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Maoism: *Ruining the National Fabric*

Swadesh Singh



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Scaring Scenario

The detailed report about the way in which Vedanta University in Orrisa is being pushed forward is Scary and frightening. It is true that the people are resisting these efforts by profit hungry MNC's supported by corrupt babus and politicians. But going by what has happened in past, there are very remote chances of things getting right. In spite of so many official organisations spending millions of Rupees every year to prevent corruption, the menace has not only spread far and wide but has actually taken a formal shape.

There is hardly any difference from the infamous "15 paise reaches pool" lecture by Rajiv Gandhi. India may be a fast growing economy, the number of billioner's may also be increasing every year. And in that proportion the black money slashed in tax heavens may also be swalling unabated, but what freights me most is the land grabbing at an unusual pace. Whosoever is capable and has some means is acquiring land. If things continue to move in the manner the are at present, I fear the day will not be far away when we will be left with no public land. It will be worst possible scenario and these immoral owner's will be legally entitled to fleece poor people.

– Pankaj Sharma, Pathankot

Naxal Voilence

Naxals have hit yet again and killed about 150 innocent civilians. Yet the government is not responding to the situation in the required manner. Security forces are being used as sacrificial goats to ensure political benefits for politicians. it is really sad to see children, women and aged being killed every other day by these terrorists.

It is not that we as a nation are not capable of tackling the situation. But those at the helm of affairs are not willing to fight the battle. Deliberate confusion is being created by sympathizers of Naxal terrorists to eliminate or delay the strong official response. False reports are being circulated to mislead public opinion. It is high time these sympathizers of organised violence are held responsible for every death and punished accordingly.

– Kusumlata, Jharkhand

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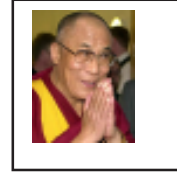
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Quote-Unquote



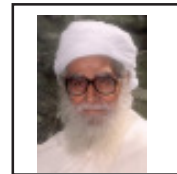
The Tibetan community is highly grateful to India in particular and all those States in general who are sheltering Tibetans in-exile.

Dalai Lama
Tibet Spiritual Leader



Today, people spend all their health in earning wealth. And then they spend all their wealth in regaining their lost health.

Sri Sri Ravishankar
Spiritual Leader



Overconfidence is a flaw seen in people lacking modesty.

Maulana Wahiduddin Khan
Islamic Scholar



Rabindranath Tagore is a lighthouse for Bengalis ... he remains a source of inspiration for the Bengali nation.

Sheikh Hasina
Prime Minister of Bangladesh

Naxal Threat Hacking the National Response

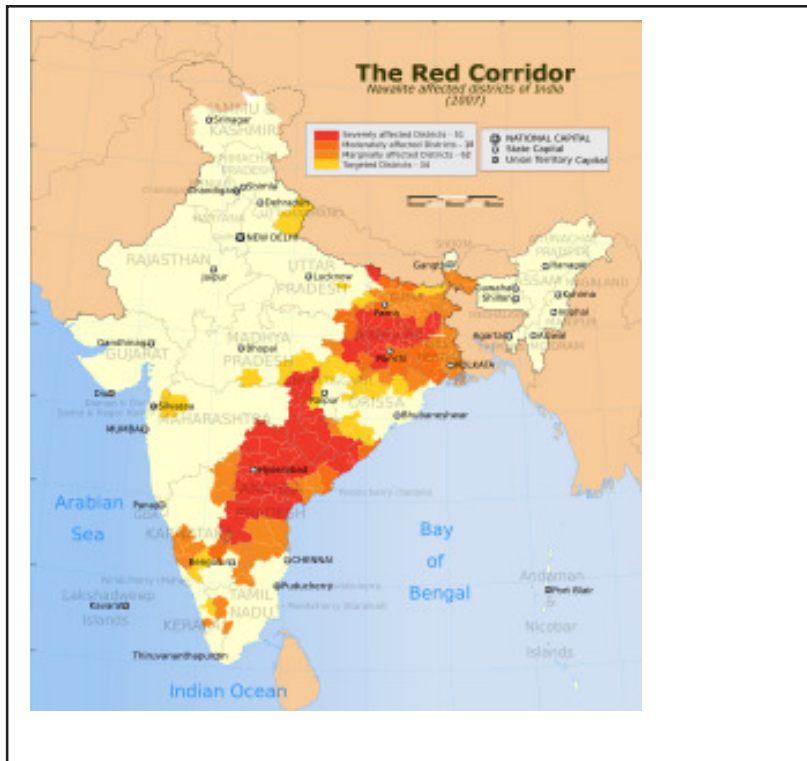
“Setting the conditions before you make an agreement is better than having an argument in the middle of the work.” – (Yemini Proverb)

Armed Forces Tribunal raises serious questions about the military leadership; a second secretary of the Indian High Commission in Pakistan, arrested on the charges of spying for ISI; Indian national cricketers get involved in a brawl with fans at a pub in the Caribbean island of Saint Lucia on the day they were pushed out of T20 world cup; President of the party in power, Sonia Gandhi differs with the Home Minister in the midst of the debate over the right approach to deal with Naxalism and chooses to express her disagreement openly forcing Home Minister to retreat from his stated position, Yet another Minister attacks MHA on foreign Soil calling the Indian security establishment "paranoid" and "alarmist" about Chinese firms wanting to enter India; CRPF jawans and two others arrested on charges of stealing arms and ammunitions from the armoury to allegedly supply them to Naxals; former Inspector General of Police SPS Rathore, also the Haryana Lawn Tennis Association president, molests 14-year-old budding tennis player forcing her to commit suicide; Navy official arrested for spying for Pak And so on. The list is virtually endless. These are just some news headlines that dominated Indian print and electronic media in the recent weeks. Nation is stunned into surprise and apprehensive stillness. Not that scams /scandals or corruption or ethical collapse is new to the country. The reason for current astonishment is the loss of credibility of establishment in the eyes of common people. Misconduct by public personalities holding high offices erupted soon after we became a free country. For example the jeep scandal wherein 155 jeeps only were delivered by a company that was paid full payment for 2000 jeeps at a time when country was fighting Pakistan in 1948. Scandal was linked to the then high commissioner in London, V K Krishna Menon, who went on to become Pandit Nehru's trusted assistant and the defence minister of India. Again in 1949, Industry minister Rao Shiv Bahadur Singh, father of Arjun Singh, was jailed for three years for taking a bribe of Rs 25,000 from gemstone trader Sachendubhai. Similarly Nagarwala case, Maruti suzuki case, Kup oil co. case; Bofors, Harshad Mehta to telecom fraud, so on and so forth. This also is a never-ending list. So what is new? When people of India have reconciled to the corrupt nature of leadership at top, be that from legislature, executive, judiciary or even the media, why this moaning?

We are not talking about mere bribery. The issue has extended not only to our policy implementation but to the unity and security of the nation. Evident clearly is the fact that the institutions of the Indian state created after a lot of deliberations have failed to deliver the desired results. The mismatch between the institutional mechanism and needs and aspirations of the people of India is becoming intense with every passing day. Worst further is the inability of those at helm of affairs to use these institutions for bridging the differences on the basis of caste, colour and economic disparity. Treachery, by leadership, is instead being justified and openly defended on the basis of some fault lines developed over centuries of foreign domination. Lack of a logical, coherent and forceful strategy on any issue of national importance is the natural consequence. Our fight against Naxal violence is the latest example of this old ailment. We all know that the Naxal terrorists are fighting the state of India for capturing political power. They have nothing to do with the rights of the tribals. These brutes have joined a global alliance of forces inimical to India. The very idea of India, viz a geo-cultural domain of peaceful co-existence and understanding of a shared land and a shared past among varied faiths and also with the Mother Nature is against their way of life. Their survival is not possible in India. That is why India is under attack. This issue of Swadeshi Patrika has attempted to focus on the naxal menace with the lead article by a research scholar from JNU who was eyewitness to the sadistic celebration of the inhuman murder of CRPF in Dhantewada by the Naxal sympathizers in JNU. He delves deep into the menace to put the record straight. Naxals meanwhile continue to kill innocent civilians. Will any intellectual working as overground worker of these monsters tell us what was the fault of little Shirin and Sharmin, the sisters whose bodies were recovered holding each other tight, one's head buried in the other's chest?

Maoism: Ruining the National Fabric

The Maoists are not only challenging the 'state' of India but also ruining the idea of Indian 'nation' by giving rifles and grenades in the hands of innocent tribal people and exploiting them emotionally. It is a crystal clear case of 'treason' and government needs to take stringent action against the culprits, pleads Swadesh Singh



After the death of Saddam Hussein for a long time we heard the name of two Iraqi cities on a daily basis: Basra and Baghdad. Bombing was on in the lesser known city of Basra and American soldiers were killing indiscriminately. In this whole incident, there was a clear demarcation between the enemies. Sunni gorilla fighters were targets of the American army and vice versa.

In last few months a large part of India has also witnessed similar upheaval. Lesser known areas like Bastar, Dantewada and Midnapur

are parts of front page news every second day. A huge area of India is now in the grip of Naxal-Maoist violence. Everyday we read about blasts, murders and robberies in Chhattisgarh, Orissa, West Bengal & Jharkhand. These Naxal-Maoists are targeting everyone, from civilians to CRPF jawans and government establishments to supplies of essential commodities. Lives are being lost on a massive scale.

Inspired by a violent ideology, a handful of people are trying to challenge the present democratic system of rule. They have their

own understanding of politics. For them power flows from the barrel of the gun. However, the so-called intellectuals and ruling parties are unable to reach a consensus on whether it is a 'law and order' problem or a 'socio-economic' issue.

Maoism-Naxalism is a thought system which uses socio-economic disparity as a shield and challenges the State of India through coercive means. Over the years the cancer of Naxalism has spread to 265 districts of India. Which means one-third of India is currently under the terror of Naxal-Maoist violence.

Naxalism began from Naxalbari village of West Bengal under the leadership of Kanu Sanyal and Charu Majumdar. Since then the movement has branched into many parts. However, Kanu Sanyal admitted after few years that this could not be the means of challenging the democratic system. One of the main proponents of Naxalite movement Aseem Chatterjee, who was once the commander of Naxalite gorillas also said unequivocally that Maoist violence, is nothing but 'Social Terrorism'. There are at least 30 Naxalite-Maoist groups which are active in India. However, Maoist movement gained momentum only after 2004 when People's War Group (PWG) and Maoist Communist Centre (MCC) came together.

er and formed new organisation named Communist Party of India-Maoist (CPI-Maoist).

Till 2004, the epicenter of Maoist activities was Andhra Pradesh but in last 6-7 years there has been a shift towards Chattisgarh. The epicenter of Maoist activities now is Bastar-Dantewada region of Chhattisgarh. There are areas like Chintlanar which have been declared as liberated zones by Maoists and one can say that the State of India does not prevail there.

People's Liberation Guerilla Army is the military wing of CPI (Maoist). There are around 10,000 armed guerilla fighters in PLGA. They have Insas rifle, AK-47, RDX and Improved Explosive Devices (IED) in large numbers. It is hard to imagine that a movement which claims to be a simple tribal resistance should have a huge stockpile of arms and ammunitions as well as food. It is obvious that such firepower cannot come merely through extortion and loot. It is also not an easy task to feed the over 10,000 gorilla fighters.

The incidents of the past few weeks have also proven that the gorilla fighters who attacked the CRPF jawans were highly trained. Who trains these gorillas in warfare? It is hard to deny a deep conspiracy behind the so-called people's resistance movement of the tribal community. Clearly, it is not just a struggle for the security and safety of land and resources. The tribal cause is a mere façade to hide the ugly face behind and also prevent any firm action.

We can take a cue from the brutal murder of Swami Lakshmanand Saraswati who was killed by Naxalites in Orissa. Is it not strange that the Naxalites who claim to be

Maoists extort up to Rs 2,000 crore across India

To carry on their violent activities across 223 districts in India, Maoists need a massive annual budget of Rs 2,000 crore to procure latest arms, perpetuate jungle warfare, continue propaganda & recruit new cadres.

The CPI-Maoist networks of revenue generation are estimated to extend, at various degrees of efficacy, across 223 districts (in a total of 636 districts in the country). Significant disruptive dominance has been established by the Maoists in the jurisdiction of nearly 2,000 police stations (out of a total of over 14,000 police stations in the country), covering roughly 40,000 sq kms.

On November 29, 2009, Chhattisgarh Director General of Police Vishwa Ranjan claimed that the Maoists annually extort up to Rs 2000 crore across India. Earlier, documents and hard disks seized from Misir Mishra, a central committee member of the CPI-Maoist, who was arrested in Jharkhand in March 2008, had revealed that the CPI-Maoist collected over Rs 1000 crore in 2007 through their state committees & had set a target of Rs 1125 crore for 2008. Accordingly, increased levies were imposed on the state committees.

The seized documents showed that Andhra Pradesh had gone down in the fund raising ranking from second to third spot, after Bihar and Chhattisgarh. While Bihar raised Rs 200 crore in 2007, Andhra Pradesh collections came down from Rs 300 crore to Rs 100 crore. Jharkhand raised Rs 75 crore in 2007 and was expected to raise Rs 110 crore in 2008. Maharashtra raised Rs 100 crore while Karnataka contributed Rs 78 crore, and Tamil Nadu pitched in with Rs 35 crore in 2007. Mishra reportedly told the police that some prominent Maoist leaders, such as Andhra Pradesh state committee secretary Konapuri Ilaiah aka Sambashivudu (who eventually surrendered to the police on February 15, 2009) alone raised over Rs 80 crore and Muppala Lakshman Rao alias Ganapathi, the 'general secretary' of the party, raised Rs 285 crore in 2007. □

Article excerpts courtesy: South Asia Intelligence Review



fighting for the tribal should target Swami Swaraswati, a man who had been serving the tribal people of Orissa for the past 40 years? Though, it must be noted that he was also working for the cause of Hindutva and for the reconversion of those who converted into Christianity from Hinduism.

