



Vol-22, No. 11  
Kartik-Margshirsh 2074 Nov. 2017

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PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY:  
Ishwardas Mahajan on behalf of **Swadeshi Jagaran Samiti**, 'Dharmakshetra', Sector-8, R.K. Puram, New Delhi-22,

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**Swadeshi Maharally:**

**Boycotting Chinese goods in Bharat**

Respected Sir,

The just concluded successfully rally of Swadeshi Jagran Manch held on 29th October 2017 at Ramlila Maidan, Delhi was a grand success. It was culmination of yearlong protests, conferences, various forms of Meetings-Corner as well as round table, and various other discourses on invasion of China since 1960's.

Participants from almost all the states of India came in big No's and dignitaries from various industries consumer associations, etc were present and spoke at length about dumping of bad and inferior quality products and services. People from defence forces - war veterans were present in big no and spoke against China and its unethical, immoral war, incursion and trade practices raised security concerns on various power/infrastructure projects currently being undertaken in India by China. Even the people from Tibbet, Nepal, Bhutan also supported the rally and expressed their strong concerns on china. Film industry also represented in this "Swadeshi Maharally" and covered the rally completely in order to shawcause to their audiences the importance of this rally by way of picture "Wah Zindagi" to be built on the concept of "Swadeshi Swikar-Chinese Bahishkar". All these speakers spoke about the all-round incursion by china on Hindusthan comprising of India, Nepal, Tibbet and Bhutan. These participants clearly highlighted how china was changing land scapes of Himalayas and changing the natural course of Bhramaputra and various other rivers and tributaries only create water shortage and security issues in Bharat and trying to destabilisehimalyan ecosystem.

Lakhs of Participants started collecting on Ramlila Ground since 8.00 Am and stayed till the finality at 4.00 PM. The messege of the rally was clearly conveyed by way of a memorandum to Honorable Defence Minister Ms. Nirmala Sitharamanji, Vijay Goyal MP and to BJP party functionaries.

– CA Sorabh Bansal, Agra, Uttar Pradesh

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For subscription please send payment by A/c payee Cheque/Demand Draft/

Money Order in favour of 'Swadeshi Patrika' at New Delhi, or

Deposit the subscription amount in Bank of India A/C No. 602510110002740,

IFSC: BKID 0006025 (Ramakrishnapuram)

**Annual Subscription : 150/-**

**Life Membership : 1500/-**

**Kindly write your full name and address in capital letters.**

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**Quote-Unquote**



GST is a giant step towards India's economic integration... we are continuously taking feedback to ensure a GST that benefits everyone.

**Narendra Modi**

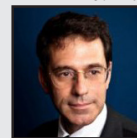
Prime Minister



India's big leap in Ease of doing Business, is a testimony to various reforms taken by our Govt. across lifecycle of a business sectors.

**Suresh Prabhu**

Commerce & Industry Minister



The U.S. helped create WTO to smooth global commerce and integrate a rising China. Instead, it's become a battleground for intense national rivalries.

**Jacob M. Schlesinger**

In wall street journal



Hitler used these organophosphate gases to execute thousands in his gas chambers, we are now using the same to kill our farmers in the open fields.

**Kishor Tiwari**

Farmer activist

## Safeguard National Interests in WTO

Eleventh Ministerial Conference of World Trade Organisation (WTO) is scheduled at Buenos Aires, Argentina between December 10 and 13, 2017. Number of issues, having long term implication on the national economy, food security and livelihood are included in the probable agenda of the conference. Agriculture is a key issue for India and the majority of its population. But developed country subsidies, in particular the AMS (Aggregate Measure of Support) are hurting farmers in India. Proposals by India on eliminating the AMS are welcome and needed to be pushed further. The development subsidies we get, should not be touched as these represent an important tool to support farmers in developing countries. More than 100 developing countries support India in this endeavour. India can create a good atmosphere in WTO in support of billions of small farmers in the world.

Secondly, India should urgently push for the permanent solution on public stockholding, which has to be allowed without limits. India must not accept very difficult compliance conditions, including those set out under the Peace Clause which makes it almost impossible to use. This decision needs to be taken by December Ministerial as has been agreed.

There is a proposal to push rules on fisheries subsidies at the December Ministerial. Sustainable fishing needs to be protected and big industrial fishing needs to be discouraged. Worrying point is that the current proposals being discussed will actually allow developed countries to continue with their subsidies while banning subsidies that are for small scale informal fishing in developing countries. The special and differential treatment which our fisherfolk urgently needs is not at all visible or actionable in the current proposals. SJM has close connections with small scale fishery in India and has been fighting for their cause against mechanised deep sea fishing and we strongly urge you not to agree to any proposal that can affect their lives and livelihoods. Given the limited time available, it is better to reject bad outcomes than to try to improve them without doing thorough research on the implications. Such discussions can be taken up later.

Proposals on investment facilitation that are being pushed in the negotiations is another cause of worry. We know very well from the history of the WTO that what starts off as simple 'facilitation' can end up as crucial commitments on investor protection and market access. India is trying to revise its approach on investment protection as it faces millions of rupee damages in investment lawsuits. To take up an additional commitment in a multilateral forum on investment will be a major mistake at this point in time. India should abide by its position of totally rejecting any negotiations on investment, 'facilitation' or otherwise as it has done in Geneva this year.

Finally, e-commerce is a complex and unknown area where the entire future of the country is potentially impacted. It can restrict future economic policy making and curb the government's ability to regulate giant e-commerce companies. India should not be giving away a critical raw material like data for free to large corporations in the west to profit from affecting future manufacturing policy space. Nor should India allow the WTO to decide on rules shaping key policies on health, agriculture, finance. Losing all tariff revenue on e-commerce as well as the regulatory control it exerts over imports is also unthinkable for a country like India. When we do not know how and what future e-technology will develop and what regulation it will need, the question of freeing up regulation in this area should not even arise at this juncture. There is also an urgent need to open up a more transparent consultative process involving affected stakeholders and especially the marginalised, economically weaker sections that SJM fights for.





## Swadeshi Maharatlly

October 29, 2017, Ramlila Ground, Delhi

The year-long campaign of RSS economic wing Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM) against the influx of Chinese goods and its negative impact on the indigenous products in the domestic market culminated into a mega rally on 29 October 2017 at the Ramlila Maidan in Delhi. Nearly 1.5 lakh people from all walks of life was present in the rally which lasted for four hours. Prominent persons present in the program including Sh. Indresh Kumar (Member National Executive of Rashtriya Swamsevak Sangh), Sh. Acharya Yashe Pushtok (Deputy Speaker Parliament in exile of Tibet), General GD Bakshi (Kargil Hero), Sh. Arun Ojha (National Convenor, Swadeshi Jagran Manch), Sh. Dinesh Kulkarni (Organising Secretary Bharatiya Kissan Sangh), Sh. Prabhakar Kelkar (National Vice President, Bharatiya Kissan Sangh), Sh. Pawan Kumar (Regional Secretary, Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh), Sh. Jitendra Gupta (National President, Laghu Udyog Bharti), Sh. Srinivas (National Joint Organizing Secretary, ABVP), Sh. Yudhvir Singh (General Secretary, Bharatiya Kissan Union (Tikait)), Sh. Shyam Bihari Mishra (President, Udyog Vyapar Mandal) and a big number of farmer leader, trade union leader, social activists.

Swadeshi Jagran Manch had during the last year planned a nationwide agitation “Rashtriya Swadeshi-Suraksha Abhiyan” on the issue of globalization which led to invasion of China on our motherland.

Year-long campaign against Chinese goods helped us in creating awareness of the people about the economic ill effects of Chinese imports, namely, trade imbalance, causing balance of payment problems and depreciation of rupee etc., impact on Bharatiya manufacturing and destruction of manufacturing and employment on a large scale; exploitation of Indian industry and consumers by Chinese etc.

This campaign also helped in making government(s) understand their role in dealing with this menace and took some wonderful initiatives, namely imposition of anti-dumping duties, banning Chinese imports by invoking standards and banning Chinese companies in tender applications for infrastructure projects, by invoking reciprocity clause.

A message could also be sent to China, which also started realising the long term effects of public sentiments against Chinese economic and military aggression and as per the indications from Chinese rulers; we note sudden change in their attitude and reso-

## COVER STORY

### Declaration

On this occasion of Rashtriya Swadeshi-Suraksha Abhiyan, we welcome all the Swadeshi Karyakartas, brothers and sisters gathered for this great grand rally organised by Swadeshi Jagran Manch. Specially, since last two years, the whole Bharatiya society have continuously opposed the Chinese goods, which is a welcome step. Consequent upon this, Chinese crackers, toys, lights, electronics goods and equipments, blankets, locks, children's bicycles and Chinese mobiles like goods market are gradually decreasing and in these sector our manufacturers are slowly being re-established in our country. But so far as the Chinese products are concerned, they have occupied the Bharatiya as well as world market to a large extent. Now it is being very difficult to overcome this situation. In order to grab our market once again we have to be ready and go far a long fight. The time has come to prevent China from its aggressive and colonial attitude. Incident of human right violation are general in different parts of China. Swadeshi Jagran Manch condemns these activities, extend its full support to Chinese people and always stand in solidarity with them. We raise their voice on international forum and ask for international support so that these activities can be prevented in China.

Bharatiya borders are very much unsecure because of the intrusion by Chinese armed forces again and again. Chinese support to Pakistan and terrorists by providing arms and wealth has created an awkward situation for the security and integrity of Bharatia. This is why an anti China attitude is getting developed in the Bharatiya society. This is the time now, when whole Bharatiya society has to put together their full effort to convert this aakrosh into action mode by throwing out all the Chinese goods and products from our day to day needs. At every movement each individual has to come forward to accelerate this movement of opposing Chinese products, starting from door to door, reaching up to village/city and then finally, above all, Chinese products should be out from Bharatiya market. With this firm determination we and our workers have to work in this direction. We all, together, have to create an attacking movement throughout the country.

An atmosphere against the Chinese goods and Chinese aggression has been created in Bharatiya society. So in this course it is necessary to take some bold steps by the Government. In last few months government of India has taken some bold and exemplary steps like imposition of anti dumping duties on some Chinese goods, qualitative measures on Chinese plastic products, boycott of OBOR meeting, success in making an anti China and pro-Bharat atmosphere in case of Doklam issue in international forum and etc. But on the other hand 960 crores Nagpur metro project, Chennai-Benguluru-Mysore high speed train project, so many thermal and Hydro power projects, thousand crores infrastructural projects tender are given to Chinese companies and Chinese FDI are welcomed by the government, these types of pro-China attitude by the government are not easily accepted by the people. This is why the time has come to cancell all such tenders and prevent Chinese FDI by the government.

World knows the fact, how 63 lakh sq.km. China has become 93 lakh sq.km. China within a period of 1951 to 1990. At present China has not only occupied Tibet but also some portions of India, Nepal, Bhutan, Vietnam, Japan and etc. China is providing loans on very high rates to Asian countries like Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Srilanka and African Countries, and grabbing their valuable lands for its own use. In view of national security and integrity we must raise our voice against the nefarious desire of China and save the sufferer countries. The Chinese helping hands behind the world capital of terrorism i.e. Pakistan and arrogant North Korea is a big threat and challenge to the world. Now it's the real time to desize its economic and armed power as well as colonialism and gundsism. For that world people need to boycott Chinese products and services isolate China in various international forum. It is the moral duty of world to re-established Tibet as an independent and sovereign country on the world map. Consequent upon which world will become safe. By this, our dream "Vasudhaiva Kutumbkam" will be fulfilled. **Bharat Mata Ki Jai, Jai Swadeshi.**

lution of Doklam and toning down of Chinese voice against India.

In the course of this campaign, some people were raising doubts about the success of this

campaign. However if we try to quantify the impact on balance of trade, we find that trade deficit has declined by nearly \$2 billion in 2016-17 and the downtrend is continuing. Reports indicate that book-

ings made by Indian importers came down by nearly 50 percent during Diwali. Apart from this we find that impact of anti-dumping duties is also getting visible. For instance, import of steel declined

**Memorandum**

**Honorable Prime Minister,**  
Government of Bharat, New Delhi

**(Memorandum submitted on the conclusion of Swadeshi Maharally held of Ramlila  
Maidan, Delhi on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2017)**

**Respected Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji,**

Need to take effective steps to curb Chinese imports, Chinese investments and stop Chinese companies taking part in infrastructure to safeguard Bharatiya interests.

