to children obtain parental consent before collecting personal information from children under the age of 13.

"The operators of Musically —now known as TikTok knew many children were using the app but they still failed to seek parental consent before collecting names, email addresses, and other personal information from users under the age of 13," FTC Chairman Joe Simons said in a statement late Wednesday.

Following the agreement with FTC, TikTok, owned by Chinese tech company ByteDance, said it had implemented changes to give children in the US separate in-app experience with additional safety and privacy protections.

"The new environment for younger users does not permit the sharing of personal information, and it puts extensive limitations on content and user interaction. Both current and new TikTok users will be directed to the age-appropriate app experience, beginning today," TikTok said in an statement.

According to data insights firm Sensor Tower, TikTok has just crossed the one billion mark for worldwide installs on the App Store and Google Play, including its lite versions and regional variations.

"Approximately 663 million of these installs occurred in 2018," Sensor Tower founder Oliver Yeh said in a blog post this week.

The app is very popular in India, especially among teenagers. Yeh said that in January 2019, 43 per cent of the app's new users were from India, compared to just 9.5 percent in January of 2018.

In fact, 25 per cent of TikTok's downloads to date have come from India, for an estimated total of 250 million there, according to the estimate by Sensor Tower. According to Faisal Kawoosa, Chief Analyst at market research firm techARC, the rise of 4G at dirt cheap price and increased smartphone penetration have contributed to the growth of TikTok in India.

"One more implication is that since video eliminates the language barrier, users could create content in their own languages and genres which have considerable respective user bases," Kawoosa told IANS.

In a letter addressed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi earlier this month, Swadeshi Jagran Manch co-convenor Ashwani Mahajan said that TikTok is known for sharing the details of children and being an open ground for child pornography and possibly anti-national activities. Following the allegations by SJM, ByteDance, in an earlier statement shared with IANS said that TikTok was committed to maintaining a safe and positive in-app environment for its users in India.

"We have robust measures to protect users against misuse, including easy reporting mechanisms that enable users and law enforcement to report content that violates our terms of use and community guidelines," it said.

India to remain fastest growing economy, says UN report

India will continue to be the world's fastest-growing large economy in 2019 and in 2020. The nation is growing at a brisk pace and it is well ahead of China, says UN report. According to the UN's World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) 2019, India's GDP growth is likely to increase to 7.6 per cent in 2019-20 from an estimated 7.4 per cent in the current fiscal ending March 2019. It has been said that the growth rate may come down to 7.4 per cent a year later. In the case of China, the growth is likely to come down to 6.3 per cent in 2019 from 6.6 per cent in 2018. This means there is a possibility to further decelerate to 6.2 per cent in 2020. "Growth (in India) continues to be underpinned by robust private consumption, a more expansionary fiscal stance and benefits from previous reforms.

"Yet, more robust and sustained recovery of private investment remains crucial to lifting the medium-term growth," WESP report said.

Citing China, it said the growth is estimated to

moderate from 6.6 per cent in 2018 to 6.3 per cent in 2019. However, the report further said the global economy would continue to accelerate at a good pace of around 3 per cent in 2019 and 2020 amid signs that global growth has peaked. The prestigious International Polling organisation, Gallup international has released its survey on the world leaders and global perceptions. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is ranked among the top three leaders in the world.

PM Modi is ranked at number three with a net score of 8 which puts him ahead of the likes of US President Donald Trump, Chinese President Xi Jinping, Russian President Vladimir Putin, UK's PM Theresa May and Israel's Benjamin Netanyahu. According to the survey, PM Modi is a popular leader in the Indian subcontinent with 69% of respondents in Afghanistan and 51% in Bangladesh were in favour of the Indian Prime Minister. The survey also depicts 53% of Indian respondents have a favourable view towards Trump and 34% respondents favour Indian PM in the US.

Ever since PM Narendra Modi took charge at the head of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in 2014, India's economy hasn't faced deflation in this century. It has only got better at around 7% per year. In the last three to four years, the vision of India has been changed and the world's perception towards India is also changing. It's because of the fact that India is attaining a meteoric rise and its progress is well documented.

Mr. Modi has been trying to change the atmosphere around India. He wants India to be seen as the next China in terms of economic opportunities as well as the mainstay of democracy. As India's economy accelerates to good effect and PM Modi has been seeking a distinguished position for the nation in institutions that rule the world.

It is nice to see that India is making its place in the world and thanks to PM Modi. If Modi is voted to power, then India's firm and tough is certain to continue, which is, without doubt, is good for the country's own development.

<https://www.theyouth.in/2019/02/28/chinese-media-says-indian-prime-minister-is-a-rockstar-video-goes-viral-in-pakistan/>

Mukesh Ambani is the world's 10th richest man!

Reliance Industries chairman Mukesh Ambani has broken into the top 10 rich list globally with a net-worth of \$54 billion, while his younger brother Anil

has faded into the oblivion having lost over 65 per cent of his networth, according to a report.

The Hurun Global Rich List 2019 is topped by Amazon chief Jeff Bezos for the second year in a row, while the senior Ambani is placed 10th with a network of Rs 3.83 lakh crore, thanks to a rally in RIL shares, which had topped the Rs 8-lakh-crore-mark last month.

Ambani owns almost 52 per cent in Reliance.

Anil Ambani, held in contempt of court by the Supreme Court last week for not paying up Ericsson Rs 540 crore, has lost over \$5 billion, from \$7 billion seven years ago to \$1.9 billion this year, even though both the brothers got off with more or less same amount of inherited wealth.