Swami Laksmananand was definitely a threat to the Christian missionaries but he had nothing to do with Maoists, though he was working for the welfare of the tribal society. He never grabbed a single inch of any tribal land then why was he murdered by Maoists? There

is a possibility that Maoist killed him under the aegis of the Christian missionaries. That means there is a relationship between the Christian missionaries and Maoists. Both these groups have the same area of functioning. Both look outside India for their source of inspiration.

The fact that Maoists of India have links with Maoists groups of Nepal who further have established links with agencies of China, is also undeniable. A few days back chief minister of Chhattisgarh Dr. Raman Singh said on the basis of intelligence reports that Naxalites have some links with the

Lashkar-e-tayyaba (LeT). The LeT gets all help from the Pakistani agency ISI. We, therefore, cannot deny the fact that LeT could be the link between the ISI and Naxalites.

If we take a holistic view, these gorilla fighters are mere pawns in a large game-plan in which Christian missionaries, Chinese agencies and the ISI are involved directly or indirectly. Each of the three has its own reason for supporting and helping Maoists.

Christian missionaries are involved in conversions which they are now finding tough as the RSS and other Indian organisations are working for the welfare of the tribals. In the face of a tough resistance by the RSS, they have turned to the Maoists. That is why till date not even a single missionary has been killed, despite their significant presence in tribal areas. For China, on the other hand, political instability in India is a good sign. It is further more to China's favour if an organisation similar to its ideology tries to topple the government. The third spoke in the Maoist wheel, ISI, has been working on the agenda of disturbing the socio-economic and political fabric of India since a long time. ISI link can be seen in each and every extremist and secessionist movement that rears its head in India.

The present Maoist movement does not only arise from socio-economic inequality and disparity but from a deep-rooted conspiracy; a conspiracy that involves all those who want to break India to pieces. The saddest part, however, is that the flock of white-collared intellectuals sitting in Delhi who also influence the policy-making, support and perhaps inadvertently, help the cause and deeds of Maoists.



Naxalism remains the grave threat: HM

Naxalism, however, remains a grave threat. You will recall that at the last Conference of Chief Ministers, I had announced that we would encourage State Governments to talk to the naxalites if they abjured violence. Our public offer was scoffed at and spurned by the CPI (Maoist). Hence, in consultation with the Chief Ministers of naxal affected States, we decided to boldly confront the challenge thrown by the CPI (Maoist). Consequently, there was a rise in the number of deaths in 2009 amongst civilians (591), security forces (317) and militants (217). As the security forces move forward to reclaim areas that are now dominated by the naxalites, it is possible that this trend will continue in 2010 too. However, I am confident that the State Governments concerned will gradually gain the upper hand and re-establish the authority of the civil administration. I would urge the State Governments to ensure that re-establishment of the civil administration is quickly followed by implementation of development and welfare schemes.

In order to prepare for this Conference we had circulated a questionnaire to the States. The questionnaire sought information under 15 heads. All 35 States/UTs have sent their responses, although there are some gaps in the information that I hope will be filled in due course. This is a development of great significance. For the first time, we have a baseline on the capacity of the States and the measures that are being taken to meet the challenges to internal security. I would appeal to the Chief Ministers to join us in such an exercise every year so that we may be able to measure the progress during the year over the baseline. This exercise would also help the Central Government in allocating resources to the States based on the twin criteria of need and achievement.

The visible symbol of security in a State is the police station. Between 1.1.2009 and 30.9.2009 only 139 rural police stations and 34 urban police stations were added. A further 282 rural police stations and 44 urban police stations are expected to be added by 31.3.2010. While this is slow progress, the average number of personnel sanctioned for a police station is unsatisfactory. The sanctioned average for all States/UTs is about 52 per police station. In rural police stations, the number varies from 12 in Madhya Pradesh and 13 in Orissa to 50 in Maharashtra, 51 in Gujarat, 54 in Punjab and 89 in Uttar Pradesh. However, this is only the sanctioned average. Adjusted for the number of vacancies, the actual strength is much lower. The picture is not very different in urban police stations and the number varies from 21 in Orissa and 27 in Jharkhand to 117 in Maharashtra and 180 in Delhi. (Source: www.pib.nic.in)

The Maoists are not only challenging the 'state' of India but also ruining the idea of Indian 'nation' by giving rifles and grenades in the hands of innocent tribal people and exploiting them emotionally.

The Maoists want to make it clear that there is a difference in 'national culture' and 'tribal culture' and when the lines are drawn Indian nation is on one side while Maoists and tribal are on the other.

It must be clearly understood that the torchbearers of this imported ideology are not fighting for the cause of justice for the tribal but they have their own agenda. The government of India must therefore, not consider it merely a 'law & order' problem but a case of 'treason' & take stringent action against those who are the culprits. □□

(Swadesh Singh, the author is a research scholar pursuing his Doctrate from JNU)

Weakening the warrior



Instead of consolidating the pro-India voices of reason and social welfare, why are people like Sonia Gandhi and Digvijay Singh weakening the battle that Indira Gandhi once won through Siddhartha Shankar Ray in Bengal showing grit and nationalism? asks Sh. Tarun Vijay

Mrs Sonia Gandhi is weakening the fight against armed and violent Naxalites. Her 'cause and consequence' statement published in her party's mouthpiece Congress Sandesh followed a pattern and made the home minister crestfallen.

First she allowed Digvijay Singh and then Mani Shankar Aiyar to have a dig at the country's home minister when he needed support most. Then her own statement caused a strange situation which gave a clear message that she doesn't approve of Chidambaram's approach. There couldn't have been anything more damaging to the morale of the chief leading a difficult war against Maoists, who had so far rejected all appeals by Chidambaram to shun violence and come to talks with government.

Sonia Gandhi didn't have a word of sympathy or praise for India's home minister, who also happens to belong to her party. Leave aside appreciating the security forces and assuring all help to Raman Singh, chief minister of Chhattisgarh. After all, Raman Singh too is an Indian and has been trying to wage the battle against the barbarians, which is singularly in stark contrast with other Naxalite-affected states. The victims of Naxal violence too are Indians and



Orphan Tribal Children, victims of Naxal Violence

hence shouldn't it be the dharma of polity to help forge a unity on the issue of protecting Indians?

But instead she has encouraged her party men to criticize not only her own government's chief strategist against Naxal violence, but also the chief minister at a moment when both need the country's undiluted support.

Surprisingly not only the 'otherwise independent and objective' media are silent on her statement's devastating effect on the morale of the home minister and that of the security forces engaged in a difficult fight with one hand tied and the other wounded. The honourable Prime Minister has simply gone invisible. This is an atro-

ciously amazing feat. He doesn't know whether as the head of the government, at least constitutionally, he should help his colleague fight to the finish successfully or support his mentor Sonia's prescription which amounts to help Naxals. The lone voice of protest on Sonia's pro-Naxal stand came from the inimitable Arun Jaitley. Isn't it a sad reflection on the so-called 'independent and fearless' leaders of public opinion?

It would be unacceptable that Sonia Gandhi didn't know of Chidambaram's earlier statements and interviews in the media. He had been constantly appealing the Naxalites to come to the talking table and shun violence. He is on

record saying that the Naxalites are not allowing any developmental activity to be carried out in the region under their effective control. Hospitals, schools, road construction, farming activities, nothing is allowed to be helped by the state government apparatus. They are murderers and criminals, he said. It's not the Naxalites but Sonia who has defeated the warrior midway. Chidambaram's interview on a channel showed him in a dejected and anguished mood. The one who was roaring like a charged infantryman with his home secretary Pillai religiously following the line and expressing the pains and anguish of Indians on the support South Delhi's intellectual elite provides to the murderers, suddenly changed track and offered talks to the Naxals. Not wasting any time Sonia's 'development seeker' boys rejected the offer. Then Chidambaram issued a statement saying meekly: "We have to change our approach to deal with Maoists." What approach and which changes?

Why?

As a mother she must know the security personnel too belong to mothers and their families too mourn their martyrdom. Security forces are there to protect the Constitution and they act on the orders of a democratically elected government. Their death is often unsung in a 'secular' media and polity that finds it more fashionable and 'bold' to glorify those who are simple murderers for the sake

***Sonia's prescription
amounts to help
Naxals.***

a revolution whose implementation they have not been able to show in any of their pocket boroughs.

The Naxalites have been found collaborating with Islamist jihadis through the ISI & the ULFA in West Bengal. Their sophisticated weaponry & guerrilla warfare expertise to take on the Indian security forces show how deep they have been entrenched in the anti-India circle of foreign powers.

Besides, there is another issue, too sensitive and significant to any patriotic citizen, especially those who understand the feelings of a mother. The Naxalites have killed hundreds of farmers and small agricultural labourers on the suspicion of their being police informers or simply rejecting their demands to send their kids to join the Naxalites' ranks.

When a father is killed by the Naxalites, where do the children of such families go? With no earning member surviving in the family, such children land up in orphanages run by various NGOs in Chhattisgarh. The plight of children when their parents are slaughtered, often before their own eyes, is unimaginable. There are hundreds of kids in Chhattisgarh whose parents were brutally killed by Maoist 'development seekers'. Has Sonia Gandhi or Arundhati Roy ever, even once, tried to wipe the tears of those children who have been turned orphans by the savages of Mao?

Our 'secular' sirens are worse child abusers than paedophiles. Not only are they making Indian children of parents unyielding to Naxal blackmail orphans but also forcing young kids to join their gangs to do menial jobs and take up guns in their jungle hideouts

when their age demands them to go to school, study and play games.

For example, in just one family Shanti Teram, Jayavati Teram and Janaki Teram, sisters, were orphaned when their father was murdered by the Naxalites. All the three are sisters are now in an orphanage at Raipur. I have a list of 50 children, 39 girls and 11 boys, of the age group 5 to 14 in one district area only. Imagine little girls and boys of this age group living without their parents in an orphanage. What was their crime?

Can this be an 'appreciable' or 'understandable' act of 'development seekers'? Instead of consolidating the pro-India voices of reason and social welfare, why are people like Sonia Gandhi and Digvijay Singh weakening the battle that Indira Gandhi once won through Siddhartha Shankar Ray in Bengal showing grit & nationalism?

It's high time an all-party meet devised a consensus on tackling the Naxalite problem. I strongly recommend Lt. Gen Jacob to be consulted on this issue to improve more effectively the present method of anti-Naxal operations. It's noteworthy that Gen Jacob conducted counter-insurgency operations in Nagaland that led to the signing of the Shillong accord in 1975. Twelve years of peace followed. He also led operations in Mizoram, which resulted in the insurgents going to Kolkata conference for peace. He also set up the counter-insurgency school in Mizoram in 1970.

Children who became orphaned as Naxals killed their parents are almost all tribals and belong to poor and marginalized farming class. □□

(Courtsey: <http://blogs.timesofindia.indiatimes.com>)

Nanaji Deshmukh, the spirit behind anti emergency movement of 1975

 **Saroj Kumar Mitra**

At midnight of 25 June 1975, Emergency was declared. It is the darkest period of Indian democracy after Independence. Indira Gandhi being the Prime Minister of India lost her election case at Allahabad High Court on 12th June 1975. Justice Jagmohan Lal Sinha of Allahabad High Court declared her election to Parliament as invalid in an election petition case filed by Raj Narayan. Indira Gandhi appealed against this judgment in the Supreme Court where vacation Judge Krishna Aiyer put a conditional stay on High Court's order enabling her to continue as member of Parliament but disallowing her to take part in the proceedings of Parliament till disposal of the case on 24th June 1975.

Following her family tradition faithfully adopted by Congress party as its unwritten constitution instead of resigning from the post of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi called Siddhartha Shankar Roy from Kolkata & Russian Ambassador in New Delhi for consultation. Indira Gandhi went to Rashtrapati Bhawan on 25th night, summoned all ministers there who signed on dotted lines to impose emergency in the country which was forwarded to Fakiruddin Ali Ahamad the then President of India, who obliged her declaring emergency on 26th June 1975. But on 25th night itself Jaiprakash Narayan, Morarji Desai & other leaders were arrested & sent out of Delhi. Before arresting these leaders surrounding localities where they were residing were put under complete

darkness. This trend continued for several days. Communists were found helping police everywhere to detect persons opposing emergency. Communists were in fact repaying their debt to government for privileges they were enjoying at the cost of common people of India. JP before his arrest succeeded in forming Lok Sangharsh Samiti and declaring Nanaji Deshmukh its All India General Secretary.

Thus Nanaji went underground & started working from the very moment JP was put behind bar. All around fear prevailed. Media was silenced & censored. Today's national newspapers who are in competition to project Rahul Gandhi were been censored. The Indian Express & The Statesman opposed imposition of emergency though censored.

I was at Cuttack in Orissa then working as General Secretary of Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh. Except BMS most central trade unions like AITUC, CITU, HMS & INTUC were supporting emergency declared by Indira Gandhi. RSS was banned. In a meeting of RSS I was asked to take responsibility of Lok Sangharsh Samiti in Orissa. Soon I received a hand written letter from Nanaji Deshmukh. The letter was written on torn pieces of papers. Agra was the Headquarter of Orissa & for communication the letter mentioned one name with his address at Agra. Further it revealed how Sidhardh Sankar Roy & Russian Ambassador prevailed upon Indira Gandhi to declare emergency to avert her likely detention if she

resigned. Some instructions were also given like writing names of persons detained in public places & on the walls of their houses etc. Soon I got a draft writ petition prepared by Dr. Ghatate to file in the High Court for persons detained under infamous Maintenance of Internal Security Act or MISA. In Orissa Dr. H.K. Mahatab was taken out of his residence at Bhubaneswar at Midnight & put inside a Jail at Bhanja Nagar where leprosy patients were held. Similarly, Biju Pattanayak was arrested out of Orissa. Police was hunting nook & corner of Orissa & rounding up all such activists opposed to emergency.