As you are aware, our country has been suffering due to heavy imports of various commodities including machinery, electronic and electric equipments, other consumer goods, tyres, project goods, services etc. from China and consequent huge trade deficit. This has led to the closure of millions of small manufacturing units and huge unemployment of our youth. The trade deficit with China had reached \$ 51.1 billion (Rupees 3,30,000 crores) in 2016-17, which was 48 percent of our total trade deficit (106.2 billion dollars). In view of the huge economic and employment losses caused by heavy imports from China on the one hand and misdeeds of China on the other, people from all nooks and corners of Bharat decided to boycott Chinese goods, and as a result of this, as per information available, sale of Chinese consumer goods has been affected to the tune of nearly 50 percent and trade deficit declined by nearly \$2 billion in the last one year. Many industries in various parts of the country including Panipat (Haryana), Morbi (Gujarat) could revive due to this boycott movement.

Even after enjoying enormous advantage from huge Bhartiya market, China has been consistently keeping the sense of enmity with Bharat. Actions of China against Bharat include building military bases in Pakistan Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (POK), infringement of the Indian borders, using its veto against declaring notorious terrorist Masood Azhar as an international terrorist and blocking Bharat's entry into Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), staking claim over many areas of India and causing repetitive harassment to India. China's waywardness never ends. Apart from creating irritants for Bharat as mentioned above, China has been trying to faster its nefarious expansionary designs by way of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), One Belt One Road (OBOR) etc. We call upon government to take all possible steps to defeat these designs.

By using unfair means, China first destroyed Bharatiya industries by adversely affecting our competitive strength; and later, made Bharatiya industry and Bharatiya consumers dependent on China for raw materials and consumer goods respectively. With increasing dependence on Chinese, China has now started exploiting Bharat by increasing the price of their goods. For example, Bharat's API industry has largely been destroyed due to the import of cheap active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) from China. Now taking advantage of the Bharatiya drug industry's vulnerability, China has started exploiting them by increasing the prices of APIs. For instance, the price of folic acid (ingredient for vitamin B complex) has been increased by 10 times and price of amoxicillin has been raised by more than 2 times which is used in anti-biotic medicines.

Swadeshi Jagran Manch feels pleasure in appreciating efforts of Government of Bharat in curbing Chinese imports by imposing of anti-dumping duties on nearly 94 items imported from China, banning of Chinese imports by implementing standards on plastic goods, power plants etc. and government's resolve to make and implement standards on various items being imported from China, imposing effective restriction on procurement of goods and services from Chinese companies on the principle of reciprocity. Swadeshi Jagran Manch also appreciates government's decision to amend general financial rules (GFR) to include provisions giving price and quantity preference to Bharatiya made goods in order to keep foreign goods out of the government's procurement.

**Swadeshi Jagran Manch demands:**

1. Subsequent to the framing up of General Financial Rules (GFR) in favour of procurement of Bharatiya goods in government purchases, encouragement be given to domestic industry's production, especially in micro and small enterprises, and help them creating capacities by giving special concessions, to meet out domestic demand, and create employment as it is well established that due to unfair Chinese competition, our domestic production has been vastly affected.
2. It's an established fact that Chinese goods are of poor quality and contain toxic ingredients, and lack guarantee. Government can make 'standards' and restrict sub-quality products from China and other parts of the world. We appreciate the efforts of the government in initiating the process, however there is a long way to go and we need to adopt a fast track approach in this direction.
3. No new trade agreements should be made with China including Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).
4. It is unfortunate that on the one hand, China is constantly escalating problems for the country; central government and state governments are entering into various investment agreements with Chinese companies. They even do not hesitate in saying that though they do not approve of increasing imports of Chinese goods, however investment from China is welcome. Some state governments are even organizing conventions to attract Chinese investment. This trend needs to be curbed and no new investment agreement should be made with Chinese companies.
5. Many private companies are also entering into partnership with Chinese companies, through which our trade and industry is being fast captured by Chinese companies. We should not forget that most of the Chinese companies are under the control of Chinese government. This increasing dependence on Chinese companies, may lead the country's security, trade and industry into deep trouble in the event of war. Therefore we need to prohibit Chinese investment in Indian companies.
6. Chinese companies are fast increasing their presence in sensitive regions, especially North-Eastern states, Border States etc. by winning contracts, which present a security threat to the country. Though, the government has also initiated the process of restricting Chinese companies in participating in tender process on the reciprocity basis, which needs to be taken further. There is also a need to invoke security concerns in restricting Chinese companies.
7. The government should take initiative and necessary steps to provide impetus to Tibetan people in getting restored their sovereignty from the clutches of China. The government of Bharat should generate international awareness and mobilize support to stop human rights violation by China in Tibet and its own people within China by forging global alliances. A massive public opinion mobilization campaign should be started all over the world.
8. Though we understand that the government is bound by WTO rules and agreements made earlier; however, in many cases our import duties are much less than bound rates committed in WTO. Therefore we can safely raise tariff on such items. There is also an urgent need to study the impact of huge Chinese imports, fast widening trade deficit with China and increasing stranglehold of Chinese investments in India. Therefore, we demand opening of 'Special Chinese Cell(s)' in the Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of Finance, to undertake studies in this regard and implements measures to overcome such problems.

Sincerely yours,

**Dr. Ashwani Mahajan**

*Chief Coordinator, Rashtriya Swadeshi-Suraksha Abhiyan*

**Satish Kumar**

*Abhiyan Pramukh, Rashtriya Swadeshi-Suraksha Abhiyan*

**On behalf of more than one lakh people congregated at Ramlila Maidan from all over the country.**





by 43 percent between 2015-16 and 2016-17. Similarly, import of inorganic chemicals, fertilizers and project goods declined by 12.1 percent, 62 percent and 23.7 percent respectively during the same period.

Swadeshi Jagran Manch undertook signature campaign throughout the country and nearly 1 crore 30 lakh people resolved by signing on the pledge of not using Chinese goods in future.

Though, it is true that Chinese goods dominate Indian markets, however, SJM activists were encouraged by the response of the people and even policy makers during the course of the campaign and we firmly believe that we should be able to break Chinese dominance.

Maharally was planned to showcase and demonstrate people's anger against China and gives answer to those who say that given Chinese low price products, people will never shun Chinese goods. 1.5 lakh people present in the rally have proved the critics wrong.

In its memorandum presented to the Centre, the SJM has set demands for preferential treatment to domestic industry, particularly

MSMEs, to boost employment, apart from asking for imposition of quality restrictions on Chinese goods. They also demanded that no new trade agreement be signed with the Chinese government and urged states to not allow any Chinese investment. It also asked private companies to desist partnering with Chinese companies.

Further, the SJM demanded that Chinese companies not be granted contracts in the northeastern states as it poses a security threat.

Swadeshi Jagran Manch urged the Centre to open 'Special Chinese Cells' in the Ministry of Commerce and Finance to undertake study to gauge the impact of the



huge Chinese imports and "increasing stranglehold of Chinese investments in India.

In the Maharally speaker stressed that by providing refuge to the Tibetan government in exile, whose headquarters is in Himachal Pradesh's Dharamsala, India indirectly supported the demand for Tibet's independence and should now make the call openly.

It was also stressed that China's expansionist and imperialistic drive started only after the occupation of Tibet. India should work for the independence of Tibet. Only when Tibet becomes free will the border security concerns of India be solved.

Speaker also said that the government's "bold" stand on the Doklam stand-off with China had succeeded and now Modi should exhibit the same "firmness" with regard to Tibet and Chinese goods.

Speakers at the rally pointed out that Strict anti-dumping and quality provisions should be invoked to ban Chinese chemical and plastic products, which are destroying our environment.

Because of the influx of cheap Chinese goods, the domestic medium and small industries had suffered badly, leading to huge job losses. Now, the SJM has added a new dimension by clubbing the campaign for a free Tibet with its anti-China agitation.

SJM plans to take this campaign further to nooks and corners of the country. We plan to undertake intensive research about the injury caused to Indian industry, employment and economy at large by Chinese economic invasion. This research and ongoing campaign will add new dimensions to the fight against China. □□



## Small Enterprises: Imperative for Positive and Encouraging Environment

Small enterprise has always had an important place in Indian economy, may it be output, employment or exports. Apart from this, they have been vehicle of growth with equity and decentralisation. Therefore, economic policy should rightfully be targeted at promotion and protection of small enterprise. However, for more than two decades, this sector has been in a serious crisis. Closure of a large number of small enterprises, has not only been becoming a stumbling block in creation of jobs, growth and development of the economy is also getting hurt.

### Impact of Liberalization and Globalization

Industrial Policy adopted post independence imposed various restrictions on large scale private industries and industrial policy at that time became the synonym to 'License and Quota Raj'. While existing industries learned the art of living with this policy, the same policy became stumbling block for new entrepreneurs.

So far as the small scale industries were concerned, the policy allowed SSIs to operate in consumer goods sector and even many items were reserved for SSIs. Before the advent of new economic policy in 1991, 812 items were reserved for production in small scale sector. New Economic Policy (NEP) storm killed this policy of reservation. Similarly, small industries were given preference in government procurement as well, both in terms of price and purchase preference. Slowly these concessions to SSIs vanished in the name of promoting competition. It was said that reservation policy for SSIs comes in the way of development of technology and inculcating competition. Protection causes inefficiencies and country would not withstand international competition, it was said. It was argued that if we continue protecting domestic industry including small scale in-



*Small enterprises  
need conducive  
environment for  
entrepreneurship  
development.*

**Dr. Ashwani  
Mahajan**





***We would need to not only impose anti-dumping duties, but also impose standards to stem flooding of sub-standard Chinese products in Indian markets.***

dustries, foreign investors would be discouraged and consumers' choices are also constrained. NEP's arguments took precedence over arguments of employment, decentralization and equity favoring concessions to SSIs.

Policy of open imports in the era of globalization did help us in getting number of goods and sometimes even technology, but at the cost of closure of millions of small enterprises, which couldn't face fierce competition from the rest of the world. Though, in some sectors like automobile, we do find some growth in ancillary small scale units; however small scale sector in general faced extinction especially due to import flood from China. Huge imports from China, not only causes huge burden of foreign exchange payment on the country due to heavy imports of toys, power equipment, mobile, computer and other electronics accessories, project goods, power plants etc., our industry and businesses have also have been destroyed and there is a huge loss of employment.

It's believed that this has happened due to large scale 'dumping' of Chinese goods in Indian markets. Dumping is said to be an act whereby a country sells a prod-

uct in a foreign country, at a price less than the normal price (that is, the price at which the same product is sold in their home country. Because of large scale dumping by China in Indian markets, our entrepreneurs have either closed their units or have shifted their production units to China or have turned importers. Those importing Chinese goods are sometimes packing the same and selling in their own brand names.

### **How to encourage make in India?**

Though, there is hardly any doubt about dumping by China and its ill effects on India's small sector, this is equally important to understand that Chinese government provides most conducive atmosphere for the development of industry and entrepreneurship in China; and has turned China as manufacturing hub of the world. Absence of labor disputes, easy availability of raw material and technological support, ease to start an enterprise, availability of infrastructural facilities including rail, road and electricity, easy and lower taxes, easy availability of finance are some of the other reasons for growth of Chinese industries. Public sector undertakings not only

subsidize exports but also facilitate them technologically and many other ways.

In India costly electricity, outdated labor laws, complicated tax system, high rates of taxes, problems in getting finance, lack of infrastructure, laws inhibiting start of enterprise, inspector raj and perverted environment laws are some of the problems which come in the way of healthy development of small scale sector. Thus we can say that not only the problems arising out of unequal competition from imports, there is a whole plethora of problems faced by them ranging from start of enterprise to the marketing of final produce.

### **Need for Separate Labor Laws**

Nobody would deny importance of protection and welfare of labor. Though, policy of unjustified hire and fire policy is no good and we need to protect workers' interests. However, one can't justify same laws for big and small enterprise. Scenario has changed now and due to complex labor laws, small enterprises have started shifting to contract labor, instead of hiring regular labor. Contract labor is exploited by the intermediaries and organic relationship between entrepreneur and the labor will be lacking, affecting welfare of both entrepreneurs and workers. Given this problem, Second Labor Commission gave an important recommendation to enact separate laws for small enterprises.

Workers organizations also favored such initiative. Sometime back a bill called Micro Small & Medium Enterprises Bill has been formulated. It seems, the bill is

caught in red tape of bureaucracy somewhere. However, need to have separate labour laws for small enterprises remains.

### Finance

Banks and other financial institutions feel that it's risky and cumbersome to lend to small enterprises. There is hardly any truth in this, given the NPA crisis being faced by banks due to big loans turning bad. Due to this preconceived notions of banks they try to avoid lending to small enterprises, even circumventing their legal binding of priority lending to small enterprises. Further, small enterprises get loan at higher interest rates, whereas big borrowers get loan at much cheap rate on more easy terms, without hassles.