"Having started off similarly after the break-up of the family wealth, Mukesh added \$30 billion to his wealth in the past seven years, while Anil has lost over \$5 billion during the same period," says the Hurun report.

The other wealthiest Indians are: **Rank 2:** \$21 billion, Hinduja group chairman S P Hinduja; **Rank 3:** \$17 billion, Wipro chairman Azim Premji; **Rank 4:** \$13 billion, Cyrus S Poonawalla, Chairman of the Poonawalla group that runs Serum Institute; **Rank 5:** Lakshmi Mittal, chairman and CEO of steel giant ArcelorMittal; **Rank 6:** \$11 billion, Uday Kotak, executive vice chairman and managing director of Kotak Mahindra Bank; **Rank 7:** \$9.9 billion, Gautam Adani, Chairman and founder of Adani Group; **Rank 8:** \$9.5 billion, Dilip Shanghvi, founder and managing director of Sun Pharma; **Rank 9:** \$9.5 billion, Cyrus Pallonji Mistry; **Rank 10:** \$9.5 billion, Shapoorji Pallonji Mistry.

https://m.rediff.com/business/report/mukesh-ambani-is-the-worlds-10th-richest-man/20190228/unique=9c3e=N1.20190228_mukesh-BV/WV/55B1B3F5N1H7rkeBncZSL9gU1bV/Bk=C5up=0c5up=1

Indian air strikes in Pakistan

The Indian Air Force (IAF) early Tuesday morning carried out air strikes at the biggest training camp of the Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) terror group in Pakistan, eliminating a number of terrorists and their trainers. The air strikes came 12 days after a JeM suicide bomber, Adil Ahmed Dar, rammed his explosives-laden vehicle into a bus ferrying CRPF jawans in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama district on February 14, claiming the lives of 40 Central Reserve Police Force personnel. Addressing the media, Foreign Secretary Vijay K Gokhale said that the "non-military pre-



emptive action was specifically targeted at the terrorist camp” located at Balakot, around 195 km from Islamabad.

Notably, the Pulwama attack was the worst ever attack on security forces in Jammu and Kashmir. Pakistan-based JeM had claimed responsibility for the gruesome attack. Amid calls to take revenge for the Pulwama attack, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had recently assured: “Is baar pura hisab lenge (We will settle the books in full this time).”

https://www.timesnownews.com/india/article/india-jem-camp-pakistan-pulwama-attack-terrorist-camp-loc-line-of-control-fighter-jets/372554?utm_campaign=fullarticle&utm_medium=referral&utm_source=insights

Experts okay with ordinance on Article 35A, but question timing

Although there is no hurdle in the way of the Centre to bring an ordinance to scrap Article 35A that empowers the J&K legislature to define “permanent residents” of the state and provide them special rights, such a decision may face questions for the timing in view of the coming general elections and the volatile situation in the state after the Pulwama terror attack, opine some legal experts.

Former Lok Sabha secretary general Subhash C Kashyap said, “Article 35A was not part of the original Constitution. The Article was not passed by the Constituent Assembly. It was made a part by a Presidential order. So in my opinion, there is no need of any ordinance to scrap it and it can be done through Presiden-



tial order in concurrence with the J & K government. Since there is no elected government now in the state, the Presidential order could be passed with concurrence of the Governor. Legally there is no hurdle in bringing ordinance but it is more a political decision.”

Senior advocate Dushyant Dave said the Centre may plan to take such a decision on the premise that “judiciary is not as independent and powerful as it used to be” but it would not stand the test of judicial scrutiny.

“The government has the power to bring ordinance even if it is nonsensical. The Constitution can be amended only in a prescribed manner under Article 368. So there is double protection to the existing provisions. Assuming Article 35A can be amended or deleted, which I seriously doubt, the ordinance will be absolutely unconstitutional route to do so. Also the Jammu and Kashmir assembly is not alive, so it would be a wrong move by the Centre. The government’s move smacks of politics and is aimed at wooing Hindu voters,” Dave said.

Senior advocates Amrendra Sharan and Ajit Sinha also agreed that the Centre is empowered to bring ordinance but questioned the propriety of taking such a route on an important matter. “In my opinion it can be done but propriety of taking ordinance route on the issue is questionable. The Article has been part of the Constitution for such a long period then why bring ordinance now. It is not part of the Fundamental Rights, so it can be amended by executive decision and but ultimately validity of any such decision has to be decided by the court,” Sharan said.

“The ordinance would have far reaching consequences and bringing it now is debatable and questionable. There should be some emergency to justify taking the ordinance route and the government has to justify it when it comes under the scanner of judiciary,” Sinha said. Advocate Prashant Bhushan and former solicitor general Mohan Parasaran said it would be illegal on the part of the Centre to bring ordinance to scrap a Constitutional provision. Though this Article came in through a 1954 Presidential Order, it was in furtherance of the Instrument of Accession which the J&K government had signed with the Indian government. The Instrument of Accession gave only limited rights to the Centre to interfere with the autonomy of J&K, they said. □□

https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/experts-okay-with-ordinance-on-article-35a-but-question-timing/articleshow/68132346.cms?utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=iOSapp&utm_source=twitter.com

Swadeshi Activities

Pictorial Glimpses



Sampark Abhiyan in New Delhi



2nd National convention of Start-up, IIT, Delhi



Micro finance & e-riksha distribution program at Haryana



Swadeshi Sangoshthi at Prayagraj (UP)

Swadeshi Activities

Tribute to Martyrs in Pulwama

Pictorial Glimpses



Delhi



Gujarat



Fridabad, Haryana



Moradabad, UP



Kurukshetra, Haryana



Nagpur, Maharashtra



Satna, Madhya Pradesh