Soon Nanaji was arrested in New Delhi. Before arresting him, lights were switched off in the entire area. For some time Rabi Roy and after his arrest Dattopant Thengdi took charge of Lok Sangharsh Samiti. Activities on both surface and underground started with which I was associated till my arrest in Sept. 1975. Since my address was there with Lok Sangharsh Samiti I received letters till I was arrested.

I still remember fondly & vividly the way Nanaji worked & created an atmosphere where ordinary people resolved to fight the draconian emergency. Activists would compete to suffer pain torture & inhuman treatment of the police of so called free India. It was the personality of Nanaji that was a major contributory factor to mobilize people against emergency without fear. □□

(All India Co-convenor of SJM.
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What do we expect from foreign universities?

We must remember that education is not just another sector in a country. Education enables the citizens to improve their living standards and plays the critical role in shaping the future of the country. Hence the Government and the society should be very careful while deciding policies related to education, suggests P.Kanagasabapathi

Foreign Educational Institutions (Regulation of Entry and Operation) Bill 2010 has recently been tabled in the Parliament by the Government. The Bill enables the education providers from foreign countries to set up universities in India and offer degrees. They need not follow the reservation norms and are permitted to fix the fees on their own.

The Bill was in fact prepared earlier and had to be kept in abeyance for more than four years due to opposition from various quarters. It was then sent to a Committee of Secretaries, where modifications were made to certain provisions. The Bill is however facing opposition from different sides, including the major opposition parties, students' organizations and educationists on different grounds. Reports say that there is no consensus even within the ruling party.

The Union Minister for Human Resource Development says that the entry of foreign universities will "enhance choices, increase competition and benchmark quality." He also feels that the work force will be able to get the necessary training and increase

skills. The present Gross Enrolment Ratio of students in higher educational institutions at 12.4 is lesser in India compared to the developed countries. The Ministry feels that foreign universities will help the country to increase

the enrolment ratio and India will have more percentage of people studying in higher educational institutions in future.

We have to remember that education is not just another sector in a country. Education enables the citizens to improve their living standards and plays the critical role in shaping the future of the country. The dream of every parent is to give an education that makes children to grow up imbibing the best values, with the required capabilities for life. Hence the Government and the society should be very careful while deciding policies related to education.



Senior executives of the corporate sector have been engaged in amassing wealth for themselves through all means, at the cost of the interests of the shareholders, public and the governments.

Whenever we think of foreign universities, the countries that come across our minds are generally the US, the UK, Canada, Australia and a few others in Europe. A study of the personal lives of the citizens of these countries, their social and economic conditions and the functioning of their university systems reveal that all is not well with their higher educational systems. The purpose of higher education should be to make students better citizens, resulting in the over-

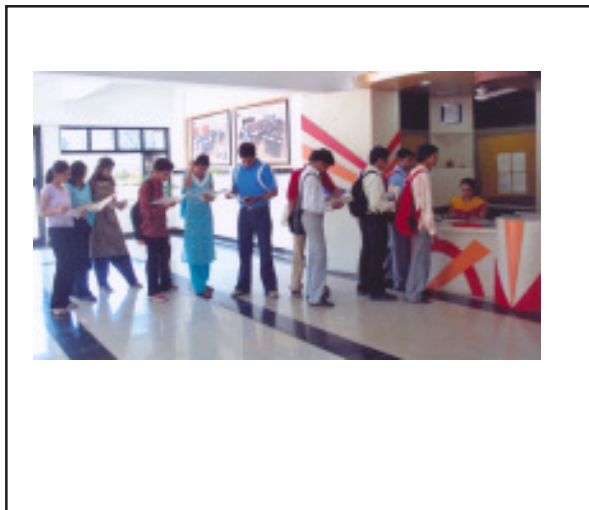
all development of their lives and that of the societies around them. We all know that many of the western economies are in a very bad shape. There is no saving habit among people in the countries that are known for higher education such as the US, the UK and Australia. Individualistic attitudes have resulted in the large-scale destruction of families and societies. It was reported that in countries such as the US and Australia, more than forty percent of the children were born out of relationships outside marriages. These countries are forced to spend enormous amounts to take care of their families and societies, without substantial results.

Many of the biggest corporations in the world are from some of these countries. The events during the last few years indicate that many of the senior executives of the corporate sector have been engaged in amassing wealth for themselves through all means, at the cost of the interests of the shareholders, public and the governments. Remember that many of these executives are from the much sought after business schools and reputed institutions of higher learning! It is now widely accepted that the education provided by their B schools is not complete.

Paul Krugman, the well known US economist and 2008 Nobel laureate, openly admitted last year that the economic theories of the western countries developed during the last thirty years have failed and proved to be harm-

The family and social systems of India are looked upon as models by the rest of the world.

ful to the world. When we study the history of the west, we can understand that their social and economic ideologies have been continuously failing. The recent economic crisis has landed them in a situation from which they find it difficult to proceed.



At the same time, India has been continuously moving forward after Independence, in spite of the confusions and contradictions at the top. As a result, India is the second highest growing nation in the world today. India was a poor and underdeveloped country when the British were leaving our motherland. But after sixty years, the entire world is turning its attention towards India. The family and social systems of India are looked upon as models by the rest of the world. Our achievements so far, admired by all including the west, have been with our own system of education and

institutional set up.

India is an ancient civilization. Education was given utmost importance in the native Indian system. The purpose of education was to make citizens as better human beings and prepare them to contribute to the best of their abilities for the betterment of the society at large. As we all know the first university in the world was established here in our country about 2700 years back. Evidences show that India remained as the most prosperous nation in the world till almost the beginning of the nineteenth century, with pioneering contributions in diverse fields. The surveys conducted by the Englishmen in the early nineteenth century showed that India had an elaborate and a very good system education in the country. Even at that time India's literacy rate was most probably the highest in the world. Subsequently, the British introduced the Macaulay system of education which resulted in the destruction of the native systems. The approach of the colonial masters led to the decline of the superior position of India.

This is the reason why people like Mahatma Gandhi, Tagore and Maharishi Aurobindo strongly advocated the 'Indian system of education' for the overall de-

Educationists and thinkers have been emphasizing the need for India-centric education system.

velopment of the nation, even before independence. Many educationists and thinkers have been emphasizing the need for India-centric education system during the last sixty years. But unfortunately, we could not even make some of the basic changes that are urgently required.

But in spite of these fundamental difficulties, the Indian education sector has been showing good progress. Governments and societies have established thousands of institutions in different parts of the country. Universities could not increase to the extent required as there were restrictions on their entry for many years. Now we are witnessing a faster growth in the number of universities after the Governments allowed the private sector to establish them.

It is not that the Government cannot create good institutions in India. Many of the institutions promoted by the Governments such as the Indian Institutes of Management, Indian Institutes of Technology and Indian Institute of Science are producing candidates who are comparable with the best people from the best universities in any other part of the world. So what is required is the change in the attitude and approach of the Government. It is unfortunate that the funds allotted by the Government for higher education and the amount spent for it are not to the extent required for a country like ours.

If the Government feels that it will not be able to provide the necessary facilities, it is better to involve the local societies and the private sector, and then monitor them with the necessary regulato-



Medical expenses are very high in the US which has the maximum number of Nobel laureates in medicine.

ry mechanisms. As for the foreign universities, they will come here with their own motives. It is not sure whether the universities that are well known would prefer to come here now. As for the state universities in countries such as the US, many of them are in serious difficulties, as the governments are finding it difficult to provide them with the required funds after the economic crisis. So the universities are increasing the fees payable by the students. As they face difficulties in payment of salaries, they are taking steps to reduce professors and staff. This has resulted in protests in many universities and colleges since last year. There were instances of arrests of students and imprisonment. March 4th was observed as the 'Day of Action for Public Education' in more than thirty states across the US.

Against this background, some of their institutions are reported to be looking for opportunities in other countries to keep them in the business. A country such as India with a huge population and high growth rate would be a fertile ground for them. India's permission to allow them to function from here would make them survive in the field.

There is one point that keeps

crossing our minds. Many western countries such as the US and the UK are facing serious social and economic crisis. Learned experts from their own globally reputed institutions of higher learning have been finding it difficult to provide even basic solutions to their problems. When such is the case, what is going to be the use of their universities here? What type of 'quality education' will they provide? It is accepted that they are advanced in fields of science and technology. But unfortunately those developments do not benefit the common man. For example, the medical expenses are very high in the US which has the maximum number of Nobel laureates in medicine. What is the use of newer inventions in science and technology, when they are not able to benefit the larger sections of the society?

India has strong cultural backgrounds with thousands of years of experience. The fundamental reason for India's achievements is the family and community orientation. If India has to emerge and grow as a powerful nation, her unique strengths have to be nurtured and preserved. Many express doubts as to whether the entry of foreign universities will be suitable to our ethos

and values. We have to understand here that sex magazines are allowed to be published by the students in some of the 'most respected' universities in the west within their own campuses. They are allowed on demand from the students as theirs is 'free' society that would like to give 'full expression' to the 'feelings' of the youngsters. What kind of impact it will create in our family-based society, when such institutions decide to replicate their 'initiatives' here? Indiscipline, misbehavior and criminal activities are reported in large numbers in some of their institutions. Moreover the recent studies undertaken in their countries have revealed that about three fourth of the colleges do not groom their students properly.

In this situation, different options could be explored. Many Indians are working as professors, scientists, engineers, doctors, IT experts and corporate executives in reputed establishments in the developed countries. With their experience in western environments we can involve them to improve our higher education, wherever we feel it is necessary. In the recent years, some of the management professors working abroad have established institutions here. They are doing well. We can encourage such initiatives in other fields also. The Government can provide them the necessary support.

We all know that there is need for training in India at different levels. A latest study by the US professors shows that the Indian corporate sector is many times ahead of the US in providing the required training to their employees (Harvard Business Review,

March 2010). The non-corporate sector that contributes the maximum to the national income and growth has its own arrangements to train the required people. But they are not always adequate. The Government can help the industrial and business sectors by providing necessary support to the major clusters, where thousands of people are working. Training can be provided to the maximum number of people at the cheapest cost, when the work is undertaken in collaboration with the local industry/ business associations. We have to remember that in the earlier centuries, the guild

What kind of higher education do we expect from the universities of foreign countries, where people are failing in their own personal lives, and their social and economic systems are facing serious crises?

system provided the necessary training for different types of vocations. Such systems can also create entrepreneurial opportunities for many unemployed persons, even while providing the required personnel for the industries.

India has a huge pool of skilled manpower that does not have formal education. A few years back the Department of Science and Technology reported that around 30 per cent of the innovations taking place in the coun-

try are through illiterates. A certificate by the college/ university would help the uneducated and under educated sections that have skills improve their status and positions and make them recognized by the world. The Government has to take necessary steps to allow educational institutions to certify the uncertified but skilled people, by following proper evaluation methods. We don't need foreign universities to do this.

The contents of the contemporary education system are largely based on the western experiences and theories. They are not relevant to our conditions and many of these theories have failed in their own countries of origin. It is time we changed them immediately. Moreover, the Indian universities should be given the necessary option to make experiments and innovations, within a broad set of parameters. The Indian private sector seems ready to make investments in education. They are capable also. Hence the Government should take necessary steps to make use of them.

A few basic questions disturb our minds whenever we think of allowing foreign universities in India. What kind of higher education do we expect from the universities of foreign countries, where people are failing in their own personal lives, and their social and economic systems are facing serious crises? Why don't we make the required changes in the higher education system with our own resources and inputs, when we have the necessary background and fundamentals with us? □□

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Drinking Water: An Escalating Crisis



Despite National Rural Drinking Water Programme being operative, for which Rs 8,000-crore was provided just in 2009-10, only 12 per cent of the rural households after 63 years of Independence have drinking water taps. Isn't it shocking, asks Devinder Sharma?

In this scorching heat, water is becoming a hot issue. With temperatures soaring, and with the major reservoirs drying, the battle for drinking water is becoming louder and bloodier, day by day. Unable to get their daily requirement of drinking water, angry protestors in various cities are taking to streets.

In the months to come, non-availability of water is sure to adorn the news. The warning bells have been ringing for over 15 years now, but nobody cared. Even now, when projections show that 70 per cent more groundwater has been depleted in the past decade than in the last decade of 1990s, and that water sources across the country have been contaminated in almost all the states leading to serious health problems like cancer and fluorosis that damages bones, teeth and muscles, the nation is not perturbed.

Parliament was informed that 1.80 lakh villages (out of the 6 lakh villages in the country) are afflicted by poor water quality. What these villages drink is nothing but slow poison. In addition, what parliament is not informed is that almost all the tributaries of our major rivers have become drain channels for the industry. Take, for instance, Ammi river flowing in the outskirts of Gorakhpur. For



Water scarcity visible in Urban Areas

years now, over 1.5 lakh people who live on the banks of the river have been protesting against industrial effluents that have turned the river — the only lifeline for hundreds of villages on its banks — into a source of misery.

Ammi is not the only tributary that has turned into a drain. Almost all tributaries of the ma-

First, industries guzzle up water and pollute water bodies, and then they launch initiatives under Corporate Social Responsibility.

For major Indian rivers flow dirty. Somehow the policy makers and planners treat the dirty rivers and tributaries as a misplaced sign of industrialisation, and thereby treat it as an index of development.