After Narendra Modi government took over the rein of power, it has tried to facilitate small and micro enterprises through MUDRA scheme, Start up schemes etc. So far a total loan of 3.9 lakh crores of rupees has been disbursed under MUDRA scheme alone; and 9.2 crore beneficiaries are not only employed themselves, rather they have created many more jobs.

### Restricting flooding and dumping of imports

Although foreign trade is a normal phenomenon in modern days, however, it has been a major cause for distress of small enterprise. Reason is dumping by some foreign countries, especially China. It's notable that China has made the whole world as dumping ground for its manufactured products, with nefarious designs. This has killed manufacturing in US, Europe, India and many other countries and turned China as man-

ufacturing hub of the world. Technically 'dumping' is defined as a situation where any country exports a product at price less than normal price, where normal price is the price at which the same product is sold in that country. Central government has now started imposing anti-dumping duty in a big way. In a written reply in Rajya Sabha, the then Commerce and Industry Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had said that Anti-dumping duty is in force on 93 products concerning imports from China. In addition, 40 cases concerning imports from China have been initiated by the Directorate General of Anti-Dumping & Allied Duties, it was reported.

We would need to not only impose anti-dumping duties, but also impose standards to stem flooding of sub-standard Chinese products in Indian markets. This would achieve twin objective of cutting unwanted imports and improve the standard of products produced in India. Recently, government has started making effort in this direction, which needs to be accelerated.

### Preference in government procurement

In order to protect and promote small enterprises, there used to be a clear and comprehensive policy of preferential procurement from SSIs, which used to take form of price preference or purchase preference. However, with passage of time, these preferences were more or less weaned away.

Recently, a new preferential procurement policy has been made by the government, implemented by making General Financial Rules. Under Rule 153,

### Ending inspector raj

There are more than 40 laws applicable on SSIs and more than 50 inspectors visit their factories, and many of them having wide ranging powers to penalize SSIs. Living under threat, SSIs find it difficult to concentrate on core areas like production, marketing and up gradation of technology. There is a dire need to end this tragedy.

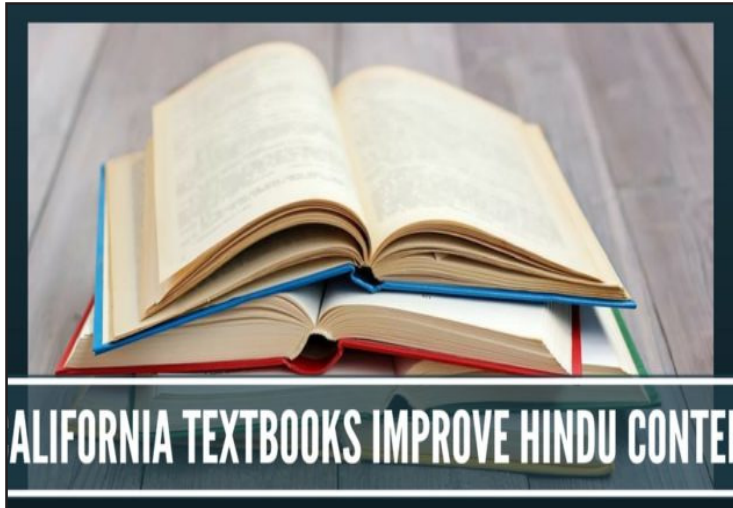
### Building Infrastructure

It's almost impossible to start and run small enterprises in a remote area. They are neither connected with rail or road; nor do they have assured source of power. Even in big and developed places, assured power supply is a big issue. At many places, generators are under rampant usage. This not only raises cost, but is a source of pollution and units equipped with generators are subject to exploitation by concerned departments' inspectors. We need to develop infrastructure of various kinds including rail, road, power, skill development, markets (including e-portals) etc.

We should not forget that by nature Indian people are entrepreneurs, hardworking and enthusiastic. They need conducive environment for entrepreneurship development. This is majorly a work of the government. Government has to make good laws, make atmosphere conducive. Not much budget is needed for the same, except in case of physical infrastructure, which too can be developed in public private partnership. Despite improvement in the recent years, we are still at 130<sup>th</sup> rank internationally, so far as ease of doing business is concerned. We need to work hard on this front. □□



# California textbooks improve Hindu content



In the significant development for Hindu American families that have long agitated over the humiliating and demeaning portrayal of India and the Hindu tradition and faith in American school textbooks, the California Department of Education (CDE) on Thursday, 28 September 2017 recommended rejection of two academic programs submitted by the publisher Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (HMH), that has a significant market share for textbooks.

The term 'program' refers to a series of textbooks for different classes. HMH submitted two programs; the first had books for Std. K to 6, and the second had

books for Std. 6 to 8, with an overlap for Grade 6. The two textbooks for Grade 6 were very different and the first series reflected very poorly on India and Hinduism. The California State Board of Education will take a final vote on this in November.

Should the vote go through, the California Department of Education would have paved the way for a more open and unbiased approach towards all discriminated groups. This would have a salutary effect on textbook publishers across all States in America. For more than a decade, Hindu Americans have been agitating that textbooks demonised Hindus and Indians by promoting Orientalist narratives and including denigrating pictures of Hindu deities, slums, garbage and poverty, to represent ancient Indian civilisation and Hinduism. They suffered their most humiliating defeat in 2006 when Prof Michael Witzel and Steve Farmer intervened to manipulate the whole process of academic review by the California state board of education.

Even in the community panel assigned to review the new draft books, some members sided with the Leftist viewpoint and insisted upon the denigration of Hindus in the textbooks. Mercifully, these hate-filled voices were neutralised by the persistent efforts of Hindu schoolchildren who narrated before ICQ members their harassment and humiliation by non-Hindu classmates who were being taught Hindu-phobic matter from the impugned textbooks.

The Hindu groups are now hopeful that other publishers will adopt more balanced perspectives when preparing content on India and Hinduism for school children, who belong to all communities residing in America, and get their first acquaintance with India and its traditions from their school curricula.

At the September meeting, the California Department of Education took significant steps to suggest corrections and modifications to the drafts submitted



*Paradigm shift in understanding of US about cultural & religious values of Bharat, says*  
**Sandhya Jain**

by publishers for the State's History-Social Science textbook adoption, and voted to reject content from two programs.

The development followed serious concerns raised by the Hindu American, LGBTQ, and African American communities regarding the biased and inequitable depiction of their communities in textbooks at the public hearing held by the CDE's Instructional Quality Commission (IQC). The IQC conducts the textbook adoption process. Hundreds of Hindu Americans joined the LGBTQ and African Americans to seek fair, accurate and equitable portrayal for diverse communities in California.

In recent times, many lawmakers in California have written in support of the Hindus. In May 2016, nearly 55 reputed scholars of Hinduism in the United States sent a letter to the IQC supporting the grievances of the Hindu community; over two-thirds of these scholars were of non-Indian origin.

Gradually, Hindus succeeded in having the disparaging pictures removed and some positive amendments included. But many textbooks continued to convey extensive inaccuracies and stereotypes. More significantly, several items that are mandated in the California History-Social Science textbook framework (state guidelines) for India and Hinduism were willfully ignored by some publishers, a fact pointed out by the Hindu Education Foundation USA (HEF).

The community is still striving to obtain an accurate inclusion of Indian history, especially esoteric traditions like Yoga and Hindu philosophy, besides Sanskrit and Tamil Sangam literature, the Jain tradition, and the contributions of

non-Brahmin, mainly scheduled caste (called Dalit in America) saints and sages.

The Hindu community galvanised thousands of parents, students, and community leaders for week-long protests across California in the last week of September, to demand accurate and equitable representation for India and Hinduism in textbooks. A petition signed by over 8,000 people demanding the withdrawal of biased and incorrect content was submitted to the Department of Education. The organisations that sup-

***The community is still striving to obtain an accurate inclusion of Indian history, especially esoteric traditions like Yoga and Hindu philosophy***

ported the struggle included Hindu American Foundation (HAF), Hindupedia, Bay Area Vaishnav Parivar (BAVP), Silicon Andhra, Bharati Tamil Sangam, Vedika Global and many other Indian American bodies.

Representatives from the Hindu Education Foundation USA and Hindupedia said that despite some changes, much more remains to be done in order to present India and Hinduism appropriately.

In early September 2017, a coalition of 25 highly respected academics from prestigious universities across the United States sub-

mitted a letter to the California Department of Education calling the textbook drafts "problematic" and urging the CDE to make qualitative changes to the textbook drafts to better reflect truth and cultural competency.

This time, the efforts of the Hindu American community were augmented by many public officials, including California Assembly member Kevin Kiley and the California State Asian Pacific Islander (API) Legislative Caucus led by Assembly member Ash Kalra. This came as a significant boost to the Hindu quest for justice and dignity in academia.

The Instructional Quality Commission is likely to send its recommendations to the State Board of Education (SBE) for approval soon. Once recommended by the board, the textbooks will be adopted by school districts starting early next year.

With the increasing number of reputed academics and public officials coming forward to speak up on this sensitive subject, the academic fashion of deriding and denigrating the Hindu tradition may find fewer backers in American academia. The major Hindu-baiters have fallen silent in recent years. In June 2017, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the United States to meet President Donald Trump, the street protests by the usual suspects were remarkable for their absence.

More importantly, though this did not get the media attention it deserved, the leading American academics who revelled in overt and vituperative opposition to the Indian Prime Minister quietly retreated from their verbose penmanship into political invisibility. □□

Quality Education:

# A Precursor for Economic Turnaround-I



India needs to take an urgent call from its declining standard of the higher and technical education, having wide ramifications over the economy, including the manufacturing and even the socio-cultural environment. Country's share in the world manufacturing has plunged to mere 2.1% vis a vis 22% share of China, 17.6% of the US and 7% of the Japan. Japan has mere 1.6% of world population. In world ship-building India has less than 0.1% share, vis a vis 26% of share of South Korea, having 5% of India's population as well as area. In spite of India being 4<sup>th</sup> largest steel producer in the world lags in the ship-building due to poor maritime engineering. India stands 60<sup>th</sup> in the global innovations index (GII) and at 100<sup>th</sup> place in Global Hunger Index. To take a call from this poor state of manufacturing, state of education and research along with human development, India needs to be take care of its education urgently.

Education is key to facilitate and enrich the socio-cultural, moral, scientific, technological, economic and overall development of any society or nation. It is a potent and purposive intervention to facilitate, object oriented learning, invoke utilitarian skills, consolidate moral values, bring advancement in scientific and technical know-how, enhance individual and social commitments, reinforce one's faith in the self and shape the individual as well as societal behavior of generations to come. So, education acquires key significance in a country like India, home to one fifth of the global youth and endowed with, one of the world's largest higher education system. But, owing to chronic quality deficit, India has no place even among the 30 top international destinations for higher education and has been lagging at 60<sup>th</sup> rank in the global innovations index (GII). Such a dismal performance is worrisome and quite strange, when the country is blessed with an ostentatiously vast and enviable number of elite institutes, comprising 100 plus institutes of national importance, so declared by the Parliament, including the IITs, NITs, AIIMS, IIITs, IIMs etc., along with 47 Central Universities. All of them are blessed with most liberal fiscal support and access to cream of the nation's talent, through most fiercely contested entrance exams. In addition to this vast number of elite institutes, the country also has 650 plus state universities, including the deemed universities, along with 374 autonomous and 43,000 affiliated colleges. The combined enrolment of all these institutes is around 3.5 crore students, almost equal to the population of Canada. The 150 elite institutes of the country alone, outnumber the total number of universities in several countries like, the Canada, UK and several European, Asian and Latin American countries, whose universities make, almost a beeline among the top ranking global universities, where none of our institutes, including the elite institutes figure, viz among the top 250 universities in the Times Higher Education (THE) university rankings. The 150 elite institutes of the country, blessed with all the bounties from the exchequer and absolute autonomy, devoid of any political and bureaucratic interferences, could well usher India in the league of top innovating and manufacturing countries with even feeble attempt to embark on the goal of quality teaching



*owing to chronic quality deficit, India has no place even among the 30 top international destinations for higher education and has been lagging at 60th rank in the global innovations index (GII).*

**Prof. Bhagwati  
Prakash Sharma**



and research. The state of non-elite, but public funded institutes and universities is also quite worrisome, which have also been attracting a fairly talented cross-section of the society by virtue of their lower and nominal fees vis a vis the self financed institutes and universities. The self financed institutes have been offering education at relatively higher and cost based fees, for want of any fiscal support.

