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Indian Prime Minister
in

'MODI' fied America





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Ajay Bharti

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Sudama Bhardwaj

EDITORIAL OFFICE
'Dharmakshetra' Sector-8, Babu Genu Marg,
R.K. Puram, N. D.-22
E-MAIL : swadeshipatrika@rediffmail.com
WEBSITE : www.swadeshionline.in

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Congratulations India on huge National Success

Successful launching of The Mars Orbiter Mission has testified to the technical prowess and engineering ability of the Indian Space Research Organisation. The dedicated ISRO scientists have proved, yet again, that even the sky is not exactly the limit for them. The country is proud of them; their deeds are increasingly becoming part of folklore for future generations. The Mars mission is also a cost-effective one, compared to similar missions undertaken by other countries. Also, India has succeeded in its very first attempt to put the spacecraft in the Martian orbit. This makes its giant leap especially sweet.

The Mars success has also propelled countries like the US and China to look at India with new awe. ISRO will now walk with a new spring in its steps. The test firing of the GSLV Mk111 is around the corner. Chandrayaan-2 and the study of the sun will further thrust the organisation to unprecedented glory. ISRO richly deserves our kudos.

Prime Minister Narendr Modi had rightly chosen to be among the celebrating scientist of ISRO. So many of these scientists are young people, and quite a few of them are women. Congratulations to all of them who stayed back in India and are serving their country.

ISRO's spacecraft reaching the Martian orbit in the first attempt is a big deal for us because India is the first country in the world to do so. In the process, we have outdone the Americans, the Soviets and a European consortium (not a country) - none of these was successful on their maiden voyage.

PM's message as usual was most appropriate for the occasion. I am sure this will be a turning point in our research and development history. More and more talented students will get attracted to this field and that will result in further successes in future.

I congratulate India on this huge achievement.

– Mukesh Rajpur, New Delhi

EDITORIAL OFFICE

SWADESHI PATRIKA

'Dharmakshetra', Sector-8, Rama Krishna Puram, New Delhi-22

■ Tel. : 26184595, E-Mail: swadeshipatrika@rediffmail.com

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Quote-Unquote



The cultural identity of all Indians is Hindutva and the present inhabitants of the country are descendants of this great culture.

Mohan Bhagwat

Sarsanghchalak, RSS



No one represents this zeal for exploring the unknown more than our space scientists here at ISRO

Narendra Modi

PM (India) after launch of MOM



In diplomacy, there is no full stop. It is always comma or semicolon.

Sushma Swaraj

External Affairs Minister, on India-Pakistan relations



Indian leftist and secularist intellectuals cry for minority in India. But they are reluctant to know about minority problems in Pakistan & Bangladesh.

Taslima Nasrin

Banladeshi writer

Sustain & Stabilize the Change

"Remember, the storm is a good opportunity for the pine and the cypress to show their strength and their stability."

— (Ho Chi Minh)

It is unfair to pass any meaningful opinion on any government that has been in office for less than six months. It is therefore; too early to judge the performance of the government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on either the domestic or foreign policy front. Yet, its first few months have revealed clearly some important features of the government particularly on foreign policy front. The foremost facet has been the speed with which this government engaged with all the major powers and blocks including neighbours in South, East and West Asia and five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council and also India's most important economic and strategic partners. Engagement of the Modi government with countries like Japan, Australia, Brazil, South Africa, China, Singapore and now USA has established beyond doubt the intention to improve relations not just with South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries and ASEAN, especially Vietnam and Myanmar but with the entire international community. Observers do not hesitate to credit the government for more than neutralising, in a short period of time, the negative impact of its predecessor's months of inaction. In fact they appreciate the clarity of purpose in all this speedy activism as has been highlighted in an impressive document published by the MEA under the title "fast-track diplomacy" to mark its 100 days in office. This lucidity of foreign policy objective has been reflected in every action and words uttered during these interactions. In continuation to what he preaches on domestic front exemplified by slogans like "Sab Ka Saath, Sab Ka Vikas", Prime Minister Narendra Modi has pleaded for "Vikaswad" (Development) against "Vistarwad" (Expansionism). Since his thumping electoral mandate, foreign dignitaries had made a beeline to call on him and Narendra Modi has surely surprised many by investing considerable political capital in high-powered diplomacy to ensure a rightful place for India in the comity of nations. It is evident that both national interest and peaceful global order has been his concerns. While he has demonstrated readiness to overlook the minor issues that have marred relations with other countries, Prime Minister has also shown ample courage and decisiveness to take unpopular decisions to protect interests of the nation. His hosting of SAARC leaders when he was sworn in, his highly effective visits to Nepal and Bhutan, his diplomatic dexterity at the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) summit in Brazil, and his watershed trip to Japan are coming to define his nimble foreign policy approach. Scrapping of scheduled foreign secretary level talks with Pakistan after its high commissioner defiantly met Kashmiri secessionists, Modi has successfully signaled alertness and strength of his government. Government stand on food subsidy issue at WTO exemplified, Modi will even stand up to a powerful, rich nations when national interest is at stake. Signaling his intent to boost India's economic and security interests through multidirectional collaboration with like-minded powers, Modi has embarked on building a democratic axis with Japan - an alliance that can help reshape Asian geopolitics and accelerate India's development, without ignoring others. It is look East link West policy in action.

Actions of the government led by Narendra Modi thus far suggest he has a clear vision of how to proactively regain India's regional losses and to boost its global standing. Even his decision to call off talks with Pakistan is making more sense with each passing day, for even those who initially criticized him for the same. Experts point out that pragmatism is the hallmark of foreign policy. "The policy's overriding objective appears to be to enhance the country's economic and military security as rapidly as possible" they add. Of course, it is too early to judge the consistency, strength or effectiveness of the Modi diplomacy. But after a long era of adhoc, reactive, weak-kneed diplomacy, the new clarity and vision represent a welcome change for India. It is time to transform the vision into the action and stabilize the changes for realizing the objective.

India has arrived; proclaims PM Narendra Modi during his US visit.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to USA to address annual UN General Assembly was a much waited event Not only by Indians but globally. It generated a curiosity that no Prime Minister was able to create earlier. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has by and large succeeded in living up to the expectations. The unprecedented welcome that he received from the Indian community in USA & Canada reflects the trust in him and his promise to transform India.

Narendra Modi received euphoric welcome in USA right from the moment He landed there. But it was a rapturous welcome from thousands of Indian-Americans at New York's Madison Square Garden. It was historic reception unprecedented for any foreign head of the state. In an arena which has hosted Bruce Springsteen, Elvis Presley and Muhammad Ali, Narendra Modi received the superstar welcome. Invoking Pride of Brand India, He predicted this would be India's century because of country's youthful population and spirit of innovation while addressing the overjoyed audience including many US lawmakers. He has now a larger American following on facebook than most American politicians according to the New York times.

To his largely Indian-American audience, which packed out the stadium, he also promised a simplified immigration procedure so that they could all join hands to serve Mother India. Flagging up modern India's achievements, he singled out its success in sending a satellite to orbit Mars - a considerable achievement. India, he said, should be proud of "three things - democracy, demographic dividend and demand". Pushing his "Make In India" campaign, he said India offered human resources and low-cost production.

It is unfair to evaluate and pass any meaningful opinion on any government that has been in office for less than six months. It is therefore; too early to judge the performance of the government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi that was voted to power by an unprecedented mandate in several decades.

Invoking Pride of Brand India, Narendra Modi predicts 21st Century to be India's century because of country's youthful population and spirit of innovation while addressing the overjoyed audience in USA that included many US lawmakers says a report compiled
G Raina.

But his maiden speech in UN was a masterly crafted statement that mixed ancient world view of India with the promise of a pleasant future in an idiom easily understood by the new generation. It was a clear indication of the paradigm shift in Indian government's outlook after the huge change in New Delhi in recently held polls.

It was a speech that reflected arrival of India on the world stage with a strong voice. Arrival not only as an ancient civilization that is capable of handling most of the scio-cultural concerns of the present generation across the globe, but also as land of hope for future in economic terms.

Renewing call for reform of the Security Council and UN institutions, he asserted that world body at present reflected the imperatives of the 20th Century that will not be effective in the 21st and hence it should become more "participative".

Prime Minister called for a "genuine international partnership", and cautioned that an unreformed UN faces the "risk of irrelevance". "We will face the risk of continuing turbulence with no-one capable of addressing it," he told the UN General Assembly.

The 15-strong UN Security Council, we know, has been dominated since World War II by the same five veto-wielding permanent members: the US, Russia, China, France and the UK.

Narendra Modi like a statesman declared he wants peace talks with Pakistan but insisted that Pakistan must create an "appropriate atmosphere". Rebutting Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharief's hawkish claims in UNGA Modi said "Raising it at the UN won't



resolve bilateral issues." Asserting that India's future is tied to its neighborhood, he told the general assembly of his government's positive outreach to its neighbors from day one, and said its approach towards Pakistan was in the same vein.

"We want to promote friendship with Pakistan too, but we can only talk without the shadow of terrorism over us," Modi said in his speech delivered in Hindi. He added that it was incumbent on Pakistan to create conducive atmosphere for talks.

He also referred to the recent floods in Kashmir and said his government had not focused only on Jammu & Kashmir but had also offered to help flood victims in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

Modi did not directly accuse Pakistan of promoting terror, but the inference was clear in his wider remarks that reflected India's growing concern over terrorism worldwide. He said terrorism is surfacing in different forms and different ways across the world and no country is immune from it. "Even today there were countries that were giving shelter to terrorist organizations and differentiating between good terrorists and bad terrorists which raised questions about their intentions and motives," he said.

"The world should shun such

countries and conclude adopting a comprehensive convention on international terrorism", Modi said. Sharif left New York last night after his UN speech to handle domestic crises, without meeting Modi on the general assembly margins for a bilateral pow-wow that has been the norm for Indian and Pakistani leaders in the past.

In broader remarks before the UNGA, Modi also rejected unilateralism and said no one country could handle the world's problem. He took a dim view of various "G group of nation" platforms. He suggested strengthening G-All platform like UNGA.

He also referred briefly to contentious globalization issues that have put India and US at odds and said trade agreements should accommodate each other's concerns, in a clear indication that he and President Obama have significant gaps to bridge on issues such as trade and climate change when they meet in Washington.

Modi's address covered a number of subjects such as terrorism, including its resurgence in West Asia, reforms of the United Nations, including the Security Council, and the need for a more inclusive global development.

Talking about India's neighbourhood, the Prime Minister said that India desired a peaceful and

stable environment for its development. "A nation's destiny is linked to its neighbourhood. That is why my government has placed the highest priority on advancing friendship and cooperation with her neighbours," he said. "India is part of the developing world, but we are prepared to share our modest resources with those countries that need this assistance as much as we do," he said.

Describing the present as "a time of great flux and change", Modi said the world was witnessing tensions and turmoil on a scale rarely seen in recent history. Although there were no major wars "there is absence of real peace and uncertainty about the future".

In an apparent reference to the ongoing conflict in Iraq and Syria, where a US-led coalition is attacking the Islamic State (IS) militants, he said that India welcomed efforts to combat terrorism's resurgence in West Asia which was affecting countries near and far.

He pointedly emphasized, "... this effort should involve the support of all countries in the region." The effort should involve the support of all countries in the region, he said, adding UN should ensure that there will be peace, stability and order in the outer space and cyber space. "We should work together to ensure that all countries observe international rules and norms," he said.

He referred to the Asia-Pacific region and said that it was "still concerned about maritime security that is fundamental to its future." Europe faces risk of new division, he stressed, adding that in West



Asia, extremism and fault lines are growing. "Our own region continues to face the destabilising threat of terrorism. Africa faces the twin threat of rising terrorism and a health crisis," he said.

Modi also asked the world leaders to adopt an International Yoga Day, saying that by changing lifestyle and creating consciousness, it can help us deal with climate change.

"Let us work towards adopting an International Yoga Day,"

Noting that Yoga is "an invaluable gift of our ancient tradition", he said: "It is not about exercise but to discover the sense of oneness with yourself, the world and the nature."