Returning to the issue of shrinking drinking water availability, a parliamentary standing committee has informed that while more than 84 per cent of households in rural areas are covered under rural water supply, only 16 per cent population gets drinking water from public taps. However, just 12 per cent of rural families have individual taps in their houses. This too is highly skewed in favour of the more progressive states. In Orissa, for instance, only 9 per cent house-

holds have access to tap water. If you travel to Kalahandi district, the percentage of population having access to tap water drops to a mere 2.76 per cent.

The picture isn't very rosy for the urban areas. Only 37 per cent of the households have access to tap water. In other words, not only food entitlements, there is an urgent need to ensure right to safe drinking water.

Access denied

Isn't it shocking that after 63 years of Independence, only 12 per cent of the rural households have drinking water taps? This is despite the National Rural Drinking Water Programme being operative, for which Rs 8,000-crore was provided just in 2009-10.

What is more shocking is that while the drinking water taps are going dry, there is never a shortage of water supply from tankers? In Mumbai, for instance, an estimate shows that nearly 48 per cent of the drinking water gets lost due to leaks from damaged pipelines. Some think it is simply because the tanker mafia is at work. Not only Mumbai, cities across the country are under siege by tanker mafia. In the rural areas too, the water mafia has been continuously at work. If the water sources are drying up across the country, I wonder from where the tankers get water. Every one knows that the tanker mafia is leaving the countryside parched and dry, but who cares?

Well, the corporate sector certainly gives an impression that it cares. It has to. After all, much of the water crisis is its creation. First the industries guzzle up water, and pollute the rivers and water bodies, and then they launch

Providing clean drinking water is no longer a national priority

water saving initiatives under Corporate Social Responsibility. ITC for instance has launched a project in Gurgaon to teach housemaids on how to save water while cleaning the utensils. Teaching the maid servants on how to save one mug of water is surely some responsibility!

What the corporate sector refuses to point at is the recent decision of the Andhra Pradesh government to allocate 21.5 lakh litres per day from the Krishna River in Guntur district to Coca-Cola. While several hundred villages in Guntur district are grappling with acute drinking water shortage, the government perhaps thinks that

rural poor can quench their thirst from drinking Coke instead. To justify its exploitation of water, Coca-Cola claims to be buying mangoes for its Maaza brand under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative. Killing two birds with one stone, isn't it? But who cares?

Unfortunately, providing clean drinking water is no longer a national priority. Somehow the government believes that the more pressing need is to make the water resources available to the mineral water industry. With the elite and the middle class satisfied at the easy availability of mineral water, the rest of the population continues to suffer. Over the years, the state and the Central government have shifted focus to the middle class, as if the rest of the country does not matter. □□

SHRI KRISHNA FOAM HOUSE

**B-134, B-Main,
100 ft. Road, Jyoti Colony
Near- Durga Puri
Shahdra, Delhi-110 032**

Prop: Pradeep Sharma

Mobile No.

9810521144

Imports don't make food security



*By refusing to see what Western countries are doing themselves our Government is presenting food insecurity as security. America is giving huge subsidies to its farmers not only to maintain her food security, but also to kill the food security of other countries by exporting wheat and make them dependent on America, says **Dr Bharat Jhunjhunwala***

Government has adopted a policy of maintaining the food security of the country through imports of food grains. The question to ponder is this: Can food security be established by imports?

According to Dictionary.com 'security' means "freedom from danger and risk; safety; freedom from anxiety or doubt; well-founded confidence; assurance; guarantee." Food security is not established from imports in my reading of this definition. There is always danger that supply of food from imports may be prevented by a war or natural calamity. There is doubt about food imports being cheaper as well. Prices of a particular food grain like wheat may be low in the international market presently. We may reduce domestic production of wheat to avail of this opportunity. We may shift our land to the cultivation of other crops, say sugarcane or jatropha. But price in the international markets may increase next year. We may not be able to revert to production of wheat so quick-

America is producing wheat expensive and exporting it cheap in order to avoid anxiety about availability of cheap imports.



Desi Farmer Harvesting Wheat

ly. Thus establishing food security from imports is beyond comprehension. Indeed, one may rely on imports to tide over immediate problems but that can hardly be called 'security'.

The Government is happily presenting food insecurity as food security. Western economists have taught our leaders that India should capture the benefits of free trade and establish her food security through foreign trade. Our Prime Minister does not see what Western countries like America are doing themselves. Instead he listens to what advice they give. America is giving huge subsidies to its farmers in order to maintain her food security. It is exporting

wheat in order to kill the food security of other countries and make them dependent on America. America is producing wheat expensive and exporting it cheap in order to avoid anxiety about availability of cheap imports. That country is not adopting free trade in agriculture. Wheat is produced cheaper by Indian farmers. Yet America chooses not to import cheap Indian wheat. Instead, it exports wheat at prices lower than its cost of production. Yet, it tells us that we must ensure her food security by imports and our Prime Minister willingly listens.

The message given is like this. India must produce those goods at which it has comparative ad-

vantage like rose flowers and tea. India can export these goods and import wheat from the global market. India's best route to food security, they say, lies through foreign trade. India can import goods of her choice if she can hold her fort in exports to the global economy. But it does not dawn upon our leaders that America is not adopting the policy it is preaching. America does not import cheap wheat from us to maintain her food security.

This policy gets us to reduce our domestic production of wheat and other grains. Living in the make believe world of food imports, the Government of India is unwilling to maintain high domestic price of wheat to increase production and to establish true food security. Instead, it is trying to lower the domestic price of wheat to kill domestic production.

Truly speaking, there is a direct contradiction between gains from free trade and the need of maintaining food security. Free trade implies we will produce those goods in which we have comparative advantage. Obviously we cannot be No 1 in all items. Vietnam can produce coffee at lower price than us, Malaysia can produce edible oils, Brazil can produce sugar and Australia wheat. Say our advantage lies in rose flowers and tea. We should accordingly produce and export these and import wheat from Australia. We may indeed get cheaper wheat from Australia and that will be economically beneficial. But that does not establish our food security. The benefits from free trade can be reaped only if we are willing to depend on food imports. That means that free trade comes and

food insecurity go together. We will have to choose between the two. But Government of India cannot tell her people that their food security is being sold for obtaining higher economic growth. Thus the Government is saying that food security will be established through imports.

Question arises what makes Government of India to implement such a disastrous policy? My assessment is that the interests of middle class are served by this policy. The middle class wants cheap wheat. It makes no difference to them whether the wheat is imported or homegrown. Since food grains are often obtained cheaper through imports, therefore, the Government has embarked upon import-based approach to food supplies in order to appease the middle class. Further, they gain from the country embracing free trade. The export of services produced by them such as medical transcription and call centers is increased with the integration of Indian economy with the global market. The middle class is confident that it will be able to get food for its consumption even in times of crisis just as the middle class of Kolkata fed itself during the Bengal Famine of 1942. The Government is peddling the interests of the middle class in trying to lower domestic prices of wheat, lowering home production and importing food. The Government is not concerned about the impact of this policy on the masses. They have neither the money to buy imported wheat nor they have goods and services that can be exported.

The situation is similar in many other developing countries.

America is not adopting the policy it is preaching.

A paper by Oxfam cited the case of Haiti. The import tariff on rice was reduced to a nominal 3%. As a result, says Oxfam, "rice imports, mainly subsidized rice from the US, have increased thirty-fold, but the price of rice in Haiti has hardly fallen and malnutrition affects 62% of the population. Only big rice traders and American farmers have benefited." Sophia Murphy of Institute of Agriculture and Trade Policy mentions the case of Burkina Faso. Trade liberalization has pushed up the number of rural traders but most gains of liberalization, she says, have been "captured by companies in the distribution chain, rather than by consumers."

She also cites the case of Mexico where maize cultivation is the main source of livelihood for some 3 million producers. The Mexican government made the maize trade tariff-free. As a result, "A massive influx of US maize ensued, leading to a sharp reduction in the price paid to Mexican producers. By August 1996, prices had fallen by 48 per cent..." Says Murphy, "Greater pressures on maize farmers... have produced a sharp increase in land concentration... with a few of the richer farmers buying out the rest."

It is time to tell the government, this will not do. Instead of importing wheat, we should pay high prices to our farmers so that they continue to produce sufficient food grains. That would both establish our food security and equity. □□

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The Economic Philosophy of Swami Vivekananda – II

Vivekananda was a spiritualist, but he realized that without “materialism” spirituality cannot exist, finds Vikramjit Banerje

“Therefore the absolute sameness of conditions, if that be the aim of ethics, appears to be impossible. That all men should be the same, could never be, however we might try. Men will be born differentiated; some will have more power than others; some will have natural capacities, others not; some will have perfect bodies, others not. We can never stop that. At the same time ring in our ears the wonderful words of morality proclaimed by various teachers: “Thus, seeing the same God equally present in all, the sage does not injure Self by the Self, and thus reaches the highest goal. Even in this life they have conquered relative existence whose minds are firmly fixed on this sameness; for God is pure, and God is the same to all. Therefore such are said to be living in God.” We cannot deny that this is the real idea; yet at the same time comes the difficulty that the sameness as regards external forms and position can never be attained.

But what can be attained is elimination of privilege. That is really the work before the whole world. In all social lives, there has been that one fight in every race and in every country. The difficulty is

Sameness as regards external forms and position can never be attained.

not that one body of men are naturally more intelligent than another, but whether this body of men, because they have the advantage of intelligence, should take away even physical enjoyment from those who do not possess that advantage. The fight is to destroy that privilege. That some will be stronger physically than others, and will thus naturally be able to subdue or defeat the weak, is a self-evident fact, but that because of this strength they should gather unto themselves all the attainable happiness of this life, is not according to law, and the fight has been against it. That some people, through natural aptitude, should be able to accumulate more wealth than others, is natural: but that on account of this power to acquire wealth they should tyrannize and ride roughshod over those who cannot acquire so much wealth, is not a part of the law, and the fight has been against that. The enjoyment of advantage over another is privilege, and throughout ages, the aim of morality has been its destruction. This is the work which tends towards sameness, towards unity, without destroying variety.”

Vivekananda was a spiritualist, but he realized that without “materialism” spirituality cannot exist. He wonderfully stated in a letter to Alusinga Perumal titled “My Brave Boys” in the year 1894

“We talk foolishly against material civilisation. The grapes are

sour. Even taking all that foolishness for granted, in all India there are, say, a hundred thousand really spiritual men and women. Now, for the spiritualisation of these, must three hundred millions be sunk in savagery and starvation? Why should any starve? Material civilization, nay, even luxury, is necessary to create work for the poor. Bread! Bread! I do not believe in a God, who cannot give me bread here, giving me eternal bliss in heaven! Pooh! India is to be raised, the poor are to be fed, education is to be spread, and the evil of priestcraft is to be removed. No priestcraft, no social tyranny! More bread, more opportunity for everybody! Our young fools organise meetings to get more power from the English. They only laugh. None deserves liberty who is not ready to give liberty. Suppose the English give over to you all the power. Why, the powers that be then, will hold the people down, and let them not have it. Slaves want power to make slaves.”

Interestingly Vivekananda has his own very original analysis of the history of civilization and it is here that he is the most interesting and the most stirring. The piece de resistance of the theory is his article “Modern India”¹ written in the year 1899. It is a brilliant piece and should be read separately and independently, because it is highly multilayered and brilliant. In this article Vivekananda analyses “Human His-

tory". It could be read in a manner as his social, political and economic manifesto. He analysed history saying that India's history could be read in stages, the first where the Brahman (the priest) was dominant and it had its advantages and disadvantages, and from its disadvantages sprung the next stage that of the Kshatriya (or the king), from where sprung the present age of the "Vaishya" and it is here that he gives the most stirring of the passages, and he ends up by predicting an age of the "Shudra". Interestingly the conflict and the change of ages in India he says has always happened through religion as religion is the truest manifestation of the societal thinking of India. Being such an important piece in his philosophy it is important that a number of parts of the essay be quoted:

On his theory of cyclical ages of caste and individual qualities:

"According to the prevalence, in greater or lesser degree, of the three qualities of Sattva, Rajas, and Tamas in man, the four castes, the Brahmin, Kshatriya, Vaishya, and Shudra, are everywhere present at all times, in all civilised societies. By the mighty hand of time, their number and power also vary at different times in regard to different countries. In some countries the numerical strength or influence of one of these castes may preponderate over another; at some period, one of the classes may be more powerful than the rest. But from a careful study of the history of the world, it appears that in conformity to the law of nature the four castes, the Brahmin, Kshatriya, Vaishya, and Shudra do, in every society, one after another in succession, govern the world."

On the present age dominat-

ed by the Vaishyas (here he equates the Vaishyas with the British since he states that the British are not representatives of power like the Kshatriyas but of trade like the Vaishyas ...but it seems that it is applicable even to the present age much after independence and the departure of the British ...showing further that Vaishya is not just a group of people it is as indeed as Vivekananda said an ethos of a period of time in history) :

"As in the ancient days the priestly power, in spite of its long-continued struggle, was subdued by the more powerful royal power, so, in modern times, before the violent blow of the newly-risen Vaishya power, many a kingly crown has to kiss the ground, many a scepter is for ever broken to pieces. Only those few thrones which are allowed still to exercise some power in some of the civilised countries and make a display of their royal pomp and grandeur are all maintained solely by the vast hordes of wealth of these Vaishya communities — the dealers in salt, oil, sugar, and wine — and kept up as a magnificent and an imposing front. and as a means of glorification to the really governing body behind, the Vaishyas."