The chronic quality deficit syndrome, across-the-board in teaching, research, publications, innovations and overall intellectual property creation in the country's higher education network, being sustained with an annual fiscal outgo of around 75,000 crores per annum\* is quite worrisome. In the seven decades of Independence, any formal system of academic performance audit is yet to be put in place to pinpoint the lacunae in the vision, mission, priorities, targets, pedagogy and attempt to draw a time bound roadmap, including the system for effective monitoring of performance and fixing of accountability, especially for the elite institutes. A clear perception of the emerging scenario or vision, along with a precisely defined mission for the higher and technical education, with time-bound, discrete and tangible targets and also with an explicit-hierarchy of priorities, inter se, teaching, pedagogy development, research, publications, innovations, value orientation and industry-academia cooperation, necessary for periodical evaluation and measuring the performance of the elite as well as the other public funded institutions is lacking. Lack of a competent agency and effective

system to monitor, facilitate and counsel the education providers for requisite capacity building and enable them to fulfill our developmental needs, except an 'accept or reject' style of regulatory system, can be one of the major reason for the quality deficit syndrome in higher education. For want of a clear focus upon relative priorities and goals, and also lack of any agency, capable to help the education providers to embark upon the desired path of quality teaching, research, publications, pedagogical interventions and innovations, our education providers are finishing below the contemporary international

***Hardly 20 of the India's public funded universities and institutions, including the elite institutes, find place in the top 1000 universities of the world***

benchmarks of performance.

Hardly 20 of the **India's public funded universities and institutions, including the elite institutes**, find place in the top 1000 universities of the world, that too towards the tail end only, which all are being sustained at a staggering cost of Rs. 75,000 crores.

It is so, when they are catering higher education needs of less than 50% of the total number of students, enrolled in higher education today. More than 50% of the students, pursuing higher education in the country are studying in the self financed institutes or in the self-

financed programmes of the public funded institutes, not getting any grant from the state. Rather, instead of getting any support from the state, they (such students) have to additionally bear several charges or levies, directly or indirectly being imposed by the regulatory authorities or the state-run universities. Such charges are either being directly imposed upon the students of affiliated institutions or from the self-financed institutes, for approval or affiliation, which also devolve upon the students. To the contrary, in several countries like Denmark etc, the governments, conscious of their responsibilities of a welfare state, reimburse either in full or a large part of the fees being paid by the students in the self-financing institutions. We have 1.7 million engineering seats, the highest in the world, but more than half are lying vacant solely for want of ability of the prospective students to pay the cost-based fees of self-financing institutes.

In India, on excluding such students, pursuing higher education in the self financed institutions or in self financed programs of the public funded institutes, the per-student expenditure, calculated on the purchasing power parity basis, is fairly comparable with the expenditures being incurred in several high performing countries. Yet, there are only 7 Indian universities in the world's top 500 universities, as ranked by the Times Higher Education (THE). The universities of the US, Europe and even from our Asian as well as BRICS counterparts, like China, Japan, South Korea, other ASEAN nations and some of the BRICS nations make a beeline to the top, in the world university rankings.

\* It includes the central and state outlays on higher education as well as provisions made by health, agriculture and other departments on higher education and research.

## Education

Even the tiny nations like Singapore, Hong Kong, Israel or Denmark with 5 to 8 million populations, have at least 1-3 universities in the top 100, where we never figure. For want of quality in teaching and research, in spite of the education being most affordable in India, barring the countries offering free higher education, we do not even rank among the 50 top destinations, attracting international students. Hardly 36 of India's universities and institutions have place, towards the tail end among top 1100 universities in the, THE world rankings. Out of these 36 institutes as well, 11 are self financed.

We also have a very dismal share in the international patent applications being made, or in creating other forms of intellectual properties. Our share in international research publications is also abysmally low. Besides, more than 35% of the research papers being published in pay and publish category of journals in the world are of the Indian scholars. Our share in international research citations is also quite dismal at 3.1 percent, in spite of a very vast higher education-network.

UK has only 133 universities, less than a sixth of the number in India and even less in number than the 150 elite institutes of India. Population-wise as well, the UK has just 1% of global population, but it has a 12% share in the international citation frequency in the research. While, we have 3.1% share in international research citations, notwithstanding being home to world's 20% youth and one of the world's largest education network. We are also home to 17.8% of the world's Population.

The top 50 universities of the world-constituting the alma mater of most of the Nobel Prize win-

ners, have each produced between 12-151 Nobel laureates in the preceding years. The lowest score is of 12 Nobel Laureates for the Duke University and Kings College University of Washington, and the highest number of 151 is from Harvard University (a private university). There are universities with double digit Nobel winners from tiny countries like Denmark, Sweden and Switzerland, having a miniscule of populations of 50 to 90 lacs. As a nation, US has highest 353 Nobel laureates followed by the UK 125, Germany 105, France 61 and so on. Netherland, Norway and Israel, having a popula-

***Even the tiny nations like Singapore, Hong Kong, Israel or Denmark with 5-8 mn populations, have at least 1-3 universities in the top 100, where India never figures.***

tion of mere 1.7 cr, 52 lac and 85 lac have 19, 13 and 12 Nobel Prize winners. India has only one noble laureate till date, Bharat Ratna Dr. C.V Raman, who could alone bag a Noble prize for the research conducted in India, that too prior to Independence in 1930. Likewise, as per the data released by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and even after a 7% growth, the patent filings from India had been mere 1529 in 2016 vis a vis 56,595 of the US, 45,239 of Japan and 43,168 of China, under the WIPO's patent cooperation Treaty (PCT). India has even seen a drop in international patent

applications to 1,423 under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in 2015, while US had 57,385, Japan (44,235), China (29,846) and Korea (14,626), all figuring in the top-10 list, registering a rise 20%, 14% and 7%, respectively, from last year. India fared no better in terms of global trademark filings as well, under the Madrid System. It ranked 36th with only 150 trademarks filed in 2015, down from 153 in 2014, when it had seen a more than 70% increase in trademark registrations. It shows a very miserable scene on the front of new product and brand launches. Against a paltry figure of 150 filings of India, the trademark filings of the US (7,340), Germany (6,831), France (4,021), China (2,401), Japan (2,205) are 14 to 48 times.

Data from the WIPO-Report on "the Breakthrough Innovations and Economic Growth", highlight the vast gap with which the Indian elite institutes are lagging behind even China in research, when it (WIPO-Report) asserts that the IITs, though endeavoring to move ahead on research in nanotechnology with over 5,000 scientific papers and 14 patents since 1970, are yet miles behind even China, as the Chinese Academy of Sciences excels with 29,591 publications and 705 patent filings in nanotechnology. Therefore our education and research has a long distance to go, in promoting innovations and research at par with contemporary trends. The figure, on comparing with China, is embarrassingly low for the elite institutes of India, constituting an icon at home. The elite institutes as well as the public funded institutes and universities which alone receive all the grants from exchequer, need a close audit of their performance,

to plough back the returns for the nation for the tax payers' money.

In case of institutes of national importance, there is no meaningful system of academic audit, regulation, and monitoring to require them to embark upon a path to redeem their explicit or implicit goals. So, such a system needs to be put in place. Inspections and censures, largely confined to self financed institutes, where governments spend nothing, need to be made uniformly-and-judiciously applicable over all the higher education providers, including the elite institutes, to invoke quality in education. Even, some of the regulatory authorities have completely exempted the government-run institutes and universities from seeking regular periodical approvals of extension. So, they find no need not to take caution of their being ill equipped, vis a vis the self financed counterparts. Therefore, several government-run universities even avail the liberty to run professional programs, without hiring a single teacher in the faculty or with mere 10-15% faculty strength vis-a-vis the norms and also vis-a-vis private or self-financed institutes. Besides, the tradition of subjective inspections also need to be streamlined with objective and digitalized score based evaluations. The affiliating universities, while insisting maintaining a cadre ratio of Professor, Associate Professors and Assistant Professors as a pre condition to grant or renew affiliations, themselves, at times do not hire even a single regular teacher in the faculty to teach and run multiple batches and fully or largely depend upon visiting faculties. So, the regulatory norms need to be applied uni-

formly on the public funded institutes and universities as well, for touching the quality benchmarks. Rather, more stringent norms need to be invoked for the government funded institutes and universities to plough back better return over the tax payers' money. Occasionally and in some rare instances only couple of decades ago, there had been found a sound MBA and or MCA programs being run by clubbing 2-3 apartments. Today, most of the self financed universities and institutions (leaving few, may & around 10% or less proving to be black sheep), are having sprawling and very impressive infrastructures as well as faculty resources, often up to the mark and even better than what can be thought. Rather, hundreds of centers of public funded open universities are running in clumsy apartments with little teaching inputs. Otherwise, by and large, today more than 80% of private universities and colleges are having relatively better physical infrastructures, equipments and faculty strength, including cadre ratio than majority of the state funded universities and colleges. Yet, the Union and State governments are mostly confined in censuring self financed institutes where the government doesn't spend a single penny and letting loose the state funded ones. It is time to focus upon the State financed institutes and universities, including the elite institutes, besides the self financed ones for a more closer scrutiny, for the value for the money being spent out of the exchequer as well as for ensuring quality of teaching and research, where the state is spending more than Rs 75,000 crores out of State exchequer. Tax payers' money needs to be better accounted for.

Today, the students are the best judge in evaluating and selecting institutions for pursuing studies. So, instead of physical inspections, subjective in nature, minimum benchmarks of infrastructure and faculty be laid down, and all institutes be asked to upload their facilities in digitalized formats. Inspections may then be conducted in random only to verify the digital data. The regulatory authorities should focus more to counsel for capacity building in both public and privately funded institutes on a case to case basis and offering remedial grants.

On top of all, a more closer scrutiny of the elite institutes is needed, which are getting more than a lion's share of the resources and getting cream of the nation's talent, through most fiercely contested entrance exams, but lagging far behind in most of the world rankings. Regular periodical performance audit of all the other public funded institutes and universities is also most imperative to assess their contribution in enhancing quality of education, research and publications. Besides, instead of the current 'accept or reject' style of regulation, largely targeting the self financed institutions alone, need to be replaced by a capacity building system of regulation. It is time to assign defined targets of performance in terms of quality of passing out youth, including quality of research, publications and innovations for at least the elite as well as the non-elite State funded institutes. It is high time for India to emulate the system of consultative regulation and negotiated rule making in the arena of higher education to enhance capabilities of all types of education providers.

[To be continued for proposing a roadmap for the same]



## Safety of Food System Badly Threatened In the Rush for Huge Profits

In recent decades while world food production has increased at the same time, the safety of food has been increasingly threatened due to a number of factors. The green revolution phase has generally involved the spread of intensive monocultures, but this is harmful for the long-term fertility of land. As the World Resources Report (WRR) says : “Soils under intensive monoculture tend to lose organic matter and their ability to retain moisture thus becoming more susceptible to erosion and ultimately losing their fertility and productivity.” Spread of intensive monoculture generally involves a higher reliance on chemical pesticides. A very small part of the pesticide applied on a field – less than 0.1 per cent in many insecticides – actually reaches its target organism. The rest plays the role of polluting the land and water, poisoning birds and other forms of life. As WRR says, “wholesale elimination of helpful soil dwelling insects and micro organisms that build soil and plant nutrition sometimes occurs, essentially sterilising the soil.” Waste pesticides create an additional problem. The FAO once identified more than 7 million kg of outdated and unusable pesticides in 35 countries that required safe disposal.

Excessive use of chemical fertilisers and relative neglect of organic manure also leads to loss of fertility of land. The problems get worse when unbalanced mix of fertilisers create specific nutrient deficiencies in soil, particularly the deficiency of micro-nutrients. In several countries excessive application of fertilisers, particularly nitrogen has become a serious problem and nitrates pollution of water sources is posing a serious threat. In W. Germany, for instance, the annual nitrogen surplus on farmed land grew ten fold from less than 10 kg per hectare in the 1950s to more than 100 in the late 1980s.

Particularly linked to the degradation of land is a steady decline in the quality



*An argument  
in favour of  
traditional value  
based agriculture  
where villages used  
their own cattle  
feeds, own manure  
and biologically  
balanced pesticides,  
insecticides is  
gaining grounds.*  
**Bharat Dogra**



of food. Wendell Berry truly captured the contradictions of modern food system in one sentence when he said, ***“it is one of the miracles of science and hygiene that the germs that used to be in our food have been replaced by poisons.”*** If any one thinks that this is an exaggeration, then let him or her see the report of the London Food Commission which said that at least 92 pesticides cleared for use in Britain have been linked with cancer, birth defects or genetic mutation in animal studies. Or the report of the National Academy of Sciences, USA, which said that pesticides in the food of US citizens may cause more than one million additional cases of cancer in the US over their life-time. What can be worse than the now widely acknowledged fact that where pesticide use has been heavy, contamination, especially from organochlorines, such as DDT, is found in breast milk at alarmingly high levels.

This problem is likely to be even worse in poorer countries because several of the more hazardous and persistent pesticides banned in rich countries are exported to the poor countries (it is more appropriate to say, dumped there).