Yoga is the 5,000-year-old Indian physical, mental and spiritual practice that aims to transform body and mind. "Yoga embodies unity of mind and body; thought and action; restraint and fulfillment; harmony between man and nature; a holistic approach to health and well being," he said.

"By changing our lifestyle and creating consciousness, it can help us deal with climate change," he added.

Prime Minister began his speech by recognising the "expectations of the world from 1.25

billion people." "India is a country that constitutes one-sixth of humanity; a nation experiencing economic and social transformation on a scale rarely seen in history", he added.

"Every nation's world view is shaped by its civilization and philosophical tradition. India's ancient wisdom sees the world as one family. It is

this timeless current of thought that gives India an unwavering belief in multilateralism" he proudly proclaimed.

It was not just the UN GA speech but his every action and the words he uttered conveyed a message. He surprised many people by using an unusual platform of a rock concert to invoke on a "can do" attitude of youth to change India and the world, while addressing a thousands-strong crowd which gathered for "Global Citizen Festival" in Central Park in New York.

After a seven-minute speech in English, Modi also read out a Sanskrit scripture calling for "peace in the world" and greeted the largely American crowd with a "Namaste" amid cheers and claps.

Yes it may be too early to draw conclusions, but one can fairly state that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has succeeded in drawing attention to the potential of India and also his own leadership capability. He has also established a personal connect with persons of Indian origin of all age groups including the youth across the world.

He has emerged a much stronger leader and is seen as a symbol of hope by ever increasing number of admirers. □□

Time for India to use its Soft Power in China

July 2014 is an important month for global economics and China. It is the first time in recent history that China has overtaken USA in GDP [adjusted for purchasing power parity or PPP] and has become number one country in the world according to Euromonitor¹. Now the order is China/USA/India/Japan in terms of GDP at PPP. Of course in per capita terms, USA has ten times more gross income than China given the population size of the latter.

Still China's growth has been phenomenal and in the next two decades, it is poised to become numero uno even in nominal terms out running USA. This has implications for India from an Asian perspective and also we need to formulate our strategy about China. Traditionally in the last few decades, we have been looking at China using US or UK lens. This is due to the fact that we have not developed many China centers all over India. Hence we have few experts who understand their language and try to look at China with Indian glasses rather than Anglo-Saxon lens.

The major change that is taking place in China is not related to their growth rates and Three Gorges Dam and the shopping malls and Olympics stadia. That is a typical Western way of viewing China. The main change is in religious affiliation and assertion of Islamic followers and development of large scale underground Church. The middle classes have given up rice [perceived to be for the illiterate poor] and are embracing Christianity since it also helps in job mobility particularly in global companies where the heads could belong to the same Church. The Muslim population is less dispersed and more concentrated in specific locations like western part But there is also a growing interest in China about its past. The Ming dynasty tombs in Beijing which are made in marble were painted in red colour during the great cultural revolution of the sixties and even today labourers are washing it to make it back in to white colour without success. The guides are



A significant change taking place in China pertains to religion.

The economic growth bereft of spiritual underpinnings in the context of death of Marxism is going to be a great challenge for China and India as an elder brother should facilitate orderly transformation based on our common shared ancient wisdom, advises Prof. Vaidyanathan



not reluctant to talk about it. The ten handed Buddha in the Summer Palace of Ching dynasty near Beijing has significant relationship with our idea of Lord Vishnu who destroys evil and even this is mentioned clearly. More importantly, China is opening what are called Confucius Institutes in more than fifty countries which is similar to British Council efforts but more focused on China's ancient wisdom. . The first thing we should learn is to stop looking at China with Western glasses.

The economic boom in China has given rise to issues related to their faith/religion and associated things. First and foremost, China is facing a severe separatist [called splitters by Chinese] in their western region namely Xinjiang by Uighurs. The region is populated by followers of Islam religion and seeing unrest for the past two decades. But recently it has reached violent proportions. For instance, early last week Chinese claimed that at least 100 have been killed in disturbances in that region. Not only that, some portion of the Uighurs has carried the battle to Beijing itself. In other words, one form of regional separation combined with Islamic terrorism has become a major problem in China. There are also reports that the Islamists are taking shelter in the Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK).

On the other hand, China is also waging a battle with "unrecognized" Church in its territory. Once a hub of Christianity, worshippers in Wenzhou fear their faith is facing its biggest threat since the Cultural Revolution³. The recent visit of the Pope to South Korea as part of his engaging Asia has fuelled concerns in China since

China has its own church and does not recognize Papal authority.

"By my calculations China is destined to become the largest Christian country in the world very soon," said Fenggang Yang, a professor of sociology at Purdue University and author of Religion in China: Survival and Revival under Communist Rule.⁴ But for China, both the Abrahamic religions are alien to its culture going back several thousand years. So they are trying to revive "Confucianism" by encouraging the study of it as we'll as opening several centers to propagate it. Buddhism is their ancient religion and Hindu influences are significant.

The keynote speech by the General Secretary of the Communist Party of China- Hu Jintao to the 17th Party Congress in October 2007 – devoted a paragraph to religion. He stressed that religious people including priests, monks and lay –believers played a positive role in the social and economic development of China. Hence religion is not any more the opiate of the masses. The state controlled Xinhua stresses that there must be freedom of belief. It says that religion can play an important role in realizing a 'harmonious society' which is the new political role of the party⁵. That is the main issue we at India should be interested in. A 2007 study conducted by two professors of China Normal University based on more than 4500 people concluded that more than 300 million people namely 31 percent are religious and more than 60 % of those are in the 16-40 age group. The number of followers of Christianity has increased to 12 % from a low of less than 8% in

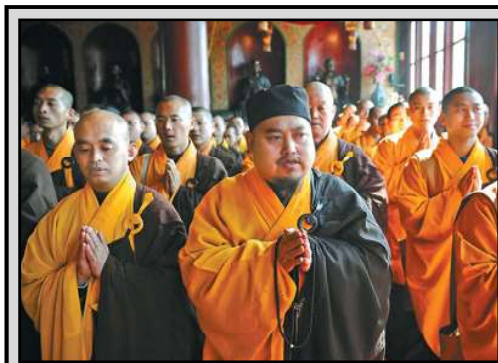
China has its own church and does not recognize Papal authority.

the nineties.

This last fact is interesting since a huge underground Church has developed in China and

Zhao Xiao, a former Communist Party official and a convert to Christianity, thinks there are up to 130 million Christians in China.⁶. This figure is much more than the official figures of 21 million –16 million Protestants and five million Catholics. If the latter figure is true—which is corroborated by other like Pew Forum –then there are more Christians in China than the Communist Party membership which is pegged at 74 million in the last count.

Thus, a significant change that is taking place in China pertains to religion. The economic growth bereft of spiritual underpinnings in the context of death of Marxism is going to be a great challenge for China and India as an elder brother should facilitate orderly transformation based on our common shared ancient wisdom. Let us remember that China is also a multi-cultural and multi religious society but interested in our shared past. In the words of Hu Shih, former Ambassador of China to USA [1938-1942] "India conquered and dominated China culturally for 20 centuries without having to send a single soldier across her borders." Ship loads of Sanskrit and Pali original works taken away by Chiang-Kai-Shek from mainland to Taiwan bear testimony to it.



China is at the threshold of change. It is yearning for spiritual solace.

These are exhibited in the Taipei museum even today.

Hence, India should be sending Sri Sri Ravishankar/Mata Amritanandamayi / Swami Ramdev/ Pramukh Swami/Sankaracharyas/ Vaishnavite Seers and other spiritual leaders, Bharatha Natyam experts, musicians, other artists in hundreds to China to “Conquer and Dominate” by our soft power. We need to print millions of copies of Ramayana and Mahabharata and our Puranas and Gita and Jataka stories in all modern Chinese languages and widely make them available. The CDs of Mahabharata and Ramayana etc. can also be given free. We should start some fifty Bharatiya Vidya Bhavans in China. Actually China needs this more than USA even though all our soft power is currently on show in the USA. We should create a fund of at least Rs. 1000 crore for this effort. There is a statue of Kalidasa in the Shanghai theatre unveiled by the theater academy. I do not think of any metro in India including the so called “cultural capital” Kolkata, having a statue of Kalidasa. At Kolkata, the Theatre street became Shakespeare Sarani and not Kalidasa Marg!

We should strategically recognize the weak point of China and also the need of its masses in the

absence of Communism. Many a Chinese even today believe that their next birth should be in India to reach salvation. Culture and religion are not taboos any more.

There are other issues. Officially China recognizes or permits only five religions namely Buddhism, Islam, Taoism, Protestantism and Catholicism⁷. Hence we should take steps to include Hinduism as one of the permitted religions. The Indian Government should take appropriate steps in this regard. The point is that our soft power in culture is interwoven in a tapestry form with the religion. You cannot separate it however one tries it. Carnatic Music without Bhakti is neither music nor art. But our Government of all hues has never raised this issue with the Chinese.

The strategy should be to envelop China with music, dance, art, Yoga, Ayurveda, spiritual texts like Ithihasas, Gita, Puranas etc and capture the hearts of the middle classes as we have done for centuries.

The second issue is related to our own mind-set. We tend to look at China either through the Western spectacles or through local Marxist spectacles—which have more thick glasses. We need to come out of it. Even when invitations come to Indian spiritual leaders, the Government of India re-

mains unenthusiastic and indicates its dis-interest in the false assumptions regarding China’s political orientation. The policy formulators are still living in the sixties and seventies while as China is undergoing a gigantic social crisis due to material prosperity and spiritual vacuum. Unfortunately, as a Chinese colleague of mine at Shanghai University commented last year, “both our countries are ruled by rootless deracinated foreign educated wonders that do not have any idea of the civilizational roots or the cultural richness of our lands.” Hopefully now it should have changed!!

China is enthusiastically waiting. To quote late B K S Iyengar, the doyen of yoga, “Mr. Iyengar told *The Hindu* during a visit to Beijing that he saw China as a future home for yoga. When he travelled to Guangzhou to give a lecture, he was stunned to find that organisers had rented out a stadium – more than 1,300 students had come to listen to him”.

But this is the opportunity to us since it is better to have a competitor and neighbour sharing the past cultural commonness. This will be very useful when the world is going to have two super powers from Asia unlike the conflict of last century between two super powers—USA and USSR- who did not have any shared cultural roots.

China is at the threshold of change. It is yearning for spiritual solace. Many groups and sects from Western countries [with or without permission] are trying to spread their influence and message—since this is an opportunity for them.

Are we ready to undertake such a mission? □□

Xi Jinping's Visit to India Initial Assumptions or Reading Between the Lines

After the successful visit to Japan, it was now turn of Prime Minister Sri Narendra Modi to turn a good host for Chinese President Xi Jinping. As the events of the visit unfold it was a very wise, civic and informal hospitality that Modi extended to Xi Jinping, more particularly in Gujarat, where he was personally present in Ahmadabad to receive Xi Jinping and his wife Peng Liyuan. Modi made the exception because he wanted to showcase development of his native state to the visiting dignitary. Also, Xi became the first Chinese leader since Zhou Enlai to be feted at a civic reception. Giant billboards in Mandarin, Gujarati and English were put up at various places here to welcome him.

Chinese were equally mindful to return the gesture with three key MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) being signed aimed at making Guangzhou city in China and Ahmadabad as sister cities, setting up of industrial parks between China Development Bank (CDB) and Industrial Extension Bureau (iN-DEXTb) of Gujarat Government and an agreement between Guangdong province and the Gujarat government for development of cultural and social ties between the two provinces. These agreements were signed between the two countries which will bolster Chinese investments in Gujarat at large.