And then the benefits of the age of the Vaishya:

"As during the supremacy of the Brahmin and the Kshatriya, there is a centralization of learning and advancement of civilization, so the result of the supremacy of the Vaishya is accumulation of wealth. The power of the Vaishya lies in the possession of that coin, the charm of whose clinking sound works with an irresistible fascination on the minds of the four castes. The Vaishya is al-

ways in fear lest the Brahmin swindles him out of this, his only possession, and lest the Kshatriya usurps it by virtue of his superior strength of arms. For self-preservation, the Vaishyas as a body are, therefore, of one mind. The Vaishya commands the money; the exorbitant interest that he can exact for its use by others, as with a lash in his hand, is his powerful weapon which strikes terror in the heart of all. By the power of his money, he is always busy curbing the royal power. That the royal power may not anyhow stand in the way of the inflow of his riches, the merchant is ever watchful. But, for all that, he has never the least wish that the power should pass on from the kingly to the Shudra class.

To what country does not the merchant go? Though himself ignorant, he carries on his trade and transplants the learning, wisdom, art, and science of one country to another. The wisdom, civilization, and arts that accumulated in the heart of the social body during the Brahmin and the Kshatriya supremacies are being diffused in all directions by the arteries of commerce to the different market-places of the Vaishya. But for the rising of this Vaishya power, who would have carried today the culture, learning, acquirements, and articles of food and luxury of one end of the world to the other?"

He then goes on to narrate the darkness of the present age:

"A cloud of impenetrable darkness has at present equally enveloped us all. Now there is neither firmness of purpose nor boldness of enterprise, neither courage of heart nor strength of mind, neither aversion to maltreatments by others nor dislike for slavery,

neither love in the heart nor hope nor manliness; but what we have in India are only deep-rooted envy and strong antipathy against one another, morbid desire to ruin by hook or by crook the weak, and to lick dog-like the feet of the strong. Now the highest satisfaction consists in the display of wealth and power, devotion in self-gratification, wisdom in the accumulation of transitory objects, Yoga in hideous diabolical practices, work in the slavery of others, civilisation in base imitation of foreign nations, eloquence in the use of abusive language, the merit of literature in extravagant flatteries of the rich or in the diffusion of ghastly obscenities! What to speak separately of the distinct Shudra class of such a land, where the whole population has virtually come down to the level of the Shudra?

The Shudras of countries other than India have become, it seems, a little awake; but they are wanting in proper education and have only the mutual hatred of men of their own class – a trait common to Shudras. What avails it if they greatly outnumber the other classes? That unity, by which ten men collect the strength of a million, is yet far away from the Shudra; hence, according to the law of nature, the Shudras invariably form the subject race.”

Then comes the most famous passage of the awakening “Shudra”. Interestingly he is possibly the first person who attacks the isolation of the actual “Shudra” caste in India:

“Yet, a time will come when there will be the rising of the Shudra class, with their Shudrahood; that is to say, not like that as at present when the Shudras are becoming great by acquiring the

characteristic qualities of the Vaishya or the Kshatriya, but a time will come when the Shudras of every country, with their inborn Shudra nature and habits – not becoming in essence Vaishya or Kshatriya, but remaining as Shudras – will gain absolute supremacy in every society. The first glow of the dawn of this new power has already begun to break slowly upon the Western world, and the thoughtful are at their wits’ end to reflect upon the final issue of this fresh phenomenon. Socialism, Anarchism, Nihilism, and other like sects are the vanguard of the social revolution that is to follow.”

And the clash with the west and the awakening of India:

“It has been said before that India is slowly awakening through her friction with the outside nations; and as the result of this little awakening, is the appearance, to a certain extent, of free and independent thought in modern India. On one side is modern Western science, dazzling the eyes with the brilliancy of myriad suns and driving in the chariot of hard and fast facts collected by the application of tangible powers direct in their incision, on the other are the hopeful and strengthening traditions of her ancient forefathers, in the days when she was at the zenith of her glory – traditions that have been brought out of the pages of her history by the great sages of her own land and outside, that run for numberless years and centuries through her every vein with the quickening of life drawn from universal love – traditions that reveal unsurpassed valour, superhuman genius, and supreme spirituality, which are the envy of the gods — these inspire her with future hopes. On one side, rank

materialism, plenitude of fortune, accumulation of gigantic power, and intense sense-pursuits have, through foreign literature, caused a tremendous stir; on the other, through the confounding din of all these discordant sounds, she hears, in low yet unmistakable accents, the heart-rending cries of her ancient gods, cutting her to the quick. There lie before her various strange luxuries introduced from the West – celestial drinks, costly well-served food, splendid apparel, magnificent palaces, new modes of conveyance, new manners, new fashions dressed in which moves about the well-educated girl in shameless freedom – all these are arousing unfelt desires. Again, the scene changes, and in its place appear, with stern presence, Sitâ, Sâvitri, austere religious vows, fastings, the forest retreat, the matted locks and orange garb of the semi-naked Sannyasin, Samâdhi and the search after the Self. On one side is the independence of Western societies based on self-interest; on the other is the extreme self-sacrifice of the Aryan society.

In this violent conflict, is it strange that Indian society should be tossed up and down? Of the West, the goal is individual independence, the language money-making education, the means politics; of India, the goal is Mukti, the language the Veda, the means renunciation. For a time, Modern India thinks, as it were, I am ruining this worldly life of mine in vain expectation of uncertain spiritual welfare hereafter which has spread its fascination over one; and again, lo! spellbound she listens – “Here, in this world of death and change, O man, where is thy happiness?” □□

(The author is Advocate ,
Supreme Court of India)

13th Finance Commission Enhances Regional Disparities



*13th Finance Commission has enhanced importance of fiscal discipline from 7.5% to 17.5 percent, the factor that was absent in 10th Finance Commission. Whereas the Central Government itself is not serious about fiscal discipline it is untenable to reduce state's share under its pretext, stresses, **Dr. Ashwani Mahajan***

13th Finance Commission headed by Vijay Kelkar submitted its report to the Union Government in December 2009. The government presented the same in the Parliament in the ensuing Budget Session. Finance Commission recommended that the states would get 32 percent share in Central Government's total tax revenue. In addition, Finance Commission also made recommendations about grants in aid of different kinds. At the same time the commission recommended that total transfers including tax devolution and grants in aid would not exceed 39.5 percent. The Finance Commission also suggested a formula through which share of each state would be determined.

The Constitution of India clearly makes division of powers

Recommendations given by the 13th Finance Commission has allocated less share to we find poor states like Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand & not so poor states like Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala & Tamil Nadu



of the Union and State governments, including legislative, administrative, judicial and economic powers. But the framers of the Constitution were well aware of the fact that while Union government has ample sources to tap resources including taxation. But states' resources are limited as they have very little tax authority and other sources of revenue are also limited. At the same time they have much larger responsibilities to fulfill including law and order, public utilities, developmental works among others. States will need to spend heavily to meet these responsibilities. Therefore, Constitution laid down procedures and mechanism for sustainable flow of

finance from the center to the states and provision of the Central Finance Commission was made.

Under the provisions of Article 280 of the Indian Constitution, the President is required to appoint a Finance Commission. The function of the Commission is to make recommendations to the President in respect of the distribution of net proceeds of taxes to be shared between the Union and the States and the allocation of shares of such proceeds among the States; the principles which should govern the payment by the Union of grants-in-aid to the states, and any other matter on which presidents asks to give its opinion for a healthy centre state financial rela-

tions and fiscal system.

Being a constitutional institution, the government considers the recommendations of Finance Commission and tax revenue is divided among states and grants in aid are made accordingly.

If we take a look at recommendations given by the 13th Finance Commission we find poor states like Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and not so poor states like Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu have been allocated less share than 12th Finance Commission. But what surprises the most is the fact that developed states like Maharashtra, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh will benefit substantially from the recommendations of 13th Finance Commission. In addition all North Eastern States including Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, and Nagaland will stand benefited. West Bengal which was put to considerable loss by 12th Finance Commission is only partially compensated by 13th Finance Commission, but it is still at loss by more than 8 percent as compared to 11th Finance Commission.

According to the basic spirit of the Constitution, Finance Commission is supposed to make recommendations in such a manner that devolution of taxes and grants in aid tend to reduce the prevailing disparities among different states by allocating more resources for the development of less privileged and underdeveloped states. But the 13th Finance Commission's recommendations do not seem to have followed that spirit of the constitution. For example, for Orissa the allocation was 5.2 per cent which was reduced to 4.8 per cent by 13th Finance Commission, i.e. a loss of 8 percent. It also means that in the

year 2010-11 Orissa would be getting Rs 798 crore less as per Budget Estimates for 2010-11 and in the five year period for which 13th Finance commission is operative it would be at loss of about Rs. 5,000 crore. It is important to note that in terms of human development Orissa is way down. Similarly, Bihar would be at loss of Rs. 2400 crore in the next 5 years and even smaller but underdeveloped states like Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand will also bear loss respectively of Rs. 3000 and 10,000 crore. Though West Bengal has been allocated a little more than 12th Finance Commission, but it is still at loss of 10 percent. It is obvious that smaller devolution would adversely affect the development efforts of these States.. Similarly, the important thing is that many States such as Maharashtra, Punjab etc., which are much advanced in terms of human development, have been given higher allocation than before. The rich states which were subject to loss such as Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Kerala, etc., will not be harmed much because they are revenue rich states.

Basic cause of all these upheavals is the formula adopted by the 13th Finance Commission to decide the share of different states in devolution of Union Taxes. The 13th Finance Commission made radical changes in the formula for devolution such that more deprived states are put at loss and better off are given more resources. Previous Finance Commissions had given utmost importance to the state's per capita income and its gap with highest per capita income. 10th Finance Commission provided a weight of 60 percent to this factor, 11th Finance Commission 62.5

Though West Bengal has been allocated a little more than 12th Finance Commission, but it is still at loss of 10 percent.

percent of and now 13th Finance has given a weight of only 47.5 percent to this factor and that too only an approximation of this factor, i.e. fiscal ability of the state. 12th Finance had given 7.5 per cent importance to fiscal discipline and in 13th Finance Commission its importance has been enhanced to 17.5 percent. It is worth noting that this factor was absent in 10th Finance Commission. Whereas the Central Government itself is not serious about fiscal discipline and its fiscal deficit had once exceeded 6.7 percent of GDP and under the pretext of fiscal discipline reduction in states share by the Finance Commission is untenable.

On the one hand reducing the importance of poverty and on the other hand giving more weightage to fiscal discipline have put poorer states to loss at large. This award would make the task of reducing existing regional inequalities more difficult. Rather it may enhance these inequalities. This has been noticed in past that rich states tend to attract more investments from abroad also, which increases their growth momentum, while the poor remain deprived of this benefit. Now that poorer states would receive less money from the central taxes, the aspirations of the residents of those poorer states would remain unfulfilled. □□

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Swadeshi is not the third, but the first and firm way to development: *Dr. Subbaiah Shanmugam*

Dr. Subbaiah Shanmugam, a leading Cancer Surgeon of Chennai, in his inaugural address to the Seminar “**Third Way to Development**” stressed that the Indian Way meaning the Swadeshi Way is not the third way to development but the first and firm way to development. The one Day Seminar was jointly organised by Swadeshi Jagran Manch, Chennai and Meenakshi Sundararajan School of Management, Chennai in the month of April, 2010. Tracing the lifestyle and tendencies that led to the downfall of capitalism and communism, Dr. Subbiah said that the history of communism is less than 150 years, capitalism is 300 years. All these have their flaws and are not successful even in the countries that followed them.

Held at the KRS Auditorium of the Meenakshi College, Kodambakkam, Chennai, the Seminar presented to around 200 plus audience having a mix of both academicians and non academicians ranging from college students, working women, highly qualified professionals, self-employed and senior citizens as well, was a tremendous success in terms of content and composition.

The day was given a spirited start with *Vande Matram* being sung as the prayer song kindled the mood of patriotism which was reigning in the air till the end.

Presenting the Key-Note address, **Dr.R.Srinivasan**, Joint Di-



rector, Centre for Indian Economic and Culture Studies, cited many examples ranging from ancient history to current happening in Communist and Capitalist countries with a pinch of humor in everything. He also brought out the positive elements in the Indian system that has seen us through several crises. Quoting from Dr. Annie Besant “*If India lives who will die; If India dies who will live*” he concluded his address. An abridged version of the documentary film “Nero’s Guest” conceived by Mr.Sainath, Rural Affairs Reporter, The Hindu was screened soon after to present in a crisp manner the pathetic situation of Indian farmers and their quality of life.

Agro Economy

Mr. R. Ilango, Former President, Kuthambakkam Panchayat who handled the session on Agro

Economy / Food Fertility, Security and Safety said that in order to increase the grain production there must be a synergy between crop, human beings and cattle. The usage of cattle is different for India and the West. Cattle in west are viewed only in terms of milk and meat. But in India the cattle has more role to play. Therefore promotion of cattle plays a major role in agricultural production. He also highlighted the danger of using genetically modified seeds and food products that will ultimately perish the fertility of the land and depletion of the one of the most important natural resources of our country.

Being a Scientist at CSIR who quit the job to become the President of his native Panchayat, he also narrated about his experiments and experiences in making

Kuthambakkam a self-reliant village. He has successfully tried to create synergy in his locality. The model aims to develop a complete network through a series of activities and in turn become a self sustained model.

It all starts with the data collection by which we understand the requirements of the neighborhood, the commodities they use, frequency of usage and all other relevant information. The findings would then be used to develop such products on their own with labor from the rural folk themselves. If particular crop cannot be cultivated then we can get them from others in the same network.

“This model would lead to a cycle of growth and in turn would make the people spin the wheel of fortune” he concluded.