It is well-known that excessive use of chemical fertilizers causes a loss of flavour of food; what is less known is that it can also cause a loss of nutritive value and even create some serious health problems. According to prominent nutrition expert C. Gopalan, “the use of high analysis chemical fertilisers, which is part of the modern intensive agricultural technology, had not always gone hand-in-hand with appropriate measures for soil testing and soil replenishment, with the result that, as shown by the stud-

ies of FAO, there are disturbing evidences of micronutrient depletion of soils in some areas; these are likely to be eventually reflected in impaired nutritive value of food-grains grown in such soils.” Richard Douthwaite has written in his recent book ‘The Growth Illusion’, “Nitrogenous fertilisers can raise the amount of nitrate in the final crop to four or five times the level found in the compost-growing equivalent, while at the same time cutting vitamin C and dry matter levels. This change is potentially serious, since nitrates can be turned into powerful carcinogenic

***While on the one hand a lot of unnecessary and possibly harmful additives are being used, wasteful practices are actually removing nutrients on a truly large-scale from the most staple foods.***

nitrosamines by bacteria found in the mouth, while vitamin C has been shown to protect against cancers.”

There has been a big increase in recent years in the number and quantity of additives used by the food processing industry, including flavours, colours, emulsifiers, preservatives and an amazing range of other additives. The London Food Commission noted that about 3,800 additives were being used to perform about a hundred functions. Only about a tenth of the additives were subject to government control. The commission wrote “A single meal may contain

a cocktail of 12 to 16 additives. The combinations of additives may react with each other and with foods to produce new chemical substances.” A wide range of health hazards has been reported for an equally wide variety of food additives.

While on the one hand a lot of unnecessary and possibly harmful additives are being used, wasteful practices are actually removing nutrients on a truly large-scale from the most staple foods. Even though India is still short of meeting its cereals requirements – in terms of satisfying the nutrition requirements of all Indians – massive wastage of rice, the most important cereal, is allowed in its processing work. And what is more, the part of grain which is wasted is the one which is the most nutritious. According to an expert L. Ramchandran, who has made detailed estimates of the loss suffered in the process of refining cereals in his book, ‘Food Planning,’ “The quantitative loss in the case of cereals alone may amount to not less than eight million tons. The qualitative loss is even more staggering because the portions of the grain that are removed in refinement are many times richer in quality, proteins, fats, minerals such as iron and phosphorous, and vitamins such as thiamine, nicotinic acid, riboflavin, and, in some cases, also vitamin A, in the form of carotene, than the portions that are retained and consumed by us. These are precisely the nutrients in which the average Indian diet is woefully deficient.”

Another major source of loss of nutrients is the hydrogenation of oils. Hydrogenation changes most of the unsaturated fats into saturated fats. Saturated fats consumed in excess can be very harmful. Unsat-

urated fats, specially some of the poly unsaturated fats, are important in nutrition and play a protective role against the risk of cardiovascular disease and other ailments. In the words of Ramchandran, “in hydrogenation, what is good and necessary is changed into what is not necessary and may be harmful.”

Most recent threat to food safety have appeared because of the introduction of GM (genetically modified) food crops in some countries. An eminent group of scientists from various countries who constitute the Independent Science Panel have said in their conclusion after examining all aspects of GM crops - “GM crops have failed to deliver the promised benefits and are posing escalating problems on the farm. Transgenic contamination is now widely acknowledged to be unavoidable, and hence there can be no co-existence of GM and non-

GM agriculture. Most important of all, GM crops have not been proven safe. On the contrary, sufficient evidence has emerged to raise serious safety concerns, that if ignored could result in irreversible damage to health and the environment.

In his widely acclaimed book ‘Genetic Roulette’ Jeffrey M. Smith has summarised the results of a lot of research on the health hazards of GM crops/food, “Lab animals tested with GM foods had stunted growth, impaired immune systems, bleeding stomachs, abnormal and potentially precancerous cell growth in the intestines, impaired blood cell development, misshapen cell structures in the liver, pancreas, and testicles, altered gene expression and cell metabolism, liver and kidney lesions, partially atrophied livers, inflamed kidneys, less developed brains and testicles, enlarged livers, pancreases, and intestines,

reduced digestive enzymes, higher blood sugar, inflamed lung tissue, increased death rates, and higher offspring mortality.”

Michael Antoniou, molecular geneticist, King’s College, London, says, “If the kind of detrimental effects seen in animals fed GM food were observed in a clinical setting, the use of the product would have been halted and further research instigated to determine the cause and find possible solutions. However, what we find repeatedly in the case of GM food is that both governments and industry plough on ahead with the development, endorsement, and marketing [of] GM foods despite the warnings of potential ill health from animal feeding studies, as if nothing has happened. This is to the point where governments and industry even seem to ignore the results of their own research!” □□

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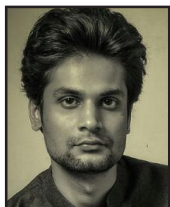
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# Thanks to Monsanto's reckless practices, Bt toxins in adulterant cottonseed oil may be seeping into your samosas



While the edible oil industry is about to crown Bt cottonseed oil as their next saviour, an RTI sent to the regulatory authority on food safety authority, FSSAI, states that Bt cottonseed oil blending in edible industrial processed oils is not allowed in India. Further, it states in a reply to the next question that anyone found doing so will be penalised under relevant legal provisions. This puts a big question on the fates of the cottonseed oil industry as over 95 percent of cotton grown in India is Bt cotton. This genetically modified cottonseed is being freely blended into refined and other edible oils as non-genetically modified cottonseed oil despite the regulation against it.



*Thanks to GM, Bt Cotton seeds farming, a new form of highly contaminated food product chain with unknown, unimaginable health and medical problems is awaiting humanity catastrophe.*

**Indra Shekhar Singh**

## What is Bt cotton?

Bt cotton is genetically modified cotton crop developed and marketed by an American agro-business company Monsanto. The cotton gene has been changed to express a toxin whose gene has been derived from a soil bacterium called *Bacillus thuringiensis*, and hence is commonly referred as Bt.

Bt cotton first entered India in the late 90s without approval through an event which some call piracy and others count as contamination. The matter only became clear with the *Navbharat* case in the Gujarat High court, where the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) found cases of contamination and ordered the uprooting and burning of Bt cotton across fields of Gujarat.

In 2002, Monsanto's Bt cotton got formal approval and the first GM crops was legally planted in India. Since then, Bt cotton has monopolised the cottonseed sector, and today even the Competition Commission of India is dragging Monsanto to court for the anti-competitive and unfair business practises. Today, most cotton in India is Monsanto's Bt cotton. As per a journal *Bt cotton in India*, published by International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications (ISAAA), a lobby group for the biotech industry, 12 million tonnes of Bt cottonseed is sold into the market, most of which lands up with the edible oil industry.

## Bt toxins in your food?

While the industry and the Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR)-Nagpur reports claim that there are no Bt toxin in the oils, but are Bt toxins leaking into our food chain? The reality on the ground seems to be obfuscated. The regulatory authority FSSAI, has no parameters in its guidelines nor has it

placed any tests or requirements on the cottonseed oil industry or the edible oil industry to perform the required safety tests for the detections of the Bt toxins. They conveniently used the industries' standards to declare the cottonseed oil safe. In simple terms, this is like trusting oil and automobile corporations on climate change or emissions. But we shall discuss this a little later.

As for the Bt toxin in food, in a recent statement to the media, Pawan Agarwal, CEO FSSAI, said that the organisation doesn't have the technology needed to detect the GM protein in food products.

To dig deeper into the subject, I spoke with Dr MS Kairon, former director ICAR-CICR-Nagpur, "As a cotton scientist and with over 30 years of experience, I can tell you there are bound to be traces and residues, which may not be harmful now, but over time with prolonged consumption may result in harmful effects."

This alarming statement took me to toxicology and biosafety expert Dr Eric Seralini, teaching professor at the University of Caen, Normandy. He is the only scientist in the world to have shown the toxicity of the Bt gene in mammals, and has been a pioneer in addressing biosafety issues. "The current technology cannot be equipped to remove all traces of DNA or toxins in food. This is a non documented legend, so it is possible to find Bt gene/toxin residues in products made from Bt crops like Bt cottonseed (like in cottonseed oil, cake, etc) & Bt maize," he said.

### Bt toxins safe?

While Monsanto claims the Bt products are safe for consumption, Dr Seralini's research has

shown that they are neither safe for humans beings nor animals. "When we (humans) are fed with Bt toxins we will show skin and epithelial and kidney disruptions. But for the animals, they will be sick and deficient. Eating these animals can promote all kinds of infections in the human body furthermore," Dr Seralini said. Other studies across the world have also found Bt toxins in humans blood and even inside foetuses.

The issue is so grave, that the Parliamentary standing committee (PSC) headed by Renuka Chowdhary in its report 301 on "GM crops and their environmental impact" reprimanded the key agriculture, veterinary and medical authorities of India for lapses in independent scientific research. The panel also instructed them to conduct rigorous scientific studies before arriving at conclusions.

*"86. The Committee observes that there are several animal studies indicating serious health risks associated with GM food including infertility, immune problems, accelerated aging, insulin regulation, and changes in major organs and the gastrointestinal system which should also be examined thoroughly before arriving this conclusion that there lies no negative impact on animal health on account of GM crops."*

Report 301, PSC ST on GM Crops & Environmental impact August 2017

So finally, is your edible oil really edible? For it would be terrible to know that secretly, or maybe in plain sight, each day, toxins glazed our samosas, puris and vadas. A closer look at the GEAC website text on the biosafety of Bt cotton reveals that all the tests and parameters used to declare Bt cotton safe have been provided by Monsanto

itself and not by an independent, scientific, peer-reviewed source.

This makes the situation quite murky, as after the revelations of the Monsanto papers, the ways in which Monsanto used to influence and sabotage independent scientific institutions and individuals has been brought to light. The only question is, can India blindly trust data given by Monsanto for Monsanto products? And more so, should India, at a time when Monsanto's integrity is being tested the world over, re-examine Monsanto biosafety claims?

So, are Bt toxins safe for consumption? There are two answers, one given by Monsanto saying that they are, which based on own closed door research and the the second answer is no, which appears to be the view of independent scientists and of the Indian Parliamentary standing committee. But one thing is certain, it is illegal to blend Bt cottonseed oil in industrial processed oils including hydrogenated, refined oil, as per the admission of the FSSAI.

The PSC in its report has also demanded that all GM products should be labeled and strongly urged the FSSAI to act upon it, because there is a huge public health risk that may be looming over Indians.

To conclude, I spoke with scientist and environmentalist Dr Vandana Shiva, "The life of every Indian is important and precious. The government is bound to protect its citizens, hence the FSSAI or any other authority should not rely on the industries' word, but have its own sovereign and scientific parameters and conduct independent tests. We cannot let Indian lives be played with for the profit of a few greedy corporations." □□

## The silver lining in Trump

President Donald Trump is tightening the issuance of H1B Visas that have been used by large numbers of Indian engineers to work in the United States. A H1B Visa is issued by the US Government at the request of an American Company which says it cannot find the required skilled personnel within the United States hence needs to employ foreign workers. Many American companies are doing business of H1B Visas. They apply for H1B Visas, bring in Indian engineers into the US, and then lend the services of these engineers to other companies. Trump wants to put an end to this practice. He has proposed that the Principal Employer requesting a H1B Visa will have to disclose the name of the ultimate user of the services of the person brought into the US. This will restrict the ability of these companies to lend the services to any company that gives a high price for the services of the engineer.

Another change proposed by Trump is to restrict the issuance of work permits to spouses of H1B Visa holders, which was available easily until now. Yet another change proposed is to eliminate the preferential issuance of H1B Visas to dependents of H1B Visa holders. All these measures are designed to reduce the flow of foreign engineers into the US. These changes will hit India hard. Indian engineers are major beneficiaries of the H1B Visas. Of the total 336,000 applications received in 2017, 248,000 were filed from India. China was at the second place with 36,362 applications.

Indian Government is concerned with this tightening of the immigration norms in the US. Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj raised the issue with a visiting delegation of US Congressmen and Finance Minister Arun Jaitley brought it up with the US Commerce Secretary. Unfortunately, the Indian Government is only looking only at the immediate loss to India from the monies repatriated by the engineers going to the US under H1B Visas; and not looking at the benefits that



*The restrictions proposed by Trump actually provide a golden opportunity for India to emerge as the global economic engine.*

*In order to understand this, we first have to assess the impact of these restrictions on the US economy.*

**Dr. Bharat Jhunjunwala**





can accrue to India from reduced migration of the engineers. The restrictions proposed by Trump actually provide a golden opportunity for India to emerge as the global economic engine. In order to understand this, we first have to assess the impact of these restrictions on the US economy.