As the visit progressed, both the leaders again met in New Delhi for the official bilateral talks. Here, too the economic and trade agenda was taking up-front as both the sides signed 12 Trade Pacts related to 20 US \$ billion dollar Chinese investment over five years in India, alternative route for Kailash Mansarovar Yatra via Nathu- La pass, action plan for cooperation on railways, peaceful space use, increased market access for Indian agricultural and pharma products, audio-video co-production and promoting cooperation between cultural institutions. Amid going visit, three Indian banks State bank of India (SBI), private sector lender Axis bank and ICICI bank signed MoU's with (MoUs) with China Development Bank and Exim Bank of China for strengthening commercial and economic ties between the two neighbours.



Both, Modi and Xi are bound to their constitutional oath of defending national interests first and foremost, rather making any concessions for the sake of keeping personal rapport tied at the cost of sovereign national interests and integrity, reminds
Abhishek Pratap Singh



With the unfolding of visit by Chinese President, experts, scholars, political analysts on China, remember China studies in India is largely Delhi centric, were busy in putting their pen down to find out the key breakthrough achieved during visit, exploring its significance for bilateral relations and economic implications of the pacts signed. In addition, the visit was largely overshadowed by the Chinese incursion in Chumar region of Ladakh to the immediate Indian unease.

Firstly, looking back to the visit and the events that transpired between the two leaders, most of the writings and news stuff has hailed the comfortable personal rapport between the two leaders as significant positive development. The personally guided tour by Modi in Sabarmati Ashram at Ahmadabad to Xi Jinping and other appearances have been largely acknowledged as a fine example for enhancing mutual understanding. There is no doubt that personal rapport between important leaders paves way for better cooperation but in an era of realist global politics based on promoting utmost national interest at large, there seems less scope to belief that this will provide any relief if it comes on defending sovereign national interests. Remember, both Modi and Xi are bound to their constitutional oath of defending national interests first and foremost, rather making any concessions for the sake of keeping personal rapport tied at the cost of sovereign national interests and integrity. Going down the pages of history, Nehru's first major book, *Glimpses of World History* (1935), has as many as 134 index references to China which include different Chinese dynasties like Tang,

Han, communism, civil war, agriculture etc and China being referred to as, "the other great country of Asia", and India's old-time friend. Also as Nehru visited China in 1954, his reception in Beijing, as described by his security officer, KF Rustamji, drew a million people lined the roads to greet and cheer Nehru and Zhou as they drove in an open car from the airport to the city. All along the route, observed Rustamji, not a single police in uniform was visible. This personal rapport and mutual understanding between both the leaders could not pacify the dispute over boundary question causing an unfortunate war in 1962. With Nehru overlooking the Patel's view that "Chinese irredentism and Communist imperialism are different, and former has a cloak of ideology, which makes it ten times more dangerous", Chinese took a realist call on Nehru's "forward policy", and we paid a huge cost with national shame.

Secondly, as the visit moved ahead the incursion by Chinese troops in Chumar region on Indian land largely overshadowed the media coverage. Even though, Modi expressed his candid displeasure over the issue and raised, "serious concern over repeated incidents along the border", the Chinese soldiers nearly 1000 in numbers, as news reports suggested, pulled back but to return again the very next day. As the issue flagged up officially in the joint media appearance of both the leaders and Mr. Xi Jinping also heading China's Central Military Commission (CMC), it raises doubt over the consistent confusion and inherent intentions behind the incursions during the visit.

Lastly, the issue of trade deficit is of a serious concern for India in dealing with China. The trade pacts have been hailed considerably but their ability to address Indian concerns only after proper execution. Also the issue of enhanced market access for Indian goods remains a future promise. Also, the much expected amount of Chinese investment has not been promised with the Chinese committing only for US 20 billion \$. The issue of access of Indian IT firms to China has not found a profound place in signed agreements. From the Indian side also there was no endorsement for China's call of New Maritime Silk Route and also conditional acknowledgment of BCIM economic corridor.

The pros and cons of any visit cannot be summed up in a straight observation where much lies at the level of operation of mutual agreements. However, as the matter of the incursion by Chinese troops into Chumar region, remained a deadlock for long, causing Army Chief Gen Dalbir Singh Suhag to call off his four-day visit to Bhutan, along with Indian government calling off an India-China Media Exchange which was scheduled to take place later this week in Delhi. The initial impression suggests that the high hold personal rapport between leaders is not paying its due. In addition, the current incursion by Chinese during the visit of Xi Jinping, has again drawn the public criticism for China and flared up the 'anti-China' constituency in India. Since, the peace and stability on border directly affects mutual trust and understanding, these Chinese misadventure leads to nothing except reminding of historical misfortune. □□

Mars receives MOM

Swadeshi Samvad



India's first mission to Mars entered orbit, making it the first Asian nation to reach the Red Planet, all for less than the budget of the Hollywood space blockbuster "Gravity".

The Mars Orbiter Mission, or MOM, cost \$74 million, a fraction of the \$671 million the U.S. space agency NASA spent on its newly arrived MAVEN Mars mission.

"History has been created today," said Prime Minister Narendra Modi, bursting into applause along with hundreds of scientists at the Bangalore command centre of the state-run Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

"We have dared to reach out into the unknown and have achieved the near-impossible."

India joins the United States, Russia and Europe in successfully sending probes to orbit or land on Mars. In 2011 a Chinese spacecraft destined for Mars failed to leave Earth's orbit after a botched Russian launch.

ISRO successfully ignited the main engine and eight small thrusters, which fired for 24 minutes, trimming the speed of the craft so it could be captured by Mars's gravity and slide into orbit.

After completing the 666 million km (414 million mile) journey in more than 10 months, the spacecraft, also known as Mangalyaan — Hindi for "Mars craft" — will now study the Red Planet's surface and scan its atmosphere for chemical methane.

ISRO scientists will operate five scientific instruments on the spacecraft to gather data, said ISRO's scientific secretary, V. Koteswara Rao.

The expected life of the craft is six months, after which it will run out of fuel and be unable to maintain its orbit.

Modi has said he wants to expand India's five-decade-old space programme. Modi is also India's minister of space, and noted with satisfaction that the project had cost less than "Gravity", whose budget the Internet Movie Database (IMDb) estimates at \$100 million. Mangalyaan and NASA's MAVEN join two other NASA orbiters, Europe's Mars Express orbiter and two NASA rovers currently exploring Mars.

After a journey of over 10 months, India's Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM) arrived at Mars on Wednesday, 24 September 2014 — following an insertion burn that was confirmed at 7:30am India Standard Time (02:00 UTC; 20:00 EDT in the U.S. on Tuesday, 23 Sept.) — to continue what has so far been a successful technology demonstration mission to showcase India's entry in the realm of interplanetary research.

Beginning as a feasibility study in 2010, the Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM) was green lit by the Indian government on 3 August 2012 following completion of a \$21 million series of studies surrounding the mission. With approval and appropriations in hand, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) undertook an expedited 15 month construction process on the spacecraft, aiming for a target launch date of 28 October 2013.

The launch date was calculated to meet the trans-Mars injection requirements needed to place MOM into the correct heliocentric Mars transfer orbit.

These calculations included the location of the launch facility in India, the desired orbital insertion parameters at Mars, and the orbital positions of Earth and Mars vs. the location where Mars would be at the time of MOM's arrival.

Construction on MOM was successfully completed on schedule on 2 October 2013, and the spacecraft was shipped to its launch site in Sriharikota.

SJM & Swadeshi Parivaar congratulates Indian Scientific community & ISRO for this historic achievement. □□

China has lost an Opportunity to win a friend

China is unseating India at all possible places in the neighbourhood. It has been nudging Southeast Asian countries to play cool to India. It supports Pakistan, despite the latter's export of terrorism. India has to be circumspect. It was no *veni vidi vici* for Chinese President Xi Jinping. He wants to conquer Indian land, but not the hearts. His \$20 billion investment promise is more a show off to suggest he can conquer even the Indian economy that rides on a \$40 billion trade deficit with China.

He does not even reciprocate the warm welcome extended to a Chinese dignitary after 60 years of Premier Zhou Enlai's visit, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Ahmedabad. Gujarati hospitality was expected to bring warmth in relationship and a cooler border. The belligerency at the Ladakh border increasing with Mr Xi's visit cause more unease.

Would the promised investment happen? Should India accept or allow those investments? These are the rocking questions. Mr Narendra Modi's retort on the border issue, something an Indian premier least loves to do to a guest, was appropriate. Indians are more seized of it than being charmed by the visiting dignitary. China certainly has lost a great opportunity of winning a friend.

China has a disconnect between its civilian administration and People's Liberation Army. But Mr Xi is considered to be the PLA's own man and he is a part of its two crucial committees. So, he cannot feign ignorance as the Chinese Foreign Minister had done on similar stealthy incursions. The PLA incursions had coincided with Premier Li Keqiang's visit to New Delhi last year. It appears to be well-thought of design to pressure India to accept Chinese terms.

The visit has raised Mr Modi's stature. Even the Opposition Congress finds



Having come from a visit to Sri Lanka and Maldives, Mr Xi Jinping's focus was certainly not India. He wants to keep India engaged but his prime aim is to encircle India either through the sea silk route or the Karakoram silk route, already in Chinese-Pakistani occupation, opines Shivaji Sarkar





Prime Minister Narendra Modi's rejoinder on the border issue was appropriate.

merit in his dealing with Mr Xi. Yes, China needs a tough handling despite whatever Indian effort to engage it in international affairs like BRICS or its development bank at Shanghai. Mr Modi has hinted that India is capable of it.

Mr Modi's summits with three of the world's powerful leaders, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in Tokyo, Mr Xi in New Delhi and President Barack Obama in Washington, DC this month marks a new chapter in Indian diplomacy in the post-Manmohan Singh decade.

Mr Modi's main focus is on how and how quickly he can uplift the economy to achieving a growth rate of eight per cent every year. For his economic plan to succeed, he needs investment and technology from China, the United States, Japan, Germany and South Korea, amongst many countries. He wants manufacturing in India to go up from 16 per cent to 25 per cent in

less than a decade. In the process, the Prime Minister wants more joint collaborations of items and weapons India imports traditionally. He had expected China to help India and itself by creating the greatest synergies of the largest populated countries. Mr Xi certainly has, if not belied, dampened the spirits.

There are strange mismatches. Only short while before Mr Xi's visit, the Chinese Consul General in Mumbai said that the investments would be to the tune of \$100 billion. Is it a short shrift by China? Possibly so. Having come from a visit to Sri Lanka and Maldives, Mr Xi's focus was certainly not India. He wants to keep India engaged but his prime aim is to encircle India either through the sea silk route or the Karakoram silk route, already in Chinese-Pakistani occupation.

Those who say that China could be kept tied down by its large investments in India have to think. China knows that even without investing its dollars, it has not only been able to capture Indian markets, but also erode its manufacturing base through silly exports of toys, mobiles, electronic goods and photo frames. China has no illusion. It has least interest in 'mak-

China's prime aim is to encircle India either through the sea silk route or the Karakoram silk route, already in Chinese-Pakistani occupation.

ing' in India. Howsoever, India might like to do so.

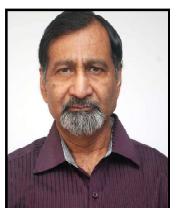
Its investments are restricted to Gujarat and Maharashtra, the western gateways, and one high-speed rail corridor. African countries have seen that Chinese investments opened up floodgate of jobs for Chinese nationals. Africans have not benefitted much.

There are also talks of some television and Bollywood joint ventures. But we have seen in the past that such ventures, even with culturally more compatible Bangladesh, have had limited success.

China promises India greater market access, something not difficult to do but not easy to ensure. Moreover, it has almost thrown a spanner in ONGC explorations in the Vietnamese waters. It has bagged the Maldives airport contracts that had been earlier awarded to an Indian firm. In Sri Lanka, it is going beyond building the Hambantota port. Sri Lankan markets that thrived on Indian exports, have more Chinese goods, textiles and fruits.