Employment

Mr. Badri Seshadri, Managing Director, New Horizon Media Pvt. Ltd. kindled the entrepreneurial spirits. As a first generation entrepreneur the speaker started to talk about the western capitalist economies. He compared the unemployment rates of various countries topped by US. In such countries if the economy is booming then unemployment rates reduce but unemployment will exist. They are provided with a social security cover where government takes the burden of the people. This in turn makes the people succumb to evil activities as an idle mind is devils’ workshop.

“The problem with state controlled communist economies is that they lack motivation. Communism does things only by repression and control,” he opined.

He also added that “for Indians as a society, unemployment is

an alien concept. We are always instructed to do something. There is a paradigm shift in the mindset of people where preference has changed from government jobs to software and all other kinds of jobs. It is therefore necessary to try and create more jobs.”

He further said that the following qualities in a person will stand him/her in good stead as an entrepreneur.

- Risk taking
- Being Ambitious
- Self Motivation
- Will to win
- Not to lose heart because of failures
- To have the goal not to make money but to make a difference

He focused on the importance of entrepreneurship and gladly reminded the fact that India has the largest number of entrepreneurs.

After the lunch break, was a musical bonanza “Who Moved My Spirit?” by **M/s Lakshman Sruthi troupe**, singing patriotic hit numbers ranging from *Sorgamae endralum*, *Vivasayee* to evergreen chartbusters such as A.R.Rahman version of *Vande Matram*. All of them truly moved the spirits of the audience.

Family - The Universal Answer

The third Session titled Family – The Universal Answer was deftly handled by **Dr. R. Srinivasan**, Joint Director, Centre for Indian Economic and Culture Studies. He pointed out that the very word “family” makes a big difference between India and other foreign countries. He quoted from the “Fatherless America” to back up his statement. Highlighting that only the importance of duties is stressed in our family sys-

tems and not the rights of an individual, he brought out the consequences of the increased social security cost in the West. “Savings of Indian women is a unique contributor to the country’s economy. Family values and culture prompted us to be frugal that survived us from the recent global financial crisis” said Dr Srinivasan adding that our society is relation-based and not a contract-based one as in several modern countries. This session was followed by a skit named ‘50-50’ by **Rail Priya Group**. The skit demonstrated the role of women in families and explained how to clearly demarcate a line between professional and personal lives in order that our family relationships are intact and secure. It was a hilarious and entertaining performance.

Modern Trends and Management Ethos

In this session, **Dr. R. Ramachandran**, Secretary of Samskrita Bharathi discussed the evolving trends in management and its consequences. He threw light upon the texts from various Indian scriptures and Tamil literature that can guide people to tackle the management woes. He simply surprised the audience when he pointed out that in ancient days, the tool to measure of wealth of individual/family as his/its lending capacity (Subiksha). The Seminar also saw the inauguration of a Swadeshi Entrepreneurial Society captioned “**Nurture**”, with Mr. Badri Seshadri as the Key Steering Personality. The objectives of Nurture includes:

- A. Motivating youngsters to become entrepreneurs
- B. Helping entrepreneurs tackle start up problems

- C. Taking into a consultative, mentoring mode
- D. Helping street vendors, hawkers etc.

Book Release

On the occasion, a vernacular book “**Swadeshi Oru Vazhviyal Sidhdhantham**” (Swadeshi – A Lifestyle Philosophy) authored by **Mr. Ravi Vanamaamalai**, City Convenor, SJM, Chennai was released. It is a compilation of the articles written by him in SJM’s Tamil Monthly ‘Swadeshi Seithi’ as a serial.

Mr. Nambi Narayanan, State Organising Secretary, SJM, Tamil Nadu, in his valedictory address, elaborated on the uniqueness of India and the need to preserve the same to be insulated from any moral or monetary crisis. He also listed the various measures of the

Government that are meant to overthrow our fundamental ethos. He called upon the audience to play an active role in redefining and re-designing the destiny of the nation so as to regain its original economic prosperity based on dharma. The Session was presided over by Mr. Biju, Coordinator for Tamil Nadu and Kerala, SJM.

Mr. M. Ramachandran, Seminar Coordinator, thanked all for their sincere efforts for making the seminar one of its kinds.

After the completion of all the sessions, **Ms. Vaidehi**, a college student and one among the audience, gave her feedback about the entire programme. She gladly said that she had learnt a lot through the seminar and would surely abide by the Swadeshi principles. “The Seminar has provided new light and direction in our

thought process” is the response of many youngsters who participated in the event.

The Sessions were chaired by eminent personalities such as Mr. Nandakumar of DLF, Mr. Natarajan, Chartered Accountant, Mr. Kalyanaraman, CEO, IMNC & Dr. Vikram, Director, Meenakshi Sundararajan School of Management.

The proceedings were collectively compeered by **Mrs. Srividhya**, **Ms. Preethi** and **Ms. Vaishnavi**. **Mr. John**, Professor of Sundararajan School of Management was the backbone of the entire event and he, with his team of students led by **Ms. Surya** and **Mr. Keerthivasan**, ensured that there was no hiccup in the program and that led to the total satisfaction of the organisers and participants. □□

(Report by Vaishnavi R.V, I Year MBA, MSSM & Vaishnavi N, II Year BBA, MOP Vaishnav College)

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(N)PR, a deception and a grave security risk



The ongoing enumeration is not intended to discover suspect citizenship, but to suppress them, and make them appear genuine. If what it conceals is revealed, it may end as a national shame, a grave security risk, why even an anti-national undertaking, believes S. Gurumurthy

An important event”, says the Union home minister P Chidambaram referring to the proposed National Population Register (NPR). Claiming it is the biggest exercise since humankind came into existence, he said proudly “nowhere in the world has a government tried to count, identify and issue identity cards to more than a billion people”. He is right. But, while the NPR is undoubtedly a huge and proud arithmetical undertaking, if what it conceals is revealed, it may end as a national shame, a grave security risk, why even an anti-national undertaking.

On the face of it, NPR seems a normal, even welcome idea. After all, a nation must have a population register to know the micro details of its people. The NPR will be a population register, not a citizenship register. National population is just a head count of all, nationals and others, residing in India. Now, the issue: Particularly in eastern India, the massive infiltration of Bangladeshis has emerged as our greatest security risk, according to experts. The then defence minister George Fernandes fixed the number of Bangladeshis illegally residing in India in 2003 at some two crore.

The infiltration has hugely distorted the religious demography of many areas in Assam, West Ben-

gal, Bihar, Mizoram, Nagaland, Manipur, and even in far off Mumbai and Delhi. Most border districts of Assam and West Bengal have turned Muslim majority or nearly so, in less than two decades. The illegal Bangladeshis in India almost equal the population of Australia or Sri Lanka. The individual population of 167 countries is less than the number of Bangladeshis in India! The Bangladeshi population in India is more than the total population of some 100 countries taken together! With globally linked Islamic terrorism having roots in Bangladesh on the rise, it needs no seer to say it is a grave national danger to India.

A study on Bangladeshis in India by Sujata Ramachandran (Department of Geography, Queen’s University, Ontario, Canada) for the Global Commission on International Migration sees the issue from a totally different perspective. Challenging the stereotype view of it as a case of ‘asylum seekers’ and ‘illegal migrants’ by

The individual population of 167 countries is less than the number of Bangladeshis in India!

international migration researchers, Sujata asserts that the Bangladeshi infiltration was ‘migration industry’ at work. She says, “it involves a well-organised network of dalals in Bangladesh and India — ‘manpower’ agencies, recruiters, touts, brokers, ‘travel’ agents, and their employees or contacts in many Bangladeshi villages. Dalals find, or pretend to find, employment for migrants and facilitate movement into and through India for substantial sums of money. In recent times, they also provide potential migrants with official Indian documents like passports and ration cards to minimise the risks of detention. Therefore, it is not surprising that many marginal Bangladeshi families end up in different parts of this country.”

The touts actually cheat the poor Bangladeshi Muslims. Sujata points out that some ‘three lakh Bangladeshi women are in brothels’. Yet viewing the two crore Bangladeshis out of the country as good riddance, the Bangladesh government claims, ‘not a single Bangladeshi immigrant is in India’.

Given the cultural, linguistic and other links between Bengalis on this side and Bangladeshis on the other, the Bangladeshis have just dissipated into India. It is almost impossible to distinguish between illegal Bangladeshis and lo-

cal Bengalis. Thanks to obliging politicians, corrupt officials the infiltrators also get all proofs needed to say they are residents here, Sujata notes. In the late 1970s, the Assam students revolted against this demographic invasion. They were ultimately cheated into a settlement by the Indira Gandhi government, which passed the Illegal Migrants (Detection by Tribunal) Act (IMDT Act) in the year 1983. That made it worse.

Under the IMDT Act, the onus of proving that a person was a Bangladeshi was shifted on to the police, while under the previous Foreigners Act, the onus was on the Bangladeshi to prove that he was an Indian. In 2005, that is, after 22 years, the Supreme Court stuck down the horrific IMDT Act as promoting, not curbing, infiltration. Yet, the UPA-I regime has re-enacted the IMDT Act as a sub-rule under the Foreigners Act. Between January 2001 and September 2006, the Assam government spent Rs

170 crore to identify 9,149 Bangladeshis, but deport only 1,864 to Bangladesh — that is, it took six years to deport 1,864 Bangladeshis, at Rs 1,80,000 per head! At that rate, it will take 64,278 years and cost Rs 36 lakh crore to deport the two crore Bangladeshis!

See now how the NPR ‘solves’ this issue in just 45 days, from April 1 to May 15, 2010, at a cost of just Rs 3,590 crore! The details collected from all residents in India will include their ‘nationality’ ‘as declared’ by them (as per Query No 11 of the NPR enumer-

ation form). Will a Bangladeshi illegally residing in India declare himself/herself as of American or British citizen? Obviously not.

The result, the NPR will list the two crore infiltrators as nationals of India based on their own declaration. And more. After the NPR is built, the infiltrators will get identity cards with Unique Identification Number (UID) from the Unique Identification Authority of India, like you and me.

See what other countries do to those who cross their borders illegally. North Korea sends them to 12 years’ hard labour; Iran de-

Muslims, and now citizenship and in addition, the Unique Identity Card. After this, statistically, there will be no Bangladeshis in India. This will open the floodgates for millions of Bangladeshis to enter India. But no worry, the NPR in 2021 will list them too as citizens by claim.

Sujata has rightly used the sub-title ‘Indifference, Impotence and Intolerance’ in her work referring to India’s approach to the issue. The word to note is ‘impotence’. This aptly captures the UPA government’s acquiescence through the NPR to turn the Bangladeshi infiltrators into Indians. What a grave risk to the future of India and its security? Is anyone listening?

‘The population enumeration in the Census 2011 has nothing to do with the citizenship issues under the citizenship law at this stage, because the census does not involve any preparation of ‘National Population Register’ (NPR) now, but only the collection of information for the preparation of NPR later.’ This is what the Union home minister means in his statement on the Census 2011 in Parliament (May 7). The acute legalism in the minister’s statement conceals the truth and presents a fake view of the population census for the NPR, thus totally whitewashing this ongoing fraud on the nation.

Start with what is undeniably a lie, even forgery. The title ‘National Population Register’ is itself faked. Neither the Indian Citizenship Act 1955 nor the Citizenship



Illegal Bangladeshi’s being deported

ports them indefinitely; in Afghanistan, they are shot; in Saudi Arabia, they are jailed; in China they may never be seen again; Canada jails them for three years and France, for five years; Venezuela brands them as spies and seals their fate; Mexico and Cuba too jail them. Compare that with what India does to the two crore Bangladeshis who have stealthily crossed into India. It gives them ration cards, subsidised food, passports, driving licences, credit cards, voter identity cards, Haj subsidies, reserved jobs as part of quota for

Rules 2003 speak of any ‘National’ Population Register. The Citizenship rules talk about just ‘Population Register’. The omission of the prefix ‘National’ here is no accident. It is intentional. This is self-evident from the citizenship rules, which, in the same breath, talk of ‘National Register of Indian Citizens’ (NRIC). The use of the prefix ‘National’ there is intentional in contrast. The reason why the Population Register is not similarly prefixed with ‘National’ as in the NRIC is obvious. The lawmakers knew that the Population Register is not a record of the Indian ‘National’ Population. That is why the Citizenship law titles it as ‘Population Register’, that is, it is ‘PR’, not ‘(N)PR’. But how then did the prefix ‘National’ get forged into the PR to make it (N)PR in the minister’s statement? Will he explain?

Saying that ‘the population census is the total process of collecting demographic, economic and social data’ the minister adds, ‘the particulars in respect of the individuals are kept confidential’. He further says that ‘the particulars collected’ ‘shall be verified’ afterwards under the citizenship law, and cases of ‘doubtful citizenship’ will be dealt with appropriately. Thus, the minister implies — yet not says explicitly — that the ongoing population census is not under the citizenship law, but exclusively under the census law. But, as the analysis here unfolds, the minister’s explanation that what the Census 2011 does is just to collect data for the Population Register and that the verification of the information would take place under the citizenship law later, is patently untrue, why, even a lie. A seer is needed to discover this? No.

The website of the minister’s own home department on Census 2011 uncovers it. The census manual in the website says: “the field-work of the House-listing and Housing Census and the National Population Register are being conducted simultaneously by the same enumerator”. And the answer to one of the FAQs in the website <http://censusindia.gov.in/2011-FAQ/FAQ-Public.html> says: “The Census is a statutory exercise conducted under the provisions of the Census Act 1948 and Rules made there under. The NPR is being created under the provisions of the Citizenship Act and Rules.” So, admittedly, Census 2011 creates the PR under the citizenship law. And it involves enumeration under both laws — for housing under the census law and for population under the citizenship law. Does the minister’s statement that the census is purely a data collection under the census law just now survive the truth in his own website?