Bush and Obama were “globalizers.” They pushed for free flow of investments such as FDI from America to India; free trade in goods such as exports of cars manufactured in India to the United States; and free flow of manpower such as issuance of H1B Visas and Green Cards. They believed that the entry of skilled engineers from India into the United States will make US Corporations globally competitive and that will lead to the creation of incomes and jobs in the US. These benefits did not flow to the people of the US though. Instead, Indian engineers were seen as taking away jobs from the US applicants. Thus, Trump has reversed the policy.

The restrictions on H1B Visas and Green Cards will not help the US economy, however. These may create some jobs for the American engineers in the short run but the unavailability of skilled Indian engineers will hit at the global competitiveness of the US Corporations, Universities, and even research programs like those of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Here, lies the silver lining for India. If Indian engineers can help make American corporations globally competitive, why can they not make Indian corporations globally competitive? Instead of trying to ensure that Indian engineers continue to migrate to the US and continue to

make US Corporations competitive; the Government of India must think how to retain Indian talent in India and make India globally competitive. It is strange that the Indian Government is peddling the interests of those engineers who want to leave India, pursue their “American Dream,” and make America stronger vis-à-vis India.

The true challenge before the Government of India is to create conditions that provide employment opportunities for Indian engineers in India and help retain our talented engineers within India. The Government must provide enabling conditions for Multinationals and US Universities to relocate to India. Trump can make it hard for Indian engineers to enter the US, but it is virtually impossible for him to prevent US Corporations from relocating to India. Many US Corporations have already made sizable investments in research centers in India. It is only one more step for them to relocate their headquarters in India, or, as a second best alternative, to expand their presence in India. Trump will become our path to global prowess if we can create the enabling conditions for this. The loss of jobs and reduction in remittances due to the reduced migration of our engineers to the US will then be more than made up by the creation of jobs within India. There will be more benefits to us in the downward linkages with the Indian economy in the flow of new technologies, supply of office space and services such as taxis and computers. Trump will become a golden opportunity for us.

The main reason why US Corporations hesitate to invest in India and Indian companies lag behind

in the global economy is infrastructure and the institutional framework. Roads, access to airports, uninterrupted supply of electricity and availability of high speed wireless networks are the basic requirements of infrastructure. The present NDA Government has taken many initiatives in this direction and these indeed lay the foundations for the growth of foreign- and domestic service companies in India.

We are far behind in the social institutions though. Law and order is in dismal shape. Traffic is unmanageable. Petty crime such as snatching of gold chains is rampant. Extortion by coolies at the railway stations is everywhere. Police is corrupt. Courts are habitually slow, very slow. These institutions are wholly in the control of the Government. Many of these such as extortion by coolies and slow pace of the courts are in the direct control of the Central Government. Improvement in these institutions will enable India to become the global powerhouse for the supply of services such as education, health, software, cinema, translations, medical transcriptions, research and more.

The US economic dominance is based on the advanced technologies held by US Corporations. Grants by the US Govt. have contributed much to the development of these technologies. For example, the internet was invented under a grant by the US Government. Trump has scaled back the grants for such research. That opens up another widow for us. Our Government must increase investments in research & make it easy for Indian corporations to access them. Trump will be a boon for India if we can play our cards right. □□

# Huge package welcome, needs caution; End re-digging of roads; allow banks raise deposits



The Rs 9.2 trillion package apparently is a major move to resuscitate economy. The route is through the banks – increased lending, and highways – infrastructure.

The Rs 6.92 trillion proposed investment on highways and Rs 2.11 trillion bank recapitalization would be a major turning point believes Finance Minister Arun Jaitley.

The farmer also had a gain as MSPs of wheat by Rs 110 to Rs 1735 a quintal and pulses by Rs 200. It is expected to help improve credit flow to companies from banks weighed down by bad debts and boost public investment. The infrastructure spending to build 83,877 km roads through Bharat

Mala in the next five years should spread an even money flow across the country.

The roads are expected to create 14 crore mandays. The new focus on MS-MEs and planned direct benefit to them should help a struggling sector. In the overall gambit, it should be a new economy linked to growth and increased jobs. The stock market immediately had a resonant acceptance with a major 435 points rise, 1.33 percent in BSE sensex and Nifty by 87 points, 0.86 percent. The PSU index was the star performer with 8 percent gain, followed by banking, capital goods and infrastructure. The consumer durables fell by 1.31 percent, health care by 1.11 percent and realty 0.35. It added to Rs 2 trillion wealth in a day at the stock exchanges. The euphoria is fine but stocks should not be taken as a major indicator. The finance ministry made a long presentation on the state of the economy as Jaitley said, “Our aim is to maintain a high growth economy”. Once again the focus is correct. Spending on roads also has to be prudent. During the past few years technically many km of roads were built but a large part like the Delhi-Agra highway, Delhi-Ambala section and the NH 24 were virtually re-dug in the name of widening these.

The government has to be cautious on such re-investment. Most roads were functional and jam points were largely because of poor planning. The Agra highway is being rebuilt for years by digging up a fine road, so is the Ambala and NH24.

The NH 24 between Nizammuddin bridge and UP border were widened to eight lanes over two years back. It was doing fine except three bottlenecks. These could have been redone with least investment. The entire finely built road should not have been re-dug, dumped with avoidable concrete, creating endless traffic snarls, increased journey time and cost. It is taking more time in digging



*The government must fix accountability and responsibility for work done, undone and redone. Huge package and expenditure must create long lasting assets for our country.*

**Shivaji Sarkar**

than rebuilding. That is happening in most stretches of the highways.

This is useless expenditure and possibly even the government is not realizing that the largesse is being looted by the builders. Addition for lanes may be felt at times. It should be done in a prudent way without hampering the traffic or creating dangerous stretches and destroying what has already been done. Nowhere in the developed world is this done. Before going for 'rebuilding', people of the area should be consulted on how to save on expenditure and do better job without throwing everything haywire as the three stretches mentioned here have done.

Tolls are being charged on stretches that are not drivable. The tolls itself are irrational and the highest in the world as the judicial scrutiny of DND toll-way has exemplified. The developed world spends prudently and keeps toll charges affordable. That is possibly why they are developed. They sparingly spend on re-digging.

There are also flipside to the road development as stretches in the fragile North-East have shown. It has affected flora, fauna and warmed up the region. The JP's Delhi-Agra-Lucknow and most other expressways have gobbled up prime agriculture land to create behemoths. The government should do a detailed study through open discussion with the people. Development has to be thoughtful. The present mess is the result of bureaucratic hurrying in the past. Such huge effort certainly needs a fund flow. That is how the recapitalization of banks have become a priority. The recent over Rs 7 lakh crore NPA and about Rs 5 lakh crore debt that were written off, total of over Rs



12 lakh crore NPA, accumulated between 2008 and 2014, which Jaitley pointed out constricted banks from giving new loans. These included many road projects across the country, including Delhi-Lucknow expressway, which the promoter is now trying to wriggle out as the court orders Rs 2000 crore immediate repayment.

This has also made banks unethical saddling irrational charges on the customers. If such reckless lending is not stopped, the banking sector is bound to be in crisis. A large part of transactions are likely to move away to other cheaper and faster channels.

The challenge to PSU banks are growing. They have to realize that their best capitalization is through raising deposits. The policy on taxing deposits, lack of long term deposit plans, policy on taxing deposits, charging bank accounts for transactions are the most imprudent approach. This is driving away depositors, creating social anxiety and put economy at high risk.

Banks are being recapitalized through budgetary support only to the extent of Rs 76,000 crore. The rest would be through bonds and dilution of government stakes in PSU banks to 52 percent. Many

***Banks are being recapitalized through budgetary support only to the extent of Rs 76,000 crore. The rest would be through bonds and dilution of government stakes in PSU banks to 52%.***

new stakeholders may be the defaulters themselves and possibly with public money. This would put higher commercial risks. Over Rs 70,000 crore recapitalization in 2015 has not helped them much.

The best recapitalisation is through efforts to raise deposits, a little time consuming but creates strong fundamentals. This helps banks make innovative planning, simple ways for account-opening, incentivise deposits with higher rates, create competition and improvement in overall health of the banks and economy. Let banks decide what identity they need or not. Banks are not government resource, as ministers like P Chidambaram may have considered.

They must be treated as people's benevolent custodians and be allowed freedom of commercial functioning. The PSU banks have acumen, they should be freed of the red tape. Let us rethink about dilution of government stake as well.

Indian economy has the capacity to reinvent and rejig. The government has to encourage it. A little more rethinking and fine-tuning the Rs 9 lakh crore (trillion) and widening the ambit can do wonders. It is a lot of money and needs careful spending. □□



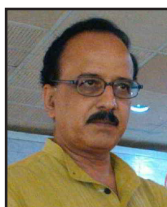
## Indian farmer in dire straits

At a time when the Minister for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Radha Mohan Singh is holding pledge-taking ceremonies wherein farmers are made to take an oath to double their income in the next five years, a recent report by CRISIL points to the denial of a rightful income as the major reason behind the agrarian crisis sweeping through the country.

“While the average annual growth in Minimum Support Price (MSP) was 19.3 per cent between 2009 and 2013, it was only 3.6 per cent between 2014 and 2017,” the report states. This minimal increase in MSP does not even correspond to the annual rise in DA for government employees. In other words, farmers are being deliberately paid less, kept impoverished. What farmers don’t realise is that every time they take to cultivation, they actually cultivate losses.

In an interesting analysis of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data, researcher Rakesh Dubbudu has very conclusively shown that in the 30 year period between 1985-86 and 2016-17, MSP for paddy increased by just 10 times. In the same period, governments own tax revenues grew by 50 times. Government employees got the benefit of three pay commissions in the same period, with their salaries jumping manifold. In addition, as per the 7th Pay Commission, employees get the benefit of 108 allowances in total. Whereas MSP only covers the cost of production, and in addition pays for the labour of a farming family. It does not provide any profit over the cost of production.

I have earlier shown that MSP for wheat has increased 19 times between 1970 and 2015, a period of 45 years. In the same period the basic pay of government employees has gone up by 120 to 150 times; of college lecturers/profes-



*Government employees got the benefit of three pay commissions in the same period, with their salaries jumping manifold. In addition, as per the 7th Pay Commission, employees get the benefit of 108 allowances in total.*

**Devinder Sharma**



sors by 150 to 170 times; of school teachers by 280 to 320 times; and of corporate employees by 300 to 1,000 per cent. If MSP had increased in the same proportion as that of other sections of the society to maintain income parity, wheat and paddy prices should have been raised by a minimum of 100 times. But what the farmers have received so far is only an increase of 19 times in case of wheat.

In agriculture, prices of farm inputs are determined by the government, and the output prices are also not in the hands of farmers. They are, in reality, being penalised to cultivate food. As John F Kennedy had once remarked: "Farmer is the only man in our economy who buys everything at retail, sells everything at wholesale, and pays for freight both ways."

The match is therefore fixed against the farmers. Whatever be the level of investments, including new technology, improved crop varieties, crop insurance, expansion in irrigation, unless the output prices are profitable for farmers he will eventually slip into a debt trap. This is what has happened world over. A study by a French public health authority, for instance, has shown that French farmers face an increased risk of committing suicide because of falling incomes. Accordingly, a majority of farmers earned less than Euro 350 a month. In India, as per the Economic Survey 2016, the average income of a farming family in 17 States is Rs 20,000 a year.

Even MSP is no saviour. As per the Shanta Kumar Committee report, MSP benefits only 6 per cent farmers. What is not known is that while MSP is being deliber-



***In agriculture, prices of farm inputs are determined by the government, and the output prices are also not in the hands of farmers. They are, in reality, being penalised to cultivate food.***

ately kept low to keep inflation under control, as many as 94 per cent farmers do not even avail MSP and remain dependent on the exploitative markets. And if the markets were supportive, I see no plausible reason for the farmer's suicides to continue at a frightening pace.

Now let's look at the markets. On October 6, for instance, the market prices quoted for moong (green gram) in Ajmer, Rajasthan, prevailed between Rs 3,000 to Rs 4,500 per quintal. This was 25 per cent less than the MSP of Rs 5,575 per quintal. Low prices have prevailed across the spectrum. Policymakers blame the regulated

APMC markets for the prices remaining low. But the unified electronic platform offering model prices is still worse. The modal price prevailed at a low of Rs 3,900 to Rs 4,100 per quintal. It's therefore quite obvious that neither MSP nor markets (including the electronic platform) have been favourable to farmers.