China is unseating India at all possible places in its neighbourhood itself. It has been nudging Southeast Asian countries to play cool to India, and it supports Pakistan, despite the latter's export of terrorism. Given these realities, India has to be circumspect. □□

Replacing Indian Planning Commission



India needs change to its approach to governance, planning and its execution. Therefore, the government shall redefine the role of planning and reconstitute institutions – keeping in mind the fact that state's role in development has not changed, underlines Anil Javalekar

Honorable Prime minister in his address to the nation on 15th August 2014 hinted for a new institution in place of present Planning Commission with new outlook, new body and soul and with new direction. Indian leaders, particularly first PM, Jawahar Lal Nehru, were very much impressed by then soviet model of state control and state leadership. Centralized planning was one crucial part of this soviet model of development and was instrumental to its success. Indian leadership adopted this state led model of development and gave birth to Indian Planning commission in 1950s. This Planning com-

mission (PC) has so far planned 12 comprehensive national five year plans, 6 annual plans and most state plans apart from many development and welfare programmes and schemes meant for sectoral development, poverty alleviation and balanced socio-economic development. The commission, in the process, has become a huge library of many documents, studies, surveys, commission and committee reports etc that itself is a great source of reference to many scholars. More important, the PC is a silent entity that shape and substantiate all political policy prescriptions prompted and proposed by ruling political party leaders and turn that in to a development plan or a welfare programme. Additionally, as many believe, the commission is a place of accommodation to many politically convenient experts and some bygone loyal politicians. Then why BJP government has decided to close down such a useful institution? Has Government simply buried the state leadership development model or concluded that the utility of this commission is over? BJP government has indeed the right to review the role of planning commission and replace it with another institution. However, it should not be old wine in new bottle. India needs changes both, in its approach to governance, planning and its execution. True, world has changed and so has India; but still the state's role in development has not changed. Therefore, BJP needs to redefine the role of planning and reconstitute institutions within this state's role.

Indian Planning

India after independence aspired for prosperity and considered industrialization helpful. Indian then leadership was convinced that the state leadership and state guidance alone can make India industrialized and prosperous. The question was only how best state can guide and lead this industrialization. The model available for reference was of Soviet Union and its base level tool was 'planning'. India, being a democratic country, could not propose for total rigorous control over allocation of resources and preferred mixed economy with public sector in

leadership position. The planned development through five year plans was an important strategy and annual budget was an important tool to raise and allocate resources for these development plans. Planning commission was to assess all the Indian resources, plan for their best utilization and suggest methods of their allocation prioritizing it first to public sector. Indian government and its ministries and departments, including state governments were to follow these suggestions and recommendations and initiate actions to implement the plan with full government efforts including budgetary provisions.

Approach to Planning

C D Deshmukh, then FM, in his Budget Speech dated 29 February 1956 defined the approach to planning. 'The plan has to be regarded as a framework or a map which indicates in which directions development is to proceed, in what measure and through what techniques of resource mobilization. Such a map may not be complete in all respects. For some purposes, even a five year framework or map is not sufficient and it may be necessary to think in terms of a longer perspective of, say, 15 or 20 years. Each step forward in the development of the economy brings into view new horizons or at least throws up new problems, and we have constantly to redraw the map in the light of developments within the economy and to adjust the perspective in which we are projecting our programmes.'

Indian plans failed not because of Planning Commission

Indian Planning indeed marched on the suggested path

and was comprehensive and sufficiently elaborative with clear suggestions and recommendations. However, right from the beginning, India has been constrained by its budgetary resources and resorted to external assistance and deficit financing. Initially, the external assistance was considered necessary and deficit as safe and justified. However, even after 66 years of independence and completion of eleven five year plans, Indian dependency on external capital flow and deficit financing has not come down. More than that, the projects were not completed in time, run over for many years from one plan to another ultimately increasing its cost and missing the outcome. With liberalization and privatization, the role of public sector has declined and so the importance of planning. The political governance is also a reason for failed planning as government started spending more and more on social welfare programmes and diverting the plan expenditure to non priority areas. Therefore, the failure of Indian Plans was less because of planning commission and more due to poor execution and poor mobilization of resources.

Review the outcome of Planning

First, there is a need to review the entire exercise of planning undertaken by India since independence and its outcome, including the outcome of strategies adopted for industrialization and identify the real beneficiaries of planned development. This is important because Indian planning though created some infrastructural facilities in the form of institutions and or basic industries or irrigational dams in public sector etc has not helped major sectors like agriculture

and village and cottage industries nor it helped Indian poor masses residing in villages. The plan strategies mostly resulted in depletion of natural resources and displacement and deprivation of more and more people from their livelihood source. The planning has also not helped reduce poverty and unemployment or the regional imbalances. It is thus desirable to have a '**National commission**' to review Indian planned development of Independent India and suggest new strategies and new set up for future.

Renew the approach to planning

Second, the need is to renew the approach towards planned development. India is not like other countries, particularly western countries. Western countries are different not only in their geography but in size and composition of population, culture and socio-economic background. Adoption of their policies of industrialization was a mistake and need rectification. It is important to understand that the industrialization pursued by western countries was never suited to Indian conditions and was basically against Indian agriculture, village and cottage industries and worked mostly against Indian rural masses for it deprived them from their age old family source of living. More than that, the industrialisation prescribed by western countries was basically not for the economic development of poor countries but was to create opportunities for their capital and trade and their profits. Therefore, the perspective of Indian planning need to move from western type corporate led industrialisation to small entrepreneur led rural industrialisation. Small land holding Agriculture, small entrepreneur led

manufacturing and trade along with supportive infrastructure by government are the sources of Indian development and should be given its due share in Indian planning.

Establish Economic Development Authority for long term projects

Third, there is a need to redefine the development responsibilities. Planning for development is important and more important is execution of planning. Political governance is more interested in populism that makes people economically dependent and less entrepreneurial. It adopts adjusting development practices that many times go against national interest or long term socio-economic sustainability. There is thus a need to separate development function from political governance and entrust it to a new authority- Economic Development Authority (EDA). Government should indicate long term policy intent and rest should be done by this authority. The authority should assess the development potentials, help mobilise resources and execute all long term projects and programmes through centre and state governments, local bodies, corporate and private sector and NGOs. The financial institutions and governments should support financially. It will be easier to fix responsibility and accountability apart from bringing stability in execution of long term projects. Political governance should limit implementation of populist programmes to their tenure of governance- five years.

Localise planning

Fourth, localise the planning and its execution. Uniform industrialisation without reference to

the local resources and local needs is a fallacy that has been propagated in the name of globalisation. Industries and factories or even agriculture development are allowed not as per resources and needs but with reference to the concessions, government free facilities and exemptions from law and revenue. For instance, Punjab is growing rice not for its consumption needs but for sale. Sugar cane crops are taken in water scarce areas. Similar is the case of industrialisation. Therefore, the need is to implement local self sufficiency model of development. Planning then should move upper level of self sufficiency according to local sources and local needs. The assessment and allocation of resources can have a reference to national perspective but the planning need to start at bottom level so to make bottom structures self reliant at least in providence of basic infrastructural facilities, food security and minimum life support to the people in the area.

Define financial sources for development

Fifth, allocate defined financial resources for planned development. Indian budgets have been the main tools for mobilisation of financial resources for planned development as also for governance expenses. However, these budgets are known more for fiscal deficits and subsidies and less for development. Borrowings and deficit financing have remained the sources of Indian budgets even for government expenses. Political governance is backbone of Indian democracy and its spending on socio-economic populist programmes is an essential cost. Therefore, it is desirable to allocate de-

Indian governance is failing and Justice System is not helping.

financed resources for planned development and limit the governance expenses including expenses on populist programmes within the tax revenues. The borrowing (including external) and limited deficit finance along with share of surplus revenue should go for development. All development projects undertaken by EDA should be treated as development expenses and all government expenses including that on five year populist programmes should be treated as revenue expenses.

Plan for future

All policies and strategies meant for economic development are expected to bring all round prosperity and help reduce poverty and unemployment. However, this is not happening. Even after 66 years of planned development, most of India remained backward, most Indians remained poor and most youth remained unemployed. The unequal distribution of wealth remained an issue to be resolved. This raises doubt about policies and strategies of Indian planned development. The outcome so far is unbalanced urbanisation, exploitative industrialisation and depletion of natural resources apart from accumulation of profits and properties by few. Indian governance is failing and Justice System is not helping. BJP is mandated to change all this and will hopefully bring positive changes in planning and development. □□

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

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

This List is published on demand from the Readers.

Black Money issue SIT on a Wild Goose Chase?

More to the point, extant global financial architecture facilitates transfer of illicit money through the Hawala route first to a Tax Haven, only to launder it in specialised locations like London.

“There are 42,800 persons - let me repeat, only 42,800 persons - who admitted to a taxable income exceeding Rs 1 crore per year.” That was the then Finance Minister [FM] Mr. P Chidambaram in para 126 in his Budget speech of 2013-14 in February 2013. In a way this statement of the then FM was a candid confession of the complete failure of our Income-Tax department, revenue intelligence and associated authorities in fighting the menace of Black Money within the national economy.

Red Money - Not Black Money

But much water has flown under the bridge since February 2013. In response to a Public Interest Litigation filed by some public spirited citizens the Honourable Supreme Court [SC] in 2011 directed the formation of a Special Investigation Team [SIT]. It may be recalled that the then UPA Government was reluctant to pursue this idea of an SIT and instead preferred a Review of this order of SC. So much for its commitment on this issue!

Nevertheless, as the Supreme Court turned down this Review, it coincided with a change of Government at the Centre and the NDA assumed charge in May 2014. One of the first decisions of the new Government was to comply with the order of SC and formed the SIT.

The SC, through the terms of reference, mandated the SIT to “have jurisdiction over all the cases, where investigation has already commenced or pending or awaiting to be initiated or have complete with regard to instances of black money and illicit funds generated and sent to overseas destination and tax haven nations.”

Further, the SC directed the Union Government to “accord all the necessary financial material, legal, diplomatic resources both inside and outside the country to the SIT.” In short, it is apparent that the thrust of investigations mandated by SC was to look at black monies parked by Indians abroad.

Readers may be aware that Black Money is defined as that which has escaped taxation. On the other hand, monies that are illicit [and hence hazardous



Existing global financial architecture facilitates transfer of illicit money through the Hawala route first to a Tax Haven, only to launder it in specialised locations like “The City” and probably use Mauritius route to re-invest in India as FDI or FII with all tax benefits and legitimacy, believes
M R Venkatesh.



for anyone to claim its ownership] and hence secreted abroad are termed as Red Money. And let me hasten to add that that this is not an empty exercise in semantics.

Let me elaborate. For instance, a bribe received by a Minister, being illegal, needs to be classified as Red Money and not Black Money. Recipients of such illicit monies find it risky to claim ownership of such income. Hence the necessity to park it abroad by sending such monies through the hawala route, preferably to tax havens where the identity of its ownership is kept secret by banks. Paying tax on such illicit income, I must reiterate, is a minor issue when the very source is illegal.

Professor Vaidyanathan of IIM Bangalore brilliantly captures the entire paradigm when he says - Black Money is a No Confidence on the Government of the day while Red Money is a No Confidence on the nation itself.

As stated earlier, the SIT was formed in the last week of May 2014 with retired Supreme Court Judge MB Shah as its chairman and Justice (ret'd) Arijit Pasayat as its Vice Chairman. The eleven officers who form part of the SIT include Secretary of the Department of Revenue, a Deputy Governor of RBI, Intelligence Bureau Director, Director of ED, Director CBI, CBDT, Chairman and Director General Narcotics Control Bureau, Director of Revenue Intelligence, Director Financial Intelligence Unit, Secretary RAW and Joint Secretary (Foreign Tax and Tax Research).

Interestingly, these eleven officers head departments that are legally tasked, individually and collectively, with fighting Black Money within India. And as the state-

ment of the then Finance Minister quoted at the outset clearly demonstrates that they have been a spectacular failure even in tackling Black Money within India. Yet these very men form the SIT and are expected to unearth Red Money parked abroad, especially in tax havens!

Wonders never cease, do they?

The Global Money Laundering Machine

It is pertinent to note that the world of finance is structured to launder Red Money parked in secret accounts in tax havens into lily white money for recirculation into global economy. And it is here that a reference to "The City" of London [which is distinct from London City] becomes mandatory.