Now test the Union home minister’s statement on the rules under the citizenship law. The data for Population Register (PR) and National Register of Indian Citizens (NRIC) are collected under the citizenship law and rules, not the census law. The citizenship rules provide for population census thus: the government shall con-

The minister’s claim that the enumeration is under the census law and the later verification will be under the citizenship law is patently untrue.

duct house-to-house enumeration to collect details ‘including the citizenship status’; and the Registrar General of Citizen Registration (RGCR) under the citizenship law shall notify the period and duration of the enumeration. The particulars to be collected for the PR are also mentioned in the citizenship rules. So, the enumeration for PR is prescribed under the citizenship law, not census law. Therefore, the minister’s claim that the enumeration is under the census law and the later verification will be under the citizenship law is patently untrue.

The implication in his statement that the name of the registrar general, who is the authority under the census as well as citizenship laws, may have led to misunderstanding in the sense that he is involved from the side of the citizenship law, is deceptive. This subterfuge conceals the fact that the population details now being gathered are actually under and as prescribed in — but without complying with — the citizenship rules. But for this subterfuge, the minister will have to concede that the query in the ongoing enumeration, the Query No 11, to the effect ‘citizenship as declared’ is not only contrary to the citizenship law, but is actually a fraud on the law. Read on, with some patience as it is all about law.

It is the citizenship rules, not the census law, that provide for both the collection and verification of the population data. It is not that, as the minister pretends, information is collected under the census law now and verification takes place, later, under the citizenship law. Just take one mandate in citizenship rules. The citizen-

ship rules direct that ‘during the verification process, particulars of such individuals whose citizenship is doubtful shall be entered with appropriate remark in the Population Register.’ Unless the enumerators are first asked to notice cases of doubtful citizenship, how will such cases come up for verification at all? But, instead of asking them to notice and record the cases of doubtful citizenship during enumeration, see how the census manual directs the enumerators to fill the space against Query No 11 ‘Nationality for each of the enumerated person has to be asked from the respondent and recorded. Please record the nationality of the respondent as declared by her/him for each of the persons enumerated. Do not get into any argument with the respondent regarding this.’(See Para 5.21.1 of general instructions). That is, when the citizenship rules ask for doubtful cases of citizenship to be identified, the census manual to collect details under the very citizenship rules virtually says ‘don’t doubt the respondents on their claim of nationality; just record what they say.’ How then will suspect cases of citizenship be discovered? Clearly, the ongoing enumeration is not intended to discover suspect citizenship, but to suppress them, and make them appear genuine. Can the minister deny that Query No 11, read with the census manual, exposes his lie?

Shockingly, anyone who had entered into India six months before the census, or any one who intends to stay for six months after, becomes a ‘usual resident’ under the ongoing census rules. Such persons, thanks to the census, can

declare themselves as Indian citizens in response to Query No 11. And more shockingly, the government proposes to issue ‘National Identity Cards’ to all such people even though under the law, ‘National Identity Cards’ are allowed only for Indian citizens.

Imagine, like Kasab who did the mayhem in Mumbai on 26/11, a Pakistani enters India today and promises to be here for six more months, he is eligible to declare himself as an Indian citizen in response to Query No 11, also get a National Identity Card. He will be an Indian terrorist, not a Pakistani jihadi. According to intelligence sources, some 40,000 Pakistanis have entered India and after throwing their passports away, they have melted into Muslim-dominated areas. Under the Census 2011 they are ‘usual residents’, can declare themselves as Indian

According to intelligence sources, some 40,000 Pakistanis have entered India and after throwing their passports away, they have melted into Muslim-dominated areas.

citizens and will now get National Identity Cards. After all the enumerators are directed to not to argue with them when they declare their nationality as Indian, and to just write as they claim.

QED: The ongoing population census is undoubtedly an anti-national venture. It is placing millions of timeless bombs all over India. Is the home minister, who seems lost in legalisms, aware? □□

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Monsanto admits failure of Bt cotton: Why are we hesitant?

Dr. Anil

Bt cotton and its producer Monsanto have been in the lime light for the last one decade or so for many reasons. There are many controversies and a large volume of information is available on internet about both of them. It is very difficult to review and discuss all of them in detail. However, there are three very interesting reports, which we shall be discussing over here. The title of first report is **“Bt cotton has failed: admits Monsanto”** (<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/site/Story/86939/Bt+cotton+has+failed+admits+Monsanto.html>), second report is **“Expert challenges biotech firm Monsanto on Bt cotton warning”** (<http://www.livemint.com/2010/03/07215041/Expert-challenges-biotech-firm.html>) and the third one is **“Monsanto: ‘faked’ data for approvals, claims its Ex-chief”** (<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/site/Story/83093/Top%20Stories/Monsanto+'faked'+data+for+approvals+claims+its+ex-chief.html>). Let us discuss them, one by one, in bit detail.

The first report states that “The ongoing debate on biotechnology crops in India took a new turn when American seed firm Monsanto disclosed that cotton pest—pink bollworm—has developed resistance to its much-touted Bt cotton variety in Gujarat. The company has reported to the regulator, the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC), that pink bollworm has developed resistance to its genetically modified



Bt. Cotton field

(GM) cotton variety, Bollgard I, in Amreli, Bhavnagar, Junagarh and Rajkot districts in Gujarat. This was detected by the company during field monitoring in the 2009 cotton season. The Bt cotton variety in question was developed using a gene—*cry1Ac*—derived from soil bacterium, *Bacillus thuringiensis*. It was supposed to be resistant to pest attacks. But, of late, the pest has developed resistance to the gene”.

The report further states that “Not only has Bt cotton been rendered ineffective, it has also led to detection of some new pests, never before reported from India. New sucking pests have emerged as major pests causing significant economic losses. At the same time, productivity of cotton has fallen from 560 kg lint per hectare in 2007

to 512 kg lint per hectare in 2009. And pesticide expenditure has gone up from from Rs 597 crore in 2002 to Rs 791 crore in 2009”.

Now Monsanto has its own reasons/ explanations for the failure of the Bt cotton. It blames farmers that pink bollworm resistance to Cry1Ac protein in Gujarat is due to “early use of unapproved Bt cotton seeds” and “limited refuge planting” by them. Farmers were supposed to maintain a distance between Bt cotton farms and other farms as a “refuge”.

It is not new thing with these multi-national companies. They always have alibis and they are expert in blaming the innocents. We very well know the status of farmers in India. Devinder Sharma, the noted environmentalist, says “This

is the pattern Monsanto has been following everywhere. Once Bollgard I fail, they start pushing Bollgard II and tell farmers to apply more pesticides. This is a vicious circle that Indian cotton farmers have got into”. Bollgard II is a second generation variety of Bt cotton, introduced by Monsanto in 2006, contains two genes, *cry1Ac* and *cry2Ab*.

Here it will not be out of context to mention that Bollgard cotton was cited as a great success of GM technology by Union Science minister Prithviraj Chavan in his July 2009 letter to former health minister A. Ramadoss.

The second report, which narrates about the ill deeds of Monsanto, is still more alarming. According to this report, Mr. Tiruvadi Jagadisan, who worked with Monsanto for nearly two decades, including eight years as Managing Director of India Operations, the company used to submit fake scientific

data to government regulatory agencies to get commercial approvals for its products in India. Mr. Jagdisan further says that “The Central Insecticide Board was supposed to give these approvals based on the location and crop-specific data from India. But it simply accepted foreign data supplied by Monsanto”. “They did not even have a test tube to validate the data and, at times, the data itself was faked,” Jagadisan said.

Mr Jagadisan, now 84, definitely must have been very desperate to state “I retired from the company as I felt the management of

Monsanto, USA, was exploiting our country”.

Now let us come to the third report. As per this report, despite of the fact that Monsanto has accepted the failure of Bt cotton, our own brothers (scientists/Govt. Agencies) are not ready to accept Monsanto’s claim. Monsanto India issued a statement saying its scientists had confirmed that Bt cotton fields in four districts in Gujarat were susceptible to the pest. However, K.R. Kranthi, Director, Central Institute of Cotton Research (CICR), has been reported to state



that data submitted to his institute by Mahyco Monsanto Biotech (India) Ltd, or MMB, a joint venture firm of Monsanto India and Maharashtra Hybrid Seeds Co. Ltd, or Mahyco, doesn’t confirm that the pest could now infect Bt cotton. On the contrary Monsanto India maintains its stand as stated in an email; “We are still collaborating with CICR and sharing data. We released our findings, validated by our scientists, in keeping with our commitment to transparency and public accountability” says the report.

From these three reports we can imagine the kind of mess be-

ing generated in respect of GM crops.

Beside the above cases there are more critical and crucial aspects, which need immediate attention of all of us. For example let us take the case of Bt brinjal. It is a vegetable most common in the plates of rich as well poorest of the poor in most parts of India. In case of Bt brinjal, the same gene which was used in Bt cotton has been used to make it resistant to pests. Therefore, it is most likely to meet the same fate as that of Bt cotton. If it is so, then subsequently Bt brinjal will also be susceptible to newer pests, will require more pesticides and have less production. It is a warning to those, who are supporting and lobbying for the Bt brinjal, as their arguments in favour of Bt brinjal are same as those given for Bt cotton.

It is understood that everyone has its own interest. Monsanto is a multinational company. Like any other multinational corporate, it will always be interested to sell its new seed varieties and make more and more profits. But the sufferers are the farmers and consumers of this country. However, why Indian scientists and other stake holders are not that sensitive and vigilant, is very difficult to understand. The GM crop adoption may erode the genetic diversity of the crops in use. So such short term measures to increase yield may invite potential loss of yield & biodiversity with loss of vigor in the long run. □□

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Temptation for imported weapons: DRDO

Under attack for delays in projects, DRDO say the onus of self-reliance cannot be put on it alone and targets the defence services for their “overwhelming” temptation to opt for imported weapon systems. In a strong statement in presence of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) chief V K Saraswat said the responsibility of self-reliance was to be shared by all stakeholders but the Indian industry has not yet matured to take it up.

“The services also must understand that while the temptation may be overwhelming, to field proven, state-of-art imported systems, they (industry) too have

a role to play in the economic & industrial growth of the country. No foreign system can be customised to completely address our long term requirement,” he said.

“DRDO has long been held responsible for the level of self-reliance in defence systems, but it must be understood that the responsibility for self-reliance should be shared by all stakeholders of defence ministry and cannot be placed on DRDO alone,” Saraswat said at the DRDO’s National Technology Day award function. He said DRDO neither has the power to impose its products on its customers nor the mandate or capacity to produce the developed systems all by themselves. □

India Inc seeks FDI in retail

Country’s top industrialists at Prime Minister’s Council of Trade and Industry meeting has unanimously demanded opening up of foreign direct investment in the contentious retail sector. Those who attended the meeting included Ratan Tata, Mukesh Ambani, Keshab Mahindra, Sunil Mittal, Azim Premji, Sunil Kant Munjal, Kiran Majumdar Shaw, RP Goenka, Chanda Kochhar and Deepak Parekh. From the government side, besides prime minister Manmohan Singh, who chaired the meeting, finance minister Pranab Mukherjee and commerce and industry minister Anand Sharma also attended the meeting.

After attending the meeting, Assocham President Swati Piramal said though there was no commitment from PM on the issue, he took note of all suggestions, including those on relaxation in norms regulating foreign investments in defence. The FM said states are on board on the issue of GST and a consensus would be reached to implement the reforms from April 2011. As far as DTC was concerned, the FM said that he would soon have a new website with the revised draft uploaded for inviting suggestions. The PM spoke about bringing inclusive growth with every citizen having a bank account and making India a manufacturing hub.

Consultation paper on 4G spectrum

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) will soon be releasing a consultation paper on the roll out of 4G spectrum, even as the process of allocation of 3G radio waves to private operators is yet to begin after successful completion of the auction. “We will ready with a consultation paper on 4G

in a week and expect the regulations to be in place in the next few months,” said TRAI Chairman J. S. Sarma. Addressing a meeting on ‘The road to broadband—investment and innovation’, organised by FICCI, Mr. Sarma said the consultation paper would address issues such as adoption of an optic fibre network, cost of bandwidth, tariffs and the relationship between telecom service providers and internet service providers.

He further said the aim of TRAI was to make broadband an alternative model for the delivery of governance. “We would like to see that broadband is used for improving human development and giving a fillip to agriculture and social sector issues such as healthcare and education,” he added. With auction of 3G Services having been completed, steps are on to introduce 4G services, which would most likely be in place by next year, a top Telecom Commission official told reporters. The consultant papers with regard to 4G services has already been moved by TRAI to the Department of Telecommunications, which would take about six to eight months, Chandra Prakash, Member, Technology, Telecom Commission, told reporters. “The recommendations of TRAI and DoT would be discussed in detail and 4G can be expected in place by next year,” Prakash.

India to have food banks by year-end

A global non-profit organisation will start food banks in the country aiming to provide food to the needy by the end of this year, noted thinker Sam Pitroda said. Chicago-based Global FoodBanking Network (GFN), which provides food to the poor people in 30 countries, plans to open food banks in the country.

“Our effort will be to socialise the idea in India

Weakening euro cause for worry

The Chief Executive Officer of Tata Consultancy Services, Mr N. Chandrasekaran, has said the company will not shy away from expanding in Europe, despite the volatile currency situation. The CEO told newsmen, “TCS has by far the most diversified footprint across the world, including emerging markets. We will continue to grow our business in Europe. Europe’s economic situation has not caused any direct impact on our business at this point. In fact, our business model is part of the solution for their recovery. We have to watch the situation carefully. But we are doing well, especially in continen-

tal Europe.” However, with the currency weakening significantly in Europe, TCS’ revenue line will be affected, he said.