In fact, MSP for moong is actually less than the production cost that the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) itself has worked out. MSP is announced for about 24 crops every year, but effectively it works for only two crops — wheat and paddy — for which the Food Corporation of India (FCI) undertakes procurement operations. Under such dismal situation, where subdued prices have hit the farm livelihoods over the past few decades, I don't understand how farmers' can be expected to double their income by simply making a pledge. If wishes were horses, beggars would ride. If taking an oath could raise farm incomes, there would have been no need for government's marketing interventions. □□

*The author is an agricultural policy analyst. Views expressed are personal.*

## Pioneers of Renaissance in India

“Indira Gandhis’ regime would come to grinding halt within seventeen months”, said Dattopant Thengadi in a secret meeting held in Kolkata on 9 September 1975 during the period of emergency. After Nanaji Deshmukh was arrested Dattopant Thengadi resigning from Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh as its General Secretary took over the reins of Lok Sangharsh Samiti which was floated by Jaiprakash Narayan to fight against emergency imposed by Indira Gandhi. I being the General Secretary of Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS) in Orissa was asked to work for Lok Sangharsh Samiti through a letter from Nanaji Deshmukh where Agra was mentioned as head office of Orissa to receive further instruction.

“Is it astrology” I asked Thengadi ji who said, “No”. He elaborated, “Indira Gandhi is acting like a dictator though she lacked attributes of a dictator and she does not trust anybody. Thus this government will come to grinding halt within sixteen months though I extend it thirty days grace period.” Exactly seventeen months later Emergency was lifted.



*Dattopant Thengadi kept himself out of power and politics. He declined to receive award of 'Padmavibhushan'. Just a glimpse of this great personality is presented here.*  
**Saroj Mitra**



Dattopant Thengadi kept himself out of power and politics. He declined to receive award of 'Padmavibhushan'. Thengadi ji founder of BMS, Bharatiya Kissan Sangh & Swadeshi Jagran Manch was intimately connected with Bhimrao Amedkar. Leftist leaders like SA Dange, Prof. Hiren Mukherjee and Ram Murthy were close to him. One is to search how being a RSS Pracharak Dattopant Thengadi developed such versatile personality. Just a glimpse of this great personality is presented here.



'Dattopant is our thought giver' commented Shri Guruji Golwalkar at Thane meet of RSS in 1972. Shri Guruji Golwalkar was deliberating on various western thought processes like Fabian socialism, Syndicalism, Capitalism, Communism and also ancient Indian world view, economic theories based on certain eternal values. Deducing from this deliberation Thengadi ji projected Western and Hindu paradigms. This scholarly work contributed significantly to down-load integral humanism from theoretical domain to practical sphere.

Though Shri Guruji praised BMS for submitting its voluminous memorandum to National Commission of Labour headed by Justice Gajendragadkar in 1969, he questioned certain extreme methods adopted in the name of collective bargaining. Year's later Thengadi ji advanced his idea of national commitment to be factored into collective bargaining as enunciated by Webbs where social cost was ignored. This memorandum prepared by Gajanand Rao Gokhale, Manohar Bhai Mehta and D.B. Thengadi was hailed by Gajendragadkar as last word on labour.

While Deendyal Upadhyay desired production by masses instead of mass production at one place leading to jobless growth Thengadi ji encouraged self employment over wage employment. Both championed the need of developing appropriate technology for India. Thengadi ji pointed out how majority of industries with foreign collaboration in India particularly in public sector suffer from 40 percent idle capacity. Deendyal ji's Integral Humanism is now deciphered as sustainable de-

velopment. But so long the world is treated as a market instead of family (Vasudaiva Kutamvakam) exploitation in various forms will not cease. One and the same consciousness exists in individual, society, nation and cosmos which Thengadi ji put forth as 'Akhand Mandalakaram Vyapta Yen Characharam'. This Hindu concept of ever expanding consciousness from individual to infinity without any conflict is the impeccable path to achieve world unity. "Maa Gridha Kashya Sit Dhanam?" Whose

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wealth you want to steal, asked Deendyal ji citing the above Upanisadic treatise which questioned absolute ownership of wealth. 'Sit' means something undecided or unascertained.

Thengadi ji opposed stock exchanges with speculative trade practices, derivative trade, currency trading etc. It was Thengadi ji's prescription, contrived scarcities and rising prices with excessive profit to be replaced by abundance of production with unrestricted supply to bring down prices. Thengadi ji demanded to declare cost of produc-

tion of goods and services.

Thengadi ji often quoted following observation of Guruji Golwalkar, "Once the life-stream of unity begins to flow freely in all the veins of our body-politic, the various limbs of our national life will automatically begin to function actively and harmoniously for the welfare of the Nation as a whole. Such a living and growing society will preserve out of its multitude of old systems and patterns whatever is essential and conducive to its progressive march, throw off those as have outlived their utility, and evolve new systems in their place. No one need shed tears at the passing away of the old order, nor shirk to welcome the new order of things. That is the nature of all living and growing organisms. As a tree grows, old leaves and dry twigs fall off, making a way for fresh growth. The main thing to bear in mind is to see that the spirit of oneness permeates all parts of our social set-up."

"Every system or pattern will live or change or even entirely disappear according as it nourishes that spirit or not. Hence, it is useless in the present social context to discuss the future of all such systems the supreme call of this age is to revive the spirit of inherent unity and the awareness of its life-purpose in our society. All other will take care of themselves."

D.B. Thengadi, Deendyal Upadhyay and Guruji Golwalkar had one vision of ushering in renaissance in India. According to them, 'Westernisation is not modernisation nor is western paradigms universal paradigms'. Their expressions moved in the same wavelength. □□

*The author is the National Co-convenor of  
Swadeshi Jagran Manch.*

Black Money and Tax Havens:

# Tracing the connection between terrorism and offshore financing



## Terrorism and Offshore Financing

The life-blood of an effective terrorist network is financing and shell companies facilitate the easy distribution of money. The Islamic State, popularly referred to as ISIS makes \$1 million to \$2 million a day in oil production, it has obtained over \$100 million in ransoms from kidnapping and collects 'taxes' from the 6 million people it has gained control over.

Al-Qaeda's worldwide operations require \$30-50 million per year. The September 11 attacks, for example, cost approximately \$500,000. But not every terrorist attack requires large sums of money. The London transit bombings cost a

mere \$15,000 and the Paris bombings cost about \$10,000 or less. Regardless of the size of the operation, funding a terrorism enterprise is easily done under the cover of shell companies. In contrast, the United States has spent (as of 2014) over \$1.6 trillion since September 11, 2001 on its major military operations abroad and \$9 million a day just on fighting ISIS.

If we want to fight terrorism effectively, we should also be cracking down on terrorism financing. Given the ease and persistence of terrorist financing — particularly using shell companies — a shift in attention on financial regulations that would stop terrorism financing would be a good start. Also the Panama Papers incident shows how easy it is to finance terror using US shell companies. With the ease of incorporation, some may decide to create companies to hide assets in for tax evasion or money laundering purposes. However, even more alarming is that terrorists can easily disguise their true identities from law enforcement through shell companies. A potential terrorist cannot take a flight to neighbouring states without a passport or driver's licence, but they can form a shell company without any information in a matter of minutes. In a high-profile instance of this, for many years, Russian arms dealer Viktor Bout used shell corporations to anonymously supply terrorist groups around the globe with major weaponry like tanks and shoulder-fire missiles.

Laws against money laundering and terror financing are used around the world. In the United States, the Patriot Act was passed after the September 11 attacks, giving the government anti-money laundering powers to monitor financial institutions. The Patriot Act has generated a great deal of controversy in the



*If we want to fight terrorism effectively, we should also be cracking down on terrorism financing.*

**Prof. R. Vaidyanathan**

United States since its enactment. The United States has also collaborated with the United Nations and other countries to create the Terrorist Finance Tracking Program. RAND Corporation has brought out a large body of literature and analysis on terror financing and its implications.

### **Terrorism Financing in India**

In January 2015, the inaugural US-India Anti-Money Laundering/ Counterterrorism Finance (AML/CFT) dialogue was held. India is a member of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and two FATF-style regional bodies, the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism and the Asia-Pacific Group on Money Laundering. India's Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU-IND) is also a member of the Egmont Group (an informal international gathering of financial intelligence units formed in 1995). Indian officials monitor and regulate money transfers, require the collection of data for wire transfers, oblige non-profit organizations to file suspicious transaction reports, and regulate and monitor these entities to prevent misuse and terrorism financing.

Although the Government of India has aligned its domestic AML/ CFT laws with international standards by enacting amendments to the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in November 2012, the government has yet to implement the legislation effectively, especially with regard to criminal convictions. Law enforcement agencies typically open criminal investigations reactively and seldom initiate proactive analysis and long-term investigations. While the In-

dian government has taken action against certain hawala financing activities, prosecutions have generally focused on non-financial businesses that conduct hawala transactions as a secondary activity. Additionally, the government has not taken adequate steps to ensure that all relevant industries are complying with AML/CFT regulations though the reporting of Suspicious Transaction Reports (STRs) relating specifically to terrorism financing has increased significantly.

From July 2014 to April 2015, the FIU-IND received 76,149

***India has also taken steps to implement UNSCR 2178 related to foreign terrorist fighters & to advance efforts on Politically Exposed Persons (PEP).***

STRs and disseminated 52,485 STRs to various intelligence and law enforcement authorities. The degree of training and expertise in financial investigations involving transnational crime or terrorism-affiliated groups varies widely among the federal, state and local levels and depends on the financial resources and individual policies of various jurisdictions. More than 300 personnel from various zonal and sub-zonal offices of India's Enforcement Directorate have participated in training programmes on financial investigation,

money laundering, foreign exchange contraventions, effective prosecutions, and cyber crimes as part of an effort to build capacity.

US investigators have had limited success in coordinating the seizure of illicit proceeds with their Indian counterparts. While intelligence and investigative information supplied by US law enforcement authorities has led to numerous seizures of terrorism-related funds, a lack of follow-through on investigational leads has prevented a more comprehensive approach. The Government of India has also taken steps to increase financial inclusion through expanding access to the banking sector and issuing biometric-enabled universal identification numbers.

Any expert on Indian stock markets knows that our markets are increasingly being moved by global flows – both inflows and outflows of funds. Secondly, such flows may be the ill-gotten wealth of Indians kept abroad in tax havens, or domestic funds sent out and brought back to facilitate some activities. This has to be seen in the context of concerns expressed by our then National Security Advisor MK Narayanan regarding the possibility of terror funds coming in through financial markets a few years ago.

India has also taken steps to implement United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR 2178) related to foreign terrorist fighters and to advance efforts on Politically Exposed Persons (PEP). It recalls its decision in resolution 1373 (2001) that Member States shall afford one another the greatest measure of assistance in connection with criminal investigations or proceedings relating to the financing or support of terrorist acts.□□



### **Syringemaker, hospital gouging patients: CCI**

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has found Max Super Specialty Hospital, Patparganj and Becton Dickson India Pvt Ltd, a manufacturer of disposable syringes, prima facie guilty of colluding to sell disposal syringes from the hospital's inhouse pharmacy at double the open market price. The CCI has asked its director general to investigate the issue within 60 days and to fix responsibility on officials or persons who were in charge in the two establishments if it found that the Competition Act 2002 was violated. According to the complaint filed by Vijay Sharma, he had purchased a disposable syringe of a particular brand of Becton Dickson of a specified size from the inhouse pharmacy of Max Hospital in Patparganj for Rs 19.50, the maximum retail price (MRP) printed on it. Later, when Sharma purchased the same syringe of the same company, brand and quality from a store in Ashok Vihar he had to pay only Rs 10 against a printed MRP of Rs 11.50. (<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/>)

### **French Health Regulator Withdraws Licence for Bayer Weedkiller**

French health and environment regulator ANSES said on Thursday it had withdrawn the licence for Bayer's Basta F1 weedkiller made with glufosinate-ammonium, citing uncertainty over its effect on health following a review. The product, which is used to spray vineyards, fruit orchards and vegetables, was the only weedkiller containing glufosinate authorised in France, ANSES said in a statement. Glufosinate is an alternative to glyphosate, the world's most popular weedkiller substance which is currently the subject of fierce debate in the European Union over whether its licence should be extended. (<https://www.reuters.com/>)

### **Sangh to push for free Tibet**

The RSS's economic wing will urge the Narendra Modi government to openly demand the independence of Tibet, underlining that such a move is crucial to isolate China and secure India's borders. The Swadeshi Jagran Manch has invited Acharya Yeshe Phuntsok, deputy Speaker of the Tibetan parliament in exile, at its rally in Delhi to call for a boycott of Chinese goods and adopt indigenous products. The

Manch said the demand for a free Tibet would be raised at the Swadeshi Maharally, to be held at the Ramlila Maidan." We have invited the deputy Speaker and the demand for Tibet's independence from China will be raised at the rally along with our drive against Chinese goods. We will also submit a detailed memorandum to the government and ask it to raise the demand for a free Tibet," the co-convenor of the Manch, Ashwini Mahajan, told **The Telegraph**. Mahajan, stressed that by providing refuge to the Tibetan government in exile, whose headquarters is in Himachal Pradesh's Dharamsala, India indirectly supported the demand for Tibet's independence and should now make the call openly. (<https://www.telegraphindia.com/>)

### **Govt keeps its decision on GM mustard in deep-freeze**

Facing strong opposition from various groups including the RSS-linked Swadeshi Jagran Manch, the government seems to have kept its pending decision on commercial release of indigenously developed genetically modified (GM) mustard in deep-freeze.