At its broadest, the term "The City" - a state within a state - refers to the financial services industry located in London. More precisely, "The City," is a 1.22 square miles lab of prime central London that stretches from the Thames at Victoria Embankment, clockwise up through Fleet Street, the Barbican Centre and to the tower of London.

The seminal work on this subject is best articulated by Nicholas Shaxson in his outstanding book titled "Treasure Islands." Shaxson points out since 1950s financial services companies have flocked to "The City" because it lets them do what they cannot do at home. For instance, when the US introduced the Sarbanes-Oxley regulations in 2002 to protect Americans against the likes of Enron and WorldCom, "The City" did nothing. No wonder several global banks have centralised crucial financial operations from "The City."

One of the attractions, Shaxson says, for "The City" is its secrecy. According to him "Britain does

not follow the Swiss approach to bank secrecy, which makes its violation a criminal offence, it uses other mechanisms," - one that would shame the best of Tax Havens and lax jurisdiction like Luxembourg.

Shaxson explains how under UK law offshore companies [which in turn masks the ultimate owners] can be directors of UK companies. Hence it is usually impossible to know who the real owners of UK Companies are. This systemically ensures proliferation of Red Money and its laundering.

Alexander Zvygintsev, Russia's deputy prosecutor general, brilliantly summed up the issue when he said that "Londongrad" was "a giant launderette for laundering criminally sourced funds." What is galling to note is that as Shaxson points out how "The City" has never transmitted even the smallest piece of usable evidence to foreign magistrate."

More to the point, extant global financial architecture facilitates transfer of illicit money through the Hawala route first to a Tax Haven, only to launder it in specialised locations like "The City" and probably use Mauritius route [because of an obnoxious Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement between India and Mauritius] to re-invest in India as FDI or FII with all tax benefits and legitimacy.

What is astonishing is that most in our financial sector or regulator or Government are unaware of the existence of "The City," much less its dark underbelly.

Innocence thy name is Indian Establishment

Now come to my alma mater - the Institute of Chartered Accountant [ICAI] which innocently believes one way of fighting this

menace of illicit money is to improve transparency in financial reporting. It is in this connection the ICAI believes that India has to adopt the accounting standards [IFRS] prescribed by the International Accounting Standard Board [IASB].

Now pray who owns IASB? Where is IASB located? What is the agenda of IASB in thrusting its standards on unsuspecting nations across continents?

Shaxson points out the IASB which sets rules for how companies around the world should publish their financial data, is head quartered - you guessed it right - in "The City!" Crucially, IASB that pontificates on transparency and disclosure has several unanswered questions about its ownership as it is a private company registered in Delaware [which again is a state in US with extraordinary lax regulatory regime].

That implies IASB is not a

multilateral rule-setting body representing Governments [like for instance the WTO is for trade]. Consequently, Shaxson opines IASB is not accountable to national Governments but to unknown private individuals who in turn set the global agenda for financial reporting! And Shaxson points out that rules framed by IASB invariably obfuscate the reporting of ownership of multi-layered entities.

Lamentably, the ICAI swears by IASB despite such disturbing facts. In the process, the world's second largest body of accountants has reduced itself to become a cheerleader for this secretly owned Delaware Company. Probably, egged on by honchos of ICAI or oblivious to everything stated above, the new Finance Minister Arun Jaitley in his Budget speech for 2014-2015 observed, "There is an urgent need to converge the cur-

rent Indian accounting standards with the International Financial Reporting Standards- IFRS. [Para 128].

This fixation to anything "global" or "international" by our very best without critical appreciation of facts baffles me no end. Nonetheless it reveals our fatal flaw in our collective character.

Even as we set up an SIT on "Mission Impossible" we have several discomfiting unanswered questions. Do the readers appreciate the enormity of the task? Do we as a nation comprehend what will it take to bring this illicit money back to India? Does the NDA Government realise the complexity of the issues involved?

Given the sinister contours of global financial architecture, our inadequate preparation and consequential ignorance on these issues, the trillion dollar question remains - is the SIT on a wild goose chase? □□

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Accountability of private schools



Prime Minister Modi has called upon teachers to broaden the vision of students and make them aware of the social and environmental issues. Mr Modi must be congratulated for taking such an initiative. It imparts a sense of importance to the profession of teaching. Need is to back up this call with regulation of private schools—both in terms of fees and quality.

It has become routine for private schools to up the fees by 30-40 percent every year. Parents are visibly disturbed. Many are seeking government intervention to fix the fees

and stop this fleecing of parents. But government intervention cannot come in bits and pieces. It will be logical for the government to specify the selection, salaries and work conditions of teachers and all other requirements once it starts interfering in the school management. It will become difficult for managements to hire good teachers and fire bad ones. The quality will necessarily suffer. Today the Government schools are in shambles while private schools of much better reputation have sprung up. Government interference is likely to lead private schools into the same pit that the government schools find themselves today. Let there be no doubt that the government bureaucracy is eagerly waiting to take command of the private schools. It will open up a huge stream of No 2 income for them. Modi should not walk into this trap.

The role of the Government must be to facilitate the assessment of quality. A 'Transparency in Schools Act' must be brought which requires the schools to post a host of information on their websites. This may include: number of sports awards won, number of students fallen sick in school, results in board exams of the last five academic sessions, number of awards won by teachers, salaries, qualifications and number of leave taken by teachers, student-teacher ratio and, most importantly, the balance sheet.

An independent statutory authority may be established that may rank all the schools somewhat like the star-rankings given to hotels. The evaluation must include "social awareness" of the teachers. The teachers must be required to take an exam relating to social and moral issues. Questions regarding history of the independence movement, basic principles of different religions, causes of social conflict, etc. must be asked. Underlying principle is that teachers will be able to inculcate these values in students only if they have these values themselves. Lesson on honesty imparted by a thief do not carry much weight. This information will enable the parents to assess whether they are truly paying for better education; or



We must prevent government interference in education at all costs. The role of the Government must be to facilitate the assessment of quality. Profiteering can be controlled by transparency and competition, feels
Dr Bharat Jhunjunwala



Studies indicate that there is virtually no relationship between the expenditures and quality of education.

for mere physical facilities and profits of the school owners. The logic is that private schools may make all the profit they want but they must be required to disclose it because a public interest is involved. There is a need to redesign the curriculum as well. Subjects such as moral education, religion and environment must be made compulsory from the primary level itself.

The other aspect of private schools is that of fees. The parents generally believe that high fees and good quality education come together. But fact is that, if at all, there exists a very weak relationship between the two. The Dubai School Inspection Bureau had rated two schools that offer Indian curriculum as 'outstanding'. Of these, the Dubai Modern High School charges 28k Dirhams per year against the Indian High school charging only 4k Dirhams. Yet both are ranked as outstanding. Similarly in Abu Dhabi, the Knowledge and Human Development Authority had ranked both the Raffles World Academy and Al Diyafah High School as 'good'. The former charges 26k Dirhams while the latter charges only 9k Dirhams for Kindergarten.

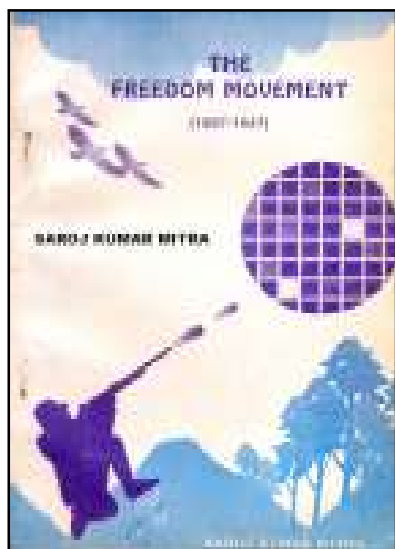
Similar results are obtained from the United States. The Wa-

bash National Study examined 45 colleges based on their spending on educational purposes while also looking at their scores on student learning. The four measures of student learning were (1) good teaching with high quality interactions with faculty; (2) high expectations and academic challenge; (3) interaction with ideas and people different from one's own; and (4) "deep learning." The study found that "there was only a very small relationship between spending on education and the quality of the educational experience as measured by those four factors." The relationship was so small according to the study leader Charles Blach said that a college would have to spend an additional \$5 million per 1,000 students to increase the "good practice" score (on a scale of 100) by a single point. The study isolated 10 colleges that had very similar scores on the good practices related to teaching. Their spending per student ranged from \$9,225 to \$53,521. Yet all of these colleges were showing similar levels of student learning. I have not seen a similar study for India but I reckon the same situation prevail here. After all, Lal Bahadur Shastri did not study in an air-conditioned classroom!

These studies indicate that there is virtually no relationship

between the expenditures and quality of education. This happens, I think, because the high-fee schools invest large amounts in facilities such as an air-conditioned auditorium which do not add much to the learning. Yet, parents flock to high-fee schools under the belief that high fees are indicative of better quality. They are actually paying for facilities and profits made by the schools in a mistaken belief that they are getting better quality teaching. The learning from these studies is to look at quality directly; and not imply it via fees.

We must prevent government interference in education at all costs. Profiteering can be controlled by transparency and competition. But government intervention will destroy the teaching itself. Private schools are a much lesser evil than government. I would like to quote Tagore: "today the Bengali people's thinking has strayed afar from the villages. Therefore the temples here are today dilapidated, there is no one to repair them. Ponds have become polluted, there is no one to take out the dirt. Big mansions lie vacant, one does not hear the music of celebration there. Today the responsibility of providing water rests of the sarkar bahadur. The burden of providing health rests on sarkar bahadur. And for getting education one has to knock on the doors of sarkar bahadur. The tree which blossomed itself, is today beseeching the sky with its naked branches for a rain of flowers. Even if its prayer were to be fulfilled what would be the meaning of those sky-flowers?" Let us, therefore, find ways to improve quality and control the beast of profiteering without inviting the dragon that is the government. □□



Swadeshi Through Education - 1905

Large number of students faced expulsion from schools and colleges due to Carlyle Circular. On 16 November, 1905, the distinguished citizens of Calcutta formed the Jatiya Sikhya Parishad or the National Council of Education. The object of NCE was “to impart education, literary as well as Scientific and technical on national lines and exclusively under national control not in opposition to but in standing apart from the existing systems of primary, secondary and university education.” Subodh Mallik of Calcutta and Braja Kishore Roy of Mymansingh dist. donated one lakh and five lakh rupees to NCE. Thus Bengal Technical institute, Bengal National College and school were started. Aurobindo resigning his post at Baroda with a salary of Rs. 750 per month joined National College as its principal with a monthly salary of Rs. 75. Patankar and Maharashtra Natak Mandalis donated more than Rs. 300/ to NCE by conducting charity shows at Bombay.

Aurobindo resigned from his post in 1907 and **Sachindra** be-

The Freedom Movement (Untold stories)

came the principal of National College. Within 1908, NCE obtained affiliations of 25 H.S. Schools and 300 primary schools. Schools following the syllabus of NCE started at Telegaon, Pune, Rajmundry, Machlipatnam, Allahabad and Yevatmal. In the school started at Yevatmal Dr. Hedgewar pursued his studies. The idea of national education spread throughout India. Andhra National Council of Education was formed in 1917 by the citizens of Machlipatnam to establish Andhra National university. Rashbehri Ghosh while going from Calcutta to Madras in 1908 was greeted by 200 citizens at Rajmundry Railway station with a welcome address thus, “We highly appreciate the noble work you have done for the progress of the motherland. The support you have given to the swadeshi movement by establishing Vande Mataram Match factory.... and as president of NCE, all these are worthy of the highest praise.” At Satyabadi (orissa) Gopabandhu Das started one school independently in 1909.

Soon it was felt that students should obtain technical knowledge and higher education in foreign countries. **Shyamiji Krishan Verma** stationed at London and **Sardar Singh Rana** of Saurashtra stationed at Paris issued scholarships for Indian students to study in foreign universities. Through this method both Rana and Shyamiji enrolled Savarkar, Madanlal Dhingra and Hardayal etc. to carry on anti-British activities from London

and Paris on a global scale. Jogendra Chandra Ghosh issued 400 scholarships for Indian students to obtain technical education in foreign countries.

Industrial conference

The first Indian industrial conference was held at Varanasi in December, 1905 presided over by Ramesh Chandra Dutt who published two volumes titled as “The Economic History of India”. Indigenous manufacturer displayed their products with their addresses in an Exhibition held at the site of the Conference.

Varanasi Congress - 1905

In Varanasi Congress session in December 1905, though Swadeshi was accepted “Boycott” was opposed by Gokhale who wanted to invoke the good sense of the British. Tilak and Lajpat Rai supported “Boycott” and abstained from the session when a resolution for welcoming the Prince of England for his visit to India was moved. Thus Moderates and Extremists, the two groups were formed in this Congress. Niveditta staying at Varanasi appealed to congressmen thus, “It must animate its own members in the sense of nationality”. The Varanasi Congress brought to lime-light **Lal Bal Pal** the trinity of Indian Leadership who swayed the mass movement for next couple of years.

Calcutta Congress - 1906

Dadabhai Naoroji, the grand oldman declared the four point programme of Swadeshi, Swaraj,

National Education and Boycott in Calcutta Congress. Tilak, Aurobindo, Bipin Pal though not satisfied with above points as the resolution on four points was devoid of any operative part, they interpreted it as per their liking. "Agitate, Agitate, Agitate" was the call given by Naroji. Raja Mahendra Pratap attended this Congress at Calcutta in 1906.

Idea developed during the time

Justifying Boycott as a weapon of a weak nation against a strong nation a resolution was passed in Madras in December 1905 by **G. Subramani Aiyar** with **Ananda Charulu** in the Chair. Boycott was introduced by Gangaram Tehalram an Aryasamajist during movement against partition of Bengal which spread like wild fire.

B.C. Pal expounded the doctrine of passive resistance as refusing to render any service to the govt. through organised effort. Brahma Bandhab Upadhyaya wrote in his "Sandhya" in 1906, "If the govt. servants from Chaukidwars and constables to the munsiff and magistrates refuse to serve and resign in a body, (the sepoys do the same so much the better) the rule of Feringhis will come to an end in a moment without firing a single shot." Wrote Prof. J.L. Banerjee, "The partition made us conscious that we had a national life which was susceptible to wound and capable of expansion." Surendranath Banerjee who resigned his ICS wrote in 1906, "It is not merely an economic or political movement, but it is all a comprehensive movement co-extensive with the entire circle of our national life, one in which are centered the many sided activities of our growing... the shibboleth of our unity and indus-

trial and political salvation." Sir Jadunath Sarkar wrote, "One in lakhs gets the opportunity to sacrifice his life for the motherland. But everyone among us with his minimum resources can also sacrifice something. By sacrificing some comfort... he is helping a labourer of the South to get their bread whom he had not seen nor that family will never come to extend thanks to him".

While the Congress was attempting to dilute such feelings remaining above the ground, the militants with their cult of Bomb remained underground. Tilak disapproved the attitude of Congress confined to petitions, pleas and protests. In the Bengal provincial Conference prior to Cong. session in Calcutta in 1906 at Barisal police lathicharged the delegates. S.N. Banerjee was fined Rs. 400 for violating prohibitory orders. While whole of Bengal was revolting against the repressive actions of the govt. which were even condemned by the **Manchester Guardian**, the Moderates in the Congress refused to condemn these.

Honouring Political Sufferers - 1906

On 14 February 1906, the first meeting to honour the political sufferers was held at Calcutta under the presidentship of Narendranath Sen who said, "The occasion is unique one, for this is the first time in the history of modern India that the nation has been called upon to honour people who have suffered for the country's cause." The meeting ended by presenting Vande Mataram Locketts and Handkerchiefs to the political sufferers by Surendranath Banerjee.

"Swadeshi was Vande Mataram in action" declared Surendra

Nath Banerjee.

Surat Congress – 1907

Though the Congress session was scheduled to be held at Nagpur in 1907, Moderates fearing the Extremists' influence there changed the venue to Surat to nullify the impact of Calcutta Congress. On the very first day of the conference shoes were hurled at Tilak. Next day Tilak, Aurobindo along with their 500 supporters were disallowed to attend the session which was presided over by Dr. Rash Behari Ghosh. Moderates were under the influence of Morley and Minto who promised them to initiate 'some reforms'.

Wrote Minto to Morley on 2 August 1906, "Yesterday I had my fifth and final talk with Gokhale... Gokhale was very reasonable, he says that the whole younger generation of India is going over to the Extremist's side... the glamour of British Raj which in the old days fascinated the people has departed and the only way to recover our moral control 'is to do something that will appeal to native 'imagination'.

Surat Congress resulted in vertical split of the Congress into two groups, Moderates & Extremists.

Though Lajpat Rai and Ajit Singh faced deportation for six months in 1907 and against which fiery articles appeared in the Indian Sociologist of Shymji in London and protests made by Madam Cama, Sardar Singh Rana appeared in the Press from Paris the Moderates did not utter a single word. The Congress lost popularity and in its subsequent sessions in Madras and Allahabad the attendance was 243 and 207 in 1908 compared to 1600 at Surat in 1907.

[To be Continued]

Skill, but at what Speed and Scale?



India has been a rural dominated country with about 83 % of the population living in villages at the time of Independence which has now reduced to 70 %. Village had a character of self sufficiency and sustainability. The needs of rural population were more or less catered by the local resources, systems and institutions. One such institution though informal has been skill development. Every village had a set of artisans who carried forward their legacy generation after generation. The training was inhouse and in general an artisan like blacksmith, goldsmith, carpenter, mason, porter etc would pass

on his knowledge to his next generation. Training in farm sector was also informal and family driven. Thus the need of a having a formal institute to cater for such training requirement was perhaps not felt.

After Independence development took a different turn and character of village also changed in due course of time. Majority of non agricultural jobs were available in urban areas and hence the workers had to migrate. Development also gave rise to technology adaptation and new processes. Thus the natural flow of skill development from older generation to next generation in a family diminished because of the reasons that a) worker would migrate to cities without family accompanying him, b) new technologies and process in workplace required different training methods, c) new sectors opened up job opportunities which could not be catered by traditional artisans etc.

In order to cater to such requirements of skills by Industry and Formal sector a training infrastructure by way of ITIs was created. The quality and quantity of this infrastructure was not adequate to meet the demand of employers thus the dependence on informal training systems like Ustad – Shagirdh continues to exist. This informal training has been prevalent in almost all the places in India, wherein a fresher initially takes up a helpers job with a skilled worker and gradually steps up to become a skilled worker by gaining experience. This system has its shortcomings and limitations which include no scientific pedagogy, no assessment & certification, exploitation of worker etc.

While the country focused on formal education and improved the literacy rate from 12 % at the time of Independence to about 74 % now, but no effort was made in improving the institutional infrastructure of vocational training. With the result at present the annual enrolment of school education has shot up to 22.5 Crs in comparison to 1.53 crs for higher education and vocational training put together.



If the Skill India mission gets restricted to only rhetoric devoid of solid action then we are bound to land up in trouble and instead of harnessing the demographic dividend we shall have to tackle the demographic burden, cautions
Sanjay Ganjoo

Keeping in view the growing population that too when India hosts the largest young population in the world and when regular school and higher education streams have limitations in providing job opportunities to the youth it was necessary to look at the skill development and vocational training in order to equip the growing young population with skills which could provide them opportunities of employment. It was also observed that the employment segments, be it primary, secondary or tertiary has a huge shortage of skilled manpower and the potential of job opportunities which these sectors can offer at an average growth rate of about 8% will be about 347 million jobs by 2022. In order to harness the demographic dividend the Planning Commission of India in the year 2007 embarked upon a target of skilling 500 million youth by 2022.

To achieve this target a Skill Development Policy was announced in year 2009 and a Governance structure was designed. A council with PM as Chairman was constituted to drive the policy. National Skill Development Corporation was setup in 2011 to involve the Private Sector in this initiative and a target to train 150 Million workers was assigned to them. Budgets and targets were allotted to about 17 Ministries. For better coordination among various stake holders a National Skill Development Coordination Board was set up in 2008 under Planning Commission. In order to devise the strategy, chart out the plan, promote skill development, provide guidance to stake holder & implementing agencies a National Skill Development Agency under Min-

Not much has been achieved out of a target of skilling 500 Million youth

istry of Finance was constituted in Dec 2013 with Chairman of Cabinet Minister rank.

The National Skill Development Policy also outlined the academic structure by constituting National Skill Qualification Framework which provides for horizontal and vertical entry and exit systems in perusing vocational education. Ten levels were proposed from basic level of skill set to the highest degree of skill in a particular trade. Formation of National Occupational Standards (NOS) was also proposed to determine the minimum skill sets required for a particular job. In order to do this Sector Skill Councils (SSC) a model followed in UK and Australia was introduced so that the industry or stake holders of any particular sector themselves determine the NOS and form Qualification Packs for each skill. In fact the responsibility for assessment and certification was also been given to each SSC.

It is not only the incumbent PM who has started forcefully advocating the importance of skill development but the outgoing PM of India and his Government also talked a lot about this. Though his words couldn't get translated in a tangible action and the result on ground has not been encouraging. Not much has been achieved out of a target of skilling 500 Million youth that too the way National Skill Development Policy had en-

visaged. The underachievement of target has been due to the various factors including faulty governance and policy structure. The National Skill Development Corporation which should have been part of either the Ministry of Labour & Employment or Ministry of HRD was instead attached to Ministry of Finance. How can we expect a Ministry whose domain strength being Banking, Insurance, Financial Services etc to handle something what MHRD and MLE have been practicing since decades. Not stopping at this, the Government constituted NSDA in December 2013 and attached this also to Ministry of Finance. National Skills Development Coordination Board was constituted under Planning Commission which primarily has been an advisory body and has no executive experience. Instead of this the Board should have been attached to Cabinet Secretariat with Cabinet Secretary as its Chairman.

The Sector Skill Council concept proposed by National Skill Development Policy is defective in nature that too when we keep the nature of Indian Industry in view. We expect the Indian Industry which has grown in Inspector Raj to change its character overnight and turn into self regulated and self motivated institution. We expect the industry to develop its own skill standard, course content, assessment mechanism and placement mechanism. Alas! It is too much to expect from Indian Industry. Unlike west they still need Governments and court's intervention to implement the social obligations. Had the Industry been responsible, there was no need for Govt. to include the CSR section in corporate bill.

Somehow we in India get al

lured by Western ideas without looking at our ground conditions. We have a functional system developed over the years by HRD and DGET for Technical Education and Higher Education which could have been extended to Skill Development also. Why bring romantic ideas that too for a sector which is going to cater to the needs of most deprived of the societies in the country. Was it necessary to invent the wheel and set up a new system of SSC instead of copying NCERT, UGC, AICTE, NCTE, NCVT type system which has been functional on ground? In the recently organized Skill Development Summit in New Delhi, the CEO of NSDC shared his disappointment in the forum that the Industry was not coming forward in shouldering their responsibility through SSC.

About 20 Ministries have been implementing Skill Development programmes and every Ministry has been following its own guidelines. There is no uniformity of trade, training delivery, assessment, and certification and costing. One Ministry implements welder training in one month and another in three months. One Ministry outsources particular skill training at Rs 7000 and another ministry at double or triple the price for same duration and trade. Most of the training so far has been offered in courses which are easy to implement and are profitable to implementing agencies without looking at the requirement of job markets.

We have lost seven years and nothing has been achieved so far. Now we are left with only 8 years and I wonder how this target of skilling 500 Million will be achieved that too when we are still



We are still trying to grapple and fabricate the vehicle which can take us to our destination.

trying to grapple and fabricate the vehicle which can take us to our destination.