“Our exposure in euro and pound sterling is less than the dollar, so the impact will be lesser. Still, it is a cause for worry if the currencies continue to weaken.” Mr Chandrasekaran said deals are happening across geographies, though they are slow in Europe. He expects Europe to lag – the slow pace will continue for some time. As part of its Europe strategy, TCS has been wanting to make acquisitions, especially in Germany & France. □

and then with proper modification launch India Food bank by the end of this year,” Pitroda, Advisor to the Prime Minister on Public Information Infrastructure and Innovation, said. Pitroda said the programme would be rolled out nationally as food is needed in every village. “It will be a non-profit organisation, where people will donate food, store food and distribute food to make sure it reaches to the needy.

Maya dares Opposition to declare assets

Stung by criticism of a rapid rise in her assets, chief minister Mayawati asked opposition leaders to declare their latest assets records along with the original figures at the time joining politics. She also demanded the UPA government to make public names of 50 Indians having accounts in foreign banks, the list of which, she claimed, has been provided by the German government. Accusing the opposition of having a casteist mentality, she said they were not able to digest the success of ‘Dalit ki beti’.

Mayawati’s assets in May 2007 were worth Rs 52 crore. The figure has now gone up to Rs 86 crore. Claiming that every single penny she has declared while filing the nomination for the legislative council polls is accounted for, Mayawati said that SP chief Mulayam Singh Yadav only had a bicycle and a few bighas of land when he joined politics. But today, as per a PIL filed in SC, Yadav and his family owns millions, she added.

China wants Indian ‘reassurance’ on Tibet

China raised the Tibet issue with visiting Indian President Pratibha Patil & sought reassurance from New Delhi that no anti-China activities are allowed to take place by Tibetans living in exile in India. Senior Chinese leader Jia Qinglin, during his talks with Patil, raised the Tibet issue & sought a reassurance from India, In-

dian Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao told reporters.

Rao said: “All issues were raised and spoken about. And they have sought greater understanding. Jia sought, in the course of conversation, India’s position on the Tibet issue. He wanted India’s reassurance that on India’s soil no anti-Chinese activities are allowed to take place.” “They wanted our reiteration and assurance on this point,” she said. According to an official source, Beijing’s raking up the Tibet issue at the talks was “nothing unusual”. “The Tibet issue is raised every time India and China talk. This is nothing unusual,” the source said.

Swiss banks’ woo back depositors

The famously secretive Swiss private banks are trying to persuade Indians to bring back the money they have pulled out from their numbered accounts in these banks. In the last one year, more than a hundred Indians with secret accounts have shifted money from Switzerland to banks in Dubai Free Trade Zone & Singapore amid fears of regulatory and government action. “The Swiss banks are now reaching out to these clients to get back the funds they have lost. There’s no estimate of how much money has moved out, but it could be substantial in absolute terms,” according to senior Mumbai-based professional dealing in tax and cross-border transactions.

And interestingly, some of the account holders have moved back money to Swiss banks because of their long relationship with these private wealth managers. “But there’s a difference. The money that’s going back may not be parked in a numbered account. Instead, it could be a corporate deposit,” said a foreign exchange regulations expert who has advised clients on such fund transfers. □□

India asks Pak to come out with negative list of imports

In order to improve bilateral trade, India has asked Pakistan to clearly spell out the items it would not like to import from Indian traders. "Most important factors to my mind to improve the economic cooperations between our two nations ... replacement of existing positive list by negative list of goods beyond which it (Pakistan) would permit imports from India," Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee said at the Indo-Pak business meet organised by

CII, the 'Times of India' and Jang Group.

At present, Pakistan has a positive list of items of imports from India. This creates a major problem for bilateral trade since it becomes difficult to identify items in which Indian exports are not allowed. The Pakistan's positive list of imported items from India has been substantially expanded to 1,934 items in September 2009 from 773 in July 2006. □

US leaves yuan case to China

Yuan reform is a decision for China to make by itself, US treasury secretary Timothy Geithner said at the end of talks in Beijing during which the two powers gingerly pressed each other to ease economic strains. China's policy of freezing its currency to the dollar had been a major point of contention in recent months, but both countries used their two-day Strategic and Economic Dialogue to shine a spotlight on other trade irritants, from US export controls to a Chinese innovation programme. On the political side of the talks, they agreed on the importance of stability on the Korean peninsula after North Korea's alleged sinking of a South Korean naval vessel. Though short on specifics, the S&ED appeared to have served its primary purpose of steadying the vast and sometimes rocky China-US relationship, which went into a dive earlier this year. In his closing remarks, Geithner welcomed a pledge by China's top leaders to pursue currency reform as part of a broader agenda aimed at boosting domestic consumption and helping rebalance global growth.

Christiana Figueres is UN climate chief

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has appointed Christiana Figueres of Costa Rica to be the next head of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). "Ms Figueres is an international leader on strategies to address global climate change and brings to this position a passion for the issue, deep knowledge of the stakeholders and valuable hands-on experience with the public sector, non-profit sector and private sector," Martin Nesirky, Ban's spokesperson said.

Figueres, who has served as Costa Rica's lead climate negotiator since 1995, was short-listed along with former South African environment minister Marthi-

nus van Schalkwyk to be interviewed by Ban for the post. In July, Figueres will take over from the current director of the UNFCCC, Yvo de Boer of the Netherlands who resigned in February shortly after the unsuccessful climate change conference in December 2009 that yielded the contentious and non-binding Copenhagen Accord.

'Indo-US ties in 21st century'

Ahead of the first Cabinet-level Indo-US Strategic Dialogue, a top Obama administration official has said that America's relationship with India would be the defining partnership of the 21st century. Deepening and strengthening US's relationship with India is part of the administration's overall plan to expand its cooperation with the 21st century centres of influence, National Security Adviser General (rtd) James Jones said.

"With regard to advancing a just and sustainable international order, just as we did after World War II, the US must take the lead in shaping an international architecture that can galvanise collective action to address our global challenges," he told reporters at the Washington Foreign Press Centre after the White House released its National Security Strategy.

UK begins process to scrap ID cards

Britain's new coalition government has begun the process of scrapping identity cards and destroying the National Identity Register, measures that the previous Labour governments had initiated to improve security. The scrapping of the two Labour-inspired measures will take place within 100 days under the Identity Documents Bill, which is the first piece of legislation introduced to Parliament by the coalition government.

Home Secretary Theresa May said: "This bill is a

Wal-Mart lobbying hard entry into Indian retail market

The world's largest retailer Wal-Mart has solicited support from the US government for entering, what it finds lucrative, multi-billion dollar Indian retail market. Foreign investment norms in India are posing hurdles to its entry. The US-based Wal-Mart Stores, one of the world's top revenue grossers with over \$400 billion of total annual sales and present in 15 countries, is lobbying hard with lawmakers here to help it expand into India, possibly through bilateral talks between the related authorities of the two countries. Wal-Mart is infamous for its unethical business practices and is being opposed world over.

The company is lobbying with the US Congress members as also the departments of commerce, trade and treasury, among others, to put forward its case on issues like "discussions on India and Foreign Direct Investment", and "enhanced market access for invest-

ment in China and India." Its presence in India is limited to business-to-business wholesale market and back-end supply chain management business through a joint venture with Sunil Mittal-led Bharti group and it has been trying for many years now to enter Indian retail market, as India does not allow foreign direct investment in multi-brand retail business, in which Wal-Mart specialises. The company had signed the JV with Bharti Retail in August 2007 and soon after that it began lobbying with the US lawmakers about its India plans. As per the lobbying disclosure reports filed by the company with the US Senate, Wal-Mart has since then spent a staggering amount of over \$11 million (more than Rs 52 crore) on issues related to India, as also other matters, in over two years now. In 2010 itself, the company spent \$1.37 million (over Rs 6 crore) on lobbying in the first quarter. □

first step of many that this government is taking to reduce the control of the state over decent, law-abiding people and hand power back to them. With swift parliamentary approval, we aim to consign identity cards and the intrusive ID card scheme to history within 100 days." The measures implemented by previous Labour governments were aimed at tackling fraud, illegal immigration and identity theft, but were criticised for being too expensive and an infringement of civil liberties. The cards were designed to hold personal biometric data on an encrypted chip, including name, a photograph and fingerprints.

US unable to support world economy

US treasury secretary Timothy Geithner has stressed that US consumers could no longer support the global economy alone. "We all understand and we all agree that part of global recovery, part of making sure our economies are growing ... is to commit to clear objectives for reducing our fiscal positions to sustainable levels over the medium term," Geithner said. Alongside Greece, Portugal and Spain — all of whom have seen their borrowing costs rise sharply in recent months as investors fret over their solvency — other EU members like Italy and Britain have also announced austerity measures. Germany, Europe's biggest economy, is also set to follow suit, reportedly leading to concerns in Washington that the 27-nation European Union is jeopardising economic growth.

Geithner said world economy could not rely in

future on the US consumer spending as it has done in the past. "US consumers are going to be less of a source of demand for the world in the future ... You can see China is putting in place a strong reforms to make sure that growth is coming more from domestic demand in the future," he said.

New rules for skilled Indian workers

India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) are set to revamp legal procedures that will ensure that skilled Indian employees, once they arrive in the Gulf country, are no longer prone to undue hardship.

A joint project undertaken by the UAE's Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has established new procedures for the recruitment of skilled workers in India, a press statement from the Indian embassy in Abu Dhabi said. Under the new regulation, which will come into force shortly, the UAE Labour Ministry will issue labour permits strictly in accordance with the details furnished by the prospective employee in India through his recruiting agent. The visiting Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs Vayalar Ravi said he was confident that a "very transparent" system for the recruitment of skilled Indian workers would be in place soon. In the past, there have been several instances when an overseas-bound white collar worker from India, after arrival in UAE, found that the terms of his employment were much worse when compared to what was offered by the recruitment agent in India. □□

EU regulations to affect chemical, dyestuff industry: Expert

The Gujarat Dyestuff Manufacturers' Association (GDMA) has raised concerns about the European Commission's (EC) regulation on Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH). They say this will adversely impact the chemical and dyestuff industry. Mohan Desai, GDMA member secretary, said: "It would adversely impact the small-scale industries (SSI) here that have an annual turnover of less than 5 crore, as they won't be able to implement the REACH guidelines."

There are nearly 800 dyestuff and intermediary product manufacturing units in Gujarat, out of which 60-70 per cent are SSIs. Rajan Sudesh Ratna, Professor at Centre for WTO Studies, said: "As an impact of European regulation, the cost of chemicals worldwide, including those in India, could go up by two to three per cent, which could adversely impact the Indian chemical industry." "The Centre is conducting a study—'EC Regulation on REACH: Implications on Indian Industry'—to be submitted to the Union Ministry of Commerce by June 15, based on which the ministry could take a decision whether to dispute the regulation at WTO or not," Ratna said.

Argentina, China and India for wide-ranging talks

Argentina, China and India have circulated an informal document that argues for more wide-ranging talks on the draft "modalities" - the outline Doha farm deal containing the formulas and figures for cutting tariffs and subsidies, and exceptions to them.

The co-sponsors claim that "there are a number of provisions which need to be clarified" in order to avoid differences of interpretation, listing some three dozen questions that in their view still need to be addressed. To date, the chair of the farm trade talks has focused discussion on ten categories of unresolved issues that are "annotated" or "bracketed" in the draft text - such as cuts to cotton subsidies, or the number of "sensitive products" that countries will be allowed to shield from tariff cuts in exchange for expanded import quotas.

The three countries behind the latest informal proposal suggest that technical talks need to go beyond these ten issues. They suggest that questions warranting further clarification include the cuts to overall trade-distorting support; cuts to trade-distorting subsidies in the WTO's "amber" and "blue" boxes; arrangements for eventually amending the current Agreement on Agricul-

ture; the general formula for tariff cuts; sensitive products; and proposed disciplines on tariff escalation and tariff simplification, among other issues.

Search for Common Ground on Doha

A meeting of senior officials from 19 WTO members last week was valuable primarily for helping participants reach "a common diagnosis" of the "seriousness and depth" of the problem governments face in trying to conclude the Doha Round trade talks, officials said. Several of the exchanges during the gathering, which was jointly hosted by the European Union & India at the EU's mission to the WTO in Geneva on 19-20 May, served to underline the gaps separating central players such as the US & large developing countries like Brazil, China, & India.

Many were "dumbfounded" by the depth of the differences, said one official who attended the "very educational" meeting. "There is a huge gulf separating the sides, and for the time being it is insurmountable," the source said. Countries were divided not just on the substance, but on how to approach the negotiation. "They cannot negotiate yet - they need to agree on how," the source added. The meeting was the latest attempt by WTO member governments to see how they might revive the Doha Round negotiations.

China-EU row over shoe imports

The shoe import row between China and European Union (EU) that had persuaded the European manufacturers to be at odds with the consumer groups and companies, operating with China, will now be resolved by the WTO. As discussions between China and EU ended undecided, WTO's dispute resolution body, decided to constitute a panel to judge the matter.

The row instigated by China, which is a second of its kind at WTO against EU, was in opposition to the anti-dumping duties that were imposed by EU on imports of shoes from China. The duties have been fixed at 16.5% on shoes imported from China, while it is 10% for those imported from Vietnam. An official from China at the meeting stated that, such duty imposition by EU had impaired the jobs & living of around 150,000 persons engaged in the leather footwear industry. As per the WTO rules, the member countries were authorized to levy duties on products that were being dumped & sold at a price below their production cost, which ultimately damages the importing countries' trade. Nonetheless, such anti-dumping tactics may be manipulated for safeguarding the domestic industries, & thus turn out to be the usual cause for trade collisions. □□