An indication to this effect has come from the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) central regulator on GM crops - which now formally admitted that the matters are "kept pending for further review". A technical sub-committee of the same regulator had earlier approved the commercial release of the transgenic mustard, developed by a Delhi University institution. The regulator had then given its nod and asked the environment ministry to take its final call.

"Subsequent to receipt of various representations from different stakeholders, matters related to environmental release of transgenic mustard are kept pending for further review", said the GEAC in its minutes of the meeting which was held in May. Its decision to keep it pending for "further review" has now put a big question mark on the fate of GM mustard. ([https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/))

### **Chor Bt Cotton: It's Unofficially Official**

Yavatmal: "Just look down, the grass is all gone but the crop stands. This is BG-III," says a farmer at Rampur village in Ghatanji taluka of Yavatmal. "Come a little before sowing begins next year, I can arrange a few packets of BG III seeds from a nearby outlet for you," he adds. The field is parched with barely a

few blades of grass seen but the crop is still green with plenty of cotton bolls growing.

BG III or Chor Bt, as it is called in the villages, is the herbicide resistant (HT) Round-Up Ready (RR) variety of the genetically modified (GM) cotton seed. It does not have government sanction for cultivation but is fast becoming the mainstay of cotton-growers of Vidarbha. It is resistant to glyphosate, the chemical used in herbicides. So, even if doses of herbicides are sprayed, the cotton plant is safe and the weeds are cleared without engaging labour which is a costly affair these days. In the other approved varieties cultivated legally, the herbicide can kill the cotton crop. Weeds have to be removed so that the crop can draw maximum nutrition from the soil. The RR variety was developed by US giant Monsanto which already sells Bt cotton. As it is available only through illegal channels, the name Chor Bt has been coined. During TOI visit to fields and incognito talks with farmers, it was found that Chor Bt is an open secret in Vidarbha's cotton belt.

"It is sourced from Gujarat as well as Telangana," say locals. The Chor Bt crop has certain telltale signs. "The crop looks greener as compared to other varieties and grass around the plant is dry," inform farmers.

Chor Bt is sold for Rs1,100 to Rs1,500 a packet as against Rs800 for BG II, the approved variety of GM cotton seeds made by Monsanto. "Its costlier than BG II, the legal variety, yet it makes sense. One saves a lot on wages to be paid for de-weeding," said a farmer in Rampur. Farmers are aware that Chor BT is illegal. "The government is not sanctioning it as they want protect the jobs of farm hands but we have heard that in a year it will be cleared," said a farmer.

A few kms ahead, the locals showed an estate which they said belonged to a political leader. Chor Bt is grown on all 200 acres. The crop was seen in other villages like Karegaon and Runjha along the state highway too. "As much as 90% crop is Chor Bt here," say the locals. Farmers spoke of a well-oiled chain in the grey market which brings the illegal seeds right to their doorstep. Each has a distinct brand name and comes from both Gujarat and Telangana. There are contact persons throughout the district and it could even be the local farm input shop owner. Farmers name more than half-a-dozen brands of the illegal Bt. "One can chose from the pack depending on the soil conditions. You can make out from the names if the variety is from Gujarat or Telangana," said a farmer who had grown Chor BT in his six-acre farm.

"Sometimes the pink bollworm attacks the crops but, then, you can spray pesticides. One still saves a lot on removing the weeds," said the farmer. Some farmers also said that the Chor Bt is rather more effective on the pest as compared to the legal version.

Another 40 kms away, a farmer showed TOI two plots. One had the legal BG II variety and the other Chor Bt. "Doesn't this (Chor BT cotton bolls) look better," he asked. There are reports of entire clusters of illegal seed-making units in Gujarat and Telangana. "The agents market their respective brand as sowing season nears and this has been happening since 3 years," said a source in the state's agriculture department. Each year some packets are seized and a few arrests made. So far the police here has not been able to track the entire chain. Lately, an advanced version of the Chor BT is also available but in limited numbers. It is called BG4. "In the BG III variety, the herbicides can be safely sprayed after the cotton plant is 25 to 30 days old. The BG4 plants develop herbicide resistance within a couple of weeks," said the source. ([https:// timesofindia.indiatimes.com](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com))

## 'Easing e-com norms to hit small units'

Trade experts and activists have warned the government that undertaking binding commitments to open up the e-commerce sector — as part of the proposed mega Free Trade Agreement (FTA) involving 16 Asia Pacific nations — would hurt India's small retailers. Such a move would also prevent the government from effectively regulating the digital domain for purposes including industrialisation and consumer protection, they have cautioned.

This development comes amid negotiations in South Korea on the FTA — officially known as the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). The 16 nations include 10 Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)-member countries and six countries with which ASEAN has an FTA (Australia, China, India, Japan, South Korea and New Zealand). In a letter to Commerce Minister Suresh Prabhu as well as Electronics and IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh-affiliate Swadeshi Jagaran Manch (SJM) said, "any commitment on e-commerce in RCEP will impact ... small retailers in India, many of whom are already adversely affected by e-trading portals of multina-

tional companies.” Ashwani Mahajan, all India co-convenor, SJM, wrote in the letter that, “proposals in RCEP include removal of tariffs on e-trading, which will severely impact retailers as well as customs duty revenues and therefore government spending.”

He added liberalising e-commerce as part of the RCEP pact would also hurt India’s manufacturing sector, as it will face competition from duty-free entry of digitised, digitisable, and even physical manufacturing goods, including from China. ([www.thehindu.com](http://www.thehindu.com))

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### **Govt planning steps to ease GST compliance burden on SMEs: Hasmukh Adhia**

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Polymakers are considering steps to ease the compliance burden related to the goods and services tax (GST) on small businesses and to make product classification for taxation less complicated, said revenue secretary Hasmukh Adhia. The simplification process may result in some readjustment of tax rates, including a possible reduction in some items that attract the highest tax slab of 28%.

Products are now classified into various subcategories—in many cases, different subcategories fall in different tax slabs—under a code called the harmonized system of nomenclature (HSN) that existed before GST was implemented on 1 July. Such a detailed classification is hard to follow for small and medium enterprises (SMEs). ([www.livemint.com](http://www.livemint.com))

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### **SJM cautions govt against international e-commerce deal**

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With apprehensions that China may gain access to data, the RSS affiliate Swadeshi Jagaran Manch (SJM) has cautioned the Centre from concluding any pact on e-commerce with 16 nations grouping in the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) in Incheon, South Korea. The SJM has argued that the Centre should not compromise the sovereignty of the nation in framing rules and legislating on e-commerce by binding the country in a pact at the RCEP summit on the lines of the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

The SJM convenor Ashwani Mahajan has shot off a letter to Union Minister of Commerce Suresh Prabhu and Union Minister for Information and Technology Ravi Shankar Prasad wherein he has argued

that any pact would allow China to gain control of the e-commerce space in the country, which would further aggravate the adverse balance of trade with the eastern neighbour. The RCEP negotiations will begin in Incheon, South Korea. Speaking to *The New Indian Express*, Mahajan said that RCEP negotiations beginning Sunday is a grouping of 16 nations, including Asean countries, China and a few others, which is seeking to conclude an agreement on e-commerce.

“We already have a comprehensive trade pact with Asean. But we should stay away from any pact with RCEP since it will allow China to access Indian e-commerce space, which is already being monopolised by Chinese firms through their investments in Flipkart and PayTM. At the same time, we may also be compromising on data security,” Mahajan said. Claiming that the e-commerce space is still evolving in the country with 3D e-commerce now gaining popularity wherein customised products are being manufactured for delivery to the customers, Mahajan noted that India should adopt the wait and watch strategy at the 20th rounds of negotiations at Incheon, as much more discussions within the country is still awaited.

Stating that proposals on the table in Incheon include doing away with tariff on e-trading, the SJM has told the two Union Ministers that it would have adverse impact on both the small traders and the revenue of the government, which may have to forego the customs duty. “Duty free entry of digitised, digitisable and even manufactured goods will adversely affect Indian manufacturing capacity” the SJM has warned the Centre in its letter. The SJM has also claimed that besides China the MNCs based out of the US are also lobbying through Japan for India to agree to a pact at RCEP in Incheon. Incidentally, Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba and Japanese venture capitalist SoftBank have emerged as big investors in the Indian e-commerce space. The SJM has, however, lauded the government for taking a firm stand at the WTO negotiations at Marrakesh wherein India firmly, said Mahajan, rejected discussions on any new subject until Doha round of negotiations, including agriculture, are concluded. (<http://www.newindianexpress.com>)

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### **Online shoppers prefer brick-and-mortar grocery stores**

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Most U.S. shoppers are fiercely loyal to local food stores, calling them better than online options, accord-



ing to a new Reuters/Ipsos poll that raises questions about how much Amazon.com's \$13.7 billion purchase of Whole Foods will shake up the supermarket business. Shares in Kroger Co, the largest U.S. supermarket operator, have tumbled 40 percent from this year's highs on worries that the newly merged company will be quick to siphon business from traditional food sellers.

Seventy-five percent of online shoppers said they rarely or never buy groceries online, according to the survey of nearly 8,600 adults from Aug. 12 to Sept. 1. Even among frequent online shoppers who make internet purchases at least weekly, almost 60 percent said they never buy groceries online or do so just a few times a year, according to the poll. The poll also found that around 60 percent of all adults said their local food markets win on price, selection, quality and convenience. Online sellers led in those categories with only around 3 percent of respondents. (<https://venturebeat.com/>)

## India to tighten standards for consumer goods, move to hurt China

Government officials said on Wednesday India would tighten quality controls for consumer and capital goods. The move follows calls to curb cheap imports from China amid diplomatic tensions between Delhi and Beijing after the recently defused Doklam stand-off. The new rules target toys, electronic goods, machinery, food processing, construction and chemicals, sectors dominated by China, and come amid greater scrutiny of mainland firms looking to enter India's multi-billion dollar power transmission and telecom business.

For India's toy retailers, who import everything from toy cars to musical phones and even robots from China, the new requirements have meant supply disruptions just ahead of Diwali. The new testing requirements for toys focus on their chemical content and flammability and demand more stringent testing for those that are electrically operated. China accounts for 85 per cent of India's \$760 million toy industry.

Bilateral trade between India and China boomed to \$71.45 billion in 2016-17 from \$1.83 billion in 1999-2000, though most of this is skewed to Chinese exports. The trade deficit has widened to \$51.1 billion over the past year, a nine-fold increase over the last decade, despite repeated Indian calls for China to

address the imbalance and open its markets.

Those trade differences are now being amplified by the resurfacing of a long-running border dispute, which has stirred protectionist sentiment in India. The Swadeshi Jagran Manch, an affiliate of the RSS, has planned a protest rally in Delhi later this month against the influx of Chinese products. In August, the government had ordered makers of light-emitting diode (LED) bulbs to register their products with the BIS for safety checks in an industry where smuggling of Chinese products is rampant. (<http://indianexpress.com>)

## US firms approach USTR against India's medical price control measures

American companies producing medical devices and health information systems have approached the US Trade Representative against India's move to implement price controls on coronary stents and knee replacement implants that they say denying them equitable market access.

In a petition, the Advanced Medical Technology Association (AdvaMed) president and CEO Scott Whitaker requested the US Trade Representative (USTR) to "suspend or withdraw" India's benefits under Generalised System of Preferences (GSP).

"AdvaMed and its members are deeply concerned about recently implemented price controls on coronary stents and knee replacement implants in India that have slashed prices by as much as 85 per cent and 70 per cent, respectively, followed by signals that price caps for additional life-saving and life-improving medical devices may be forthcoming," Scott said.

Scott said that their intention was not for India to lose the benefits of GSP, but rather to advance engagement and meaningful discussions on restoring market access for medtech in India while keeping patients' interests at the center of all discussions.

Scott alleged that India's focus on controlling prices of high-quality medical devices, without any attempt to address the larger picture and correct inefficiencies in the health care system, would not achieve its intended benefits. Recent reports indicate that the lowering of prices on medical devices which are only one component of overall procedure costs are not being passed along to patients. Price controls may also block innovations and limit patient access to the best available care, he said. (<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com>)