New Government has spelled out its intention and given a catchy slogan “Skill, Scale & Speed” but I am afraid they may also land up doing similar mistakes. New Ministry has been constituted and I heard the incumbent Secretary in a recently held conference talking about the role spelled out for the Ministry. He said the Cabinet note defines their role as that of coordinating agency among the implementing ministries. He was right in saying that Coordination is a loose term and lacks the teeth of administration, governance and regulation. Though the NSDA and NSDC have been shifted to this Ministry which is a good move but I wonder how the Chairman of an organization who is of Cabinet Minister Rank will follow instruction of Skill Development Minister who is of MoS rank?

I am afraid if the Skill India mission gets restricted to only rhetoric without solid action then we are bound to land up in trouble and instead of harnessing the demographic dividend we shall have to tackle the demographic burden. New Government has to go into the genesis of it and provide a viable platform for implementation. The Government has also to real-

ize that the majority of training so far has been imparted in skills which cater to organized sector providing for only 9% of the jobs. We need to look towards our unorganized sector and improve the skills of workers so that they benefit from this mission. We also need to understand the strength of our villages and forests which cater to half of the job requirements of the country. Unless our farmer improves his skills he will not be able to produce more. We have more than 250 Non Timber Forest Products in our forests which can change the life of a tribal and improve his living condition. Only if we skill him and provide him techniques to gather, process, package and market these products, he will be able to reap the benefit of this resource. Success of Deen Dayal Antoday Yojana (DAY) is possible only if we cater to the requirement of such people who live at the bottom of Pyramid and that will be the greatest tribute to the leader who gave the concept of Integral Humanism to this world.

We need to look at our own systems, resources & practices, improve upon them and then form a policy which has a bottom – up approach rather than a top down approach in order to succeed. □□

The Author Sanjay Ganjoo is CEO, Bhaskar Foundation

SJM continues its Activities on ground



Swadeshi Jagaran Manch units at different levels from central office in New Delhi to local level units in remote areas of Bharat continue to organise events to spread the message of Swadeshi. This awareness campaign is continuously going on and varies from seminars, conferences and interaction to marches, yatras, dharnas and door to door campaign.

Swadeshi Samvad present a brief account of SJM activities organised in different parts of the country — recently.

In Nagpur a workshop was organised on integral Humanism. Dr. Vinayak Govilkar talked about the economic aspects of integral humanism, while Sh. Ravi Deshpande spoke about its cultural dimension and Sh. Kashmiri Lal ji spoke on social dimension. Statue of Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay was garlanded before the inauguration of the workshop.

Prant Mahila Sammelan (State Women's conference) was held in Tulsi Bhawan, Bistupur of Jamshedpur on 7-8 September 2014. A large number of women dele-

gates from the state participated in this conference.

Sirsa (Haryana) unit of SJM took a yatra from Sirsa to Salasar. The objective was to spread the message of Swadeshi and make people aware about the plundering of India by foreign multinational companies. Smt. Indirawati of Patanjali yog peeth and Smt. Neeru ji of SJM talked to people on different aspects of Swadeshi movement. They recalled how just one company by the name of East India Company had enslaved us for over 150 years and cautioned about what over 5000 MNCs

present in India now are capable of doing. They appealed country men to shun foreign goods and use Indian products instead.

District conference of Pakud (Jharkhand) was held on 14th September 2014. Pakud is just 14 kms away from Indo-Bangladesh border. It is part of Santhal Pargana very rich in natural resources but no visible development has taken place. Roads are in bad shape, employment is not available. Sh. Kashmiri Lal ji attended it.

A meeting of SJM activists of Ambala city was conducted on September 9, 2014 in presence of Sh. Satish ji. Later Satish ji also spoke about relevance of Swadeshi in a meeting held in S.A. Jain College.

A symposium was held in GIA house Gurgaon on 7th September, 2014 Dr. Ashwani Mahajan & Dr. Kishanbir Choudhery were guest speakers.

Punjab state conference of SJM was held in Patiala on 6-7 September. Notable feature of this state conference was that most of it was conducted in Punjabi.



One day conference of J&K was held in Kargil Bhawan Amphalla on 14th September. Around 80 participants attended it. Well known social activist Chander Mohan Sharma spoke about Tawi river.

Media cell held its third meeting on 13th September in central office at RK Pura New Delhi. 14 participants attended it.

An impressive and informative seminar was held in Maharaja Agrasen Institute of Management Technology on 10th September on the subjects New Development of India. Over 250 students attended. Satish Kumar ji was the main



eastern UP universities, including the Banaras Hindu University (BHU) and the Allahabad University (AU).

The first seminar of the series was organised in BHU on 25th Sep-

cussed in the same breath, SJM convenor for Kashi Prant, Dr Niranjana Singh said: "In so far as indigenous development was concerned, the thoughts of Pandit Deen Dayal and Mahatma Gandhi were same. We cannot develop only on borrowed technology, industry and investment. Or the European or Russian or other models are not going to work here."

Dr Singh added: "Significantly, it is for the first time that the SJM got a central platform in institutions of higher learning. Earlier, we were practically treated as untouchables. We want to spread an intellectual awareness towards 'swadeshi', for which Universities are the best place. Even students from colleges and schools had joined. We are open to scrutiny of our thoughts and suggestions to see how relevant they are."

Dr Singh added it was important to send a message from Varanasi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's constituency, that eastern UP required a sustainable development model and its small and cottage industries cannot be overlooked. In due course, we will try and put pressure on the government to announce major development plans based on this model for this region by mobilising public opinion, he said. □□



speaker & Prof Neeraj Bansal, Director of the institute presided over.

On 17th September over 300 prominent citizens of Faridabad assembled in sector 16 to listen to Sh. Satish ji on swadeshi. This swadeshi Sammelan was presided over by Sh. Satish Chandani.

A chintan Baithak of central zone was held in Bhaopal on 21st of September in the Dattopant Thengdi Bhawan. 60 office bearers from 22 districts attended it.

In its first major attempt to generate awareness about the "swadeshi" thought and create an "indigenous" economic development model in centres of higher learning, Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM) will hold seminars in four

tember to mark the 98th birth anniversary of RSS ideologue Deen Dayal Upadhyaya. Among the main speakers who attended Thursday's programme were Bajrang Lal Gupta, a member of the RSS national executive, another RSS functionary, Kashmiri Lal, BJP MP from Bhadohi Virendra Singh 'Mast', Prof R R Jha (Dean of Political Science department, BHU) and Prof K K Mishra, head of the same department.

Theme of the seminar was the relevance of 'ekatma manavata (integral humanism)'— the philosophy of Pandit Deen Dayal — as a template for "all-inclusive" and "de-centralised economic policy".

Explaining the idea of Upadhyaya and Gandhi being dis-

Industry Captains pledge support to PM's 'Make in India'

Industry leaders of the country and across the globe have pledged their support to the Government's 'Make in India' campaign and sought stable tax structure, labour law reforms and expeditious decision-making to make it a reality. At the star-studded launch of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ambitious programme, attended by the likes of Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani, Tata Group chief Cyrus Mistry and Aditya Birla Group's Kumar Mangalam Birla, industry leaders said job creation and high growth would be possible only if the manufacturing sector gets into a high growth trajectory.

"Our aspirations on the global manufacturing arena will be fulfilled if we address certain challenges on priority," Mistry said while addressing the gathering. "These factors will include the build-up of critical infrastructure across the country supported by stable policies, transparent and competitive tax and duty structure, efficient and time-bound administration through the use of e-governance, cost effective and reliable energy coupled with logistics, critical for the competitiveness of industry," Mistry added. □

Cap on prices of 108 drugs withdrawn

Drug pricing regulator NPPA has withdrawn guidelines for price control issued under Para 19 of the Drug Prices Control Order (DPCO), 2013. The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) had invoked Para 19 of the Drug Prices Control Order (DPCO) to cap prices of 108 cardiac and diabetes drugs on July 10. "In compliance with the directions received from the government in the Department of Pharmaceuticals...the aforesaid internal guidelines issued by the NPPA on May 29, 2014 under Paragraph 19 of DPCO 2013 are hereby withdrawn with immediate effect," NPPA said in a statement.

The drug regulator, in an earlier notification, had invoked Paragraph 19 of DPCO, 2013 to bring 108 anti-diabetic and cardiovascular formulation packs under the price control. Under the Drug Price Control Order (DPCO) 2013, the Government already controls the prices of 348 drugs listed in the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM). By invoking para 19 of DPCO, NPPA had extended price control to drugs outside of NLEM.

Stop prescribing antibiotics

Faced with the scary prospect of losing lives to simple infections in the future, India is finally waking up to the dangers of reckless antibiotic use. The Indian Medical Association, a pan-India voluntary organization of doctors, launches a nationwide awareness programme on overuse of these life-savers, a practice that has led to emergence of drug-resistant organisms. IMA will also ask fellow practitioners to avoid unnecessary prescriptions such as recommending antibiotics for patients with fever and cold which are generally caused by viral infections.

"In the past two decades, almost no new antibiotic has been discovered while bacteria have learnt to

overcome the existing ones. If we don't conserve our antibiotics, a day will come when simple infections will become life threatening," said Dr Narendra Saini, the secretary general of IMA. Saini said IMA plans to hold public lectures and 'training of trainers' aimed to press for rational use of drugs among the medical fraternity. IMA, he added, has 2.5 lakh member doctors registered with its 1,700 branches across the country and all of them will be part of the initiative.

Several researches, including those conducted by WHO in India, have revealed that over-the-counter sale and purchase of antibiotics is rampant in the country. There is also lack of knowledge about the exact use of each antibiotic among physicians.

India rejects 'untenable comments'

India strongly rejected the "untenable comments" made by Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Jammu & Kashmir in the UN general assembly, asserting that the people of the state have peacefully chosen their destiny in accordance with universally accepted democratic principles.

Exercising its Right of Reply on the floor of the general assembly to the comments made by Sharif, India said that the Pakistan Prime Minister made "unwarranted references" in his address to the UN session.

"I would like to bring to the notice of this august House that the people of Jammu & Kashmir have peacefully chosen their destiny in accordance with the universally accepted democratic principles and practices and they continue to do so. We, therefore, reject in their entirety the untenable comments of the distinguished delegate of Pakistan," Abhishek Singh, first secretary in the Indian mission to the UN said in the general assembly.

Again raising the issue of Jammu & Kashmir in the UN, Sharif had said that a "veil" cannot be drawn

How is Google paying tax but Facebook not: HC asks govt

The Delhi High Court has questioned why Facebook Inc is not paying any service tax when Google is doing so and directed the Centre to file a "better affidavit" on the issue. "How is Google paying (service tax), but not Facebook? How is Facebook exempted? We are finding it difficult to understand," a bench of justices Badar Durrez Ahmed and Siddharth Mridul said. The bench also asked whether the government was "alive" to the issues of sale of data by social media sites as well as the service of targeted advertisement provided by them.

"Why don't you know all these? Are you alive to these things or is it beyond your comprehension," it asked after advocate Virag Gupta, appearing for former Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader K N Govindacharya, raised these issues before the court. The government, represented by advocate Sanjeev Narula, said Facebook had no office here, while Facebook India had a office in a special economic zone from where it is exporting services and thus, they are exempted from paying service tax. The bench, however, sought information from the government on what are the remittances being made to Facebook from India and whether the transactions between the website and various Indian companies are in the nature of services. It also queried whether the government had come out with an email policy. □

on the issue of Kashmir.

Drugs Trade Syndicate Busted

In a joint international crackdown on a sophisticated international money laundering network, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) arrested three alleged hawala operatives and seized Rs78 lakh in cash following searches in the national Capital and Amritsar.

The agency launched the operation following a request from the Australian Federal Police (AFP). A slew of Australian agencies have carried out simultaneous raids there in Clearview and Ingle Farm, Lyndhurst, Templestowe, St Albans, Thomastown and East Melbourne (Victoria), among others. The ED raided nine locations in Delhi and Amritsar and the three persons were arrested under the criminal provisions of the money laundering Act. The agency will soon attach a number of bank accounts relating to the accused persons as they are suspected to have stashed illegal money in those accounts. Those arrested include P S Arora and Gagandeep Singh from Amritsar and Gaurav Gupta from Delhi, for offences under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

The arrested persons allegedly were into "trade-based" money laundering racket across the globe and the kingpins were based in Amritsar."

