

▶▶ VIEW POINT

▶▶ AGRICULTURE

▶▶ ANALYSIS