Cremations on Ganga Ghats

With cremations on the ghats of the Ganga in cities like Varanasi and Haridwar adding to the impurities of the river, the Centre has constituted a committee to recommend technologies to cut down on such pollution. The technical committee comprises of Director, National Environmental Engineering Research

Institute, Secretary Central Pollution Control Board and a senior professor of IIT-Kanpur. Several Hindus prefer to get cremated on the banks of river Ganga on ghats of Varanasi and Haridwar for salvation.

However, according to Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Minister Uma Bharti the sadhus and saints have supported the idea and have assured her that they will accept any technology which the government deems fit to reduce pollution. They have ensured that contents used in the cremation are not dumped in the river. She said the committee will look into various types of technologies to ensure that rivers are not polluted. She termed the move as one of the several short-term measures to reduce river pollution.

She further said that as part of the initiatives to rejuvenate Ganga, plans are afoot to carry out afforestation on the banks of the river. There is also a proposal to conserve medicinal plants in the upper reaches of the river.

NOTA bags second position

NOTA, the option available for the voters to reject the candidates in the electoral fray, had bagged second position in the Naxal-heartland of Antagarh where assembly by-election was held. The by-election was necessitated in the constituency as its legislator Vikram was elected as the Member of Parliament (MP) from Bastar. The entire election process saw interesting turn of event that finally culminated into None of the Above (NOTA) bagging the second highest number of votes in the constituency.

This would be probably first time when NOTA had emerged as the nearest rival of the winning candidate. □□

Australia, Israel to be partner India

Australia and Israel will be the main partner countries for the third edition of 'India Water Week' during January 13-17 next year. 'India Water Week' is observed to raise awareness about water conservation issues. It also provides a platform to "elicit ideas and opinion" from decision makers, politicians, researchers and entrepreneurs from across the world in the field of conservation of water resources.

"The third edition of 'India Water Week' has been scheduled for policy dialogue, stakeholder's consultation and will showcase innovation through exhibition on 'Water Management for Sustainable Development' during January 13-17, 2015 in New Delhi," water resources secretary Alok Rawat said. A large number of international experts is expected to participate in the 'India Water Week'. While Australia and Israel have agreed to be the main partner countries, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Sikkim will be "partners for organizing the event". Water resources and river development minister Uma Bharti said, "People's participation through concurrent mass awareness programme on water conservation with focus on 'Hamara Jila - Hamara Jal' at all district headquarters will be undertaken during the week." □

China imitates 'Make in India'

Imitating probably the 'Make in India', campaign by Narendra Modi government, China launched 'Made in China' —a campaign that includes tax concessions from the Chinese government to promote high-tech imports and research and development.

China will encourage high-tech imports, research and development (R&D) to upgrade 'Made in China', the Chinese central government said. Under the new campaign, China will use tax breaks to encourage enterprises to upgrade their equipment and increase R&D efforts to improve the manufacturing industry. Companies that bought new R&D equipment and facilities after January 1 or possess minor fixed assets, will be offered reduction in taxes based on value, the Cabinet, presided over by Premier Li Keqiang, has decided.

Imported high-tech equipment will also enjoy tax deductions in aviation, bio-medicine production, manufacturing of railway and ships, electronics production, including computer and telecommunications, instrument production and those used in making IT products and software, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

Oklahoma man beheads colleague

A man in Oklahoma has beheaded one woman and wounded another after being fired from his job, police have said. Alton Nolen, 30, attacked the two women at Vaughan Foods distribution plant in Moore, Oklahoma. A manager who is also a reserve police officer stopped the attack by shooting and injuring Mr Nolen. A police spokesman said the FBI was investigating Mr Nolen's background, after colleagues

said he had recently tried to convert them to Islam. Nolen was shot and taken to hospital

Mr Nolen then entered the main entrance to the front office where he came across his first victim, Colleen Hufford, 54. "During the attack, Nolen severed the victim's head," said Mr Lewis. Mr Nolen then began assaulting his second victim, Traci Johnson, 43, with the same knife. Mr Nolen's attack was stopped when the chief executive of the plant, Mark Vaughan, who is also a police reserve deputy, shot and injured him. Co-workers told the police that Mr Nolen had recently started trying to convert several employees to Islam.

Mr Lewis said the FBI was called in to investigate Mr Nolen's background "due to the manner of death and the initial statements of co-workers and other initial information". The FBI confirmed they were assisting the investigation but declined to comment further.

Petition for Sharif disqualification

The Pakistan Supreme Court has accepted a petition for hearing calling for the disqualification of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif filed by Imran Khan-led Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf, for allegedly misleading parliament last month. A bench headed by chief justice Nasirul Mulk would hear the petition and the hearing has been fixed for September 29.

Ishaq Khaqwani, a central committee leader of PTI, petitioned the court to order Sharif's disqualification for lying in the national assembly on August 29 about the Army chief's role as a facilitator for negotiations with the parties protesting in Islamabad.

Sharif had said he had not asked the Army chief, General Raheel Sharif, to act as a mediator between

Pakistan is building dangerous smaller nukes

Pakistan is likely working to create tactical nuclear weapons, which are smaller warheads built for use on battlefields rather than cities or infrastructure. These weapons are diminutive enough to be launched from warships or submarines, which makes them easier to use on short notice than traditional nuclear weapons.

Developing tactical nuclear weapons calls for miniaturization of current weaponry (the "Davy Crockett," developed by the US in the '50s, was designed to launch from a simple tripod). But as The Washington Post reports, analysts are divided on whether Pakistan will be able to make warheads tiny enough for sea-launching.

There's less uncertainty about the military advantage gained with such weapons. A warhead-toting navy would allow Pakistan to stay nuclear-capable regardless of what happens to its homeland, where its nuclear infrastructure is spread out. □

the government and PTI and cleric Tahirul Qadri-led Pakistan Awami Tehreek to end the political crisis. Sharif had to face embarrassment when the Army spokesman confirmed the government had asked the Army chief to help resolve the standoff. The petition said Sharif had tried to malign and damage the image of the Army in violation of the constitution besides lying before the national assembly.

PTI and PAT have been on dharna for the past six weeks calling for Sharif and his brother, Punjab CM Shahbaz Sharif's resignation. While Khan alleges Sharif had rigged May 2013 general elections, Qadri wants a revolution in the country.

UNHRC backs Argentina

The United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) has passed a resolution in Geneva condemning a group of American hedge funds that took Argentina to court. The investors are demanding payments worth more than \$1.3bn (£766m) dollars on government bonds they hold. Argentina defaulted on its debts in July after refusing to comply with a US court ruling in favour of the funds. It is searching for ways of meeting its obligations to its other creditors without paying the hedge funds in full. The Argentine government has accused the hedge funds, which it refers to as vulture funds, of being greedy and damaging its economy.

The resolution was tabled by Argentina along with Russia, Brazil, Venezuela and Algeria. It was approved by 33 votes to five, with nine countries abstaining. The United States, Britain, Germany, Japan and the Czech Republic voted against. The resolution "condemns the activities of vulture funds" and says it regrets the effect the debt payment to such funds could have "on the capacity of governments to fulfil their human rights obligations". The American representative at the council, Keith Harp-

er, said the text was unacceptable.

Suspected IS recruiter arrested

A 22-year-old man has been arrested in Bangladesh on charges of trying to recruit members for the dreaded Islamic State (IS) movement, a day after two others were detained for planning to wage jihad to establish Islamic rule in the Muslim-majority country. Police identified the arrested man as Hifzur Rahman, a second-year college student. Deputy commissioner Masudur Rahman said they nabbed him from Purana Paltan area in the capital last night.

"He opened Facebook page 'ISIS Bangladesh' from his account and was working as a recruiter for so-called Jihadis for IS as found out by the detectives," bdnews24 quoted police as saying. Police claimed the detained person was an active member of banned outfit Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen (JMB)." Hifzur did not succeed in contacting any Middle Eastern countries," they said. The US has launched air strikes against the IS. The UN Security Council has urged member states to pass a bill to prevent IS recruitment in various countries.

China flexes muscles on Taiwan

Chinese President Xi Jinping ratcheted up tension with the United States saying he will go ahead with the merger of Taiwan with mainland China. Xi, also the general secretary of the Communist Party of China, said, "China has a firm and unwavering stance on national reunification."

Effectively, Xi is seeking merger of Taiwan, which receives military support from the US, with mainland China. Taiwan recently saw mass demonstrations against a local government move to grant more freedom to Chinese companies because it was seen as a preparation for China's eventual takeover. □□

India, US discuss WTO visa

Ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the US, a senior American official met Commerce and Industry Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and discussed various issues including India's stand in the WTO on the food security issue. During the meeting between Deputy National Security Advisor for International Economic Affairs Caroline Atkinson and Sitharaman, India reiterated its position on the public stock holding for food security purposes at WTO, reports said. Besides, both the sides also deliberated on matters including intellectual property rights, Totalisation Agreement and visa restrictions, they added. India has decided not to ratify WTO's Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), which is dear to the developed world, without any concrete movement in finding a permanent solution.

India has asked WTO to amend the norms for calculating agriculture subsidies so that the country could continue to procure foodgrains from farmers at minimum support price and sell them to poor at cheaper rates without violating the norms. The current WTO norms limit the value of food subsidies at 10 per cent of the total value of food grain production. However, the quantum of subsidy is computed after taking into consideration prices that prevailed two decades ago.

India Reports Farm Subsidies

India has reported that its trade-distorting support consistently fell below WTO ceilings, or was exempt from these limits, according to new figures covering a seven-year period up to 2010-11. Trade-distorting payments allowed under the trade body's "de minimis" clause amounted to only US\$2 billion in 2010-2011, the government has claimed in its submission to the global trade body. Although classed as trade-distorting, current rules allow developing countries to provide these payments so long as they represent less than ten percent of the value of production.

The trade-distorting payments in that year were all ascribed to support for rice: support for wheat and coarse cereals did not contribute to the overall figure, as administered prices for these products fell below an external reference price used to benchmark support levels. The government reported that 34.2 million tonnes of rice had been eligible to receive the applied administered price.

Another US\$32 billion of farm support in that

same year was classified by New Delhi as input and investment subsidies that are exempt from any cuts or ceilings under WTO rules, according to a clause that allows developing countries to provide support of this kind under certain circumstances. The remaining US\$25 billion in 2010-2011 payments were dubbed as "green box" – again exempt from any upper limit, on the condition that they do not distort trade or production.

Delegates in Geneva welcomed the decision to submit the data.

India's opposition to TFA objected

WTO Members failed to reach a consensus on how to proceed with work on agriculture under the 2013 Bali Ministerial Conference's decisions, when they met informally as the regular Agriculture Committee.

They remained divided on whether the post-Bali work could go ahead anyway in the absence of agreement on the legal text on trade facilitation (streamlining customs and other border procedures), and which committee should handle work on a permanent solution on public stockholding for food security in developing countries — the other relevant body is the negotiations session of the Agriculture Committee.

A number of countries objected to India's opposition to accepting the Trade Facilitation Agreement by the 31 July deadline agreed in Bali, and India's call for a permanent solution for the currently interim decision on public stockholding for food security in developing countries.

US, EU sanctions violate WTO: Putin

Vladimir Putin has said the EU and the US had violated the principles of the World Trade Organization by imposing sanctions. A number of countries have implemented trade embargos over the war with Ukraine. During a meeting with the senior government officials Russian President Vladimir Putin said, "Limits introduced against Russia are none other than a rejection by some of our partners of basic WTO principles."

"This is all done in a politicized manner, without any observation of WTO norms," he added.

Both the EU and the US imposed sanctions on Russia in different phases following its intervention in Ukraine. In exchange, Russia also announced a one-year ban on imports of food from the rest of the EU and the US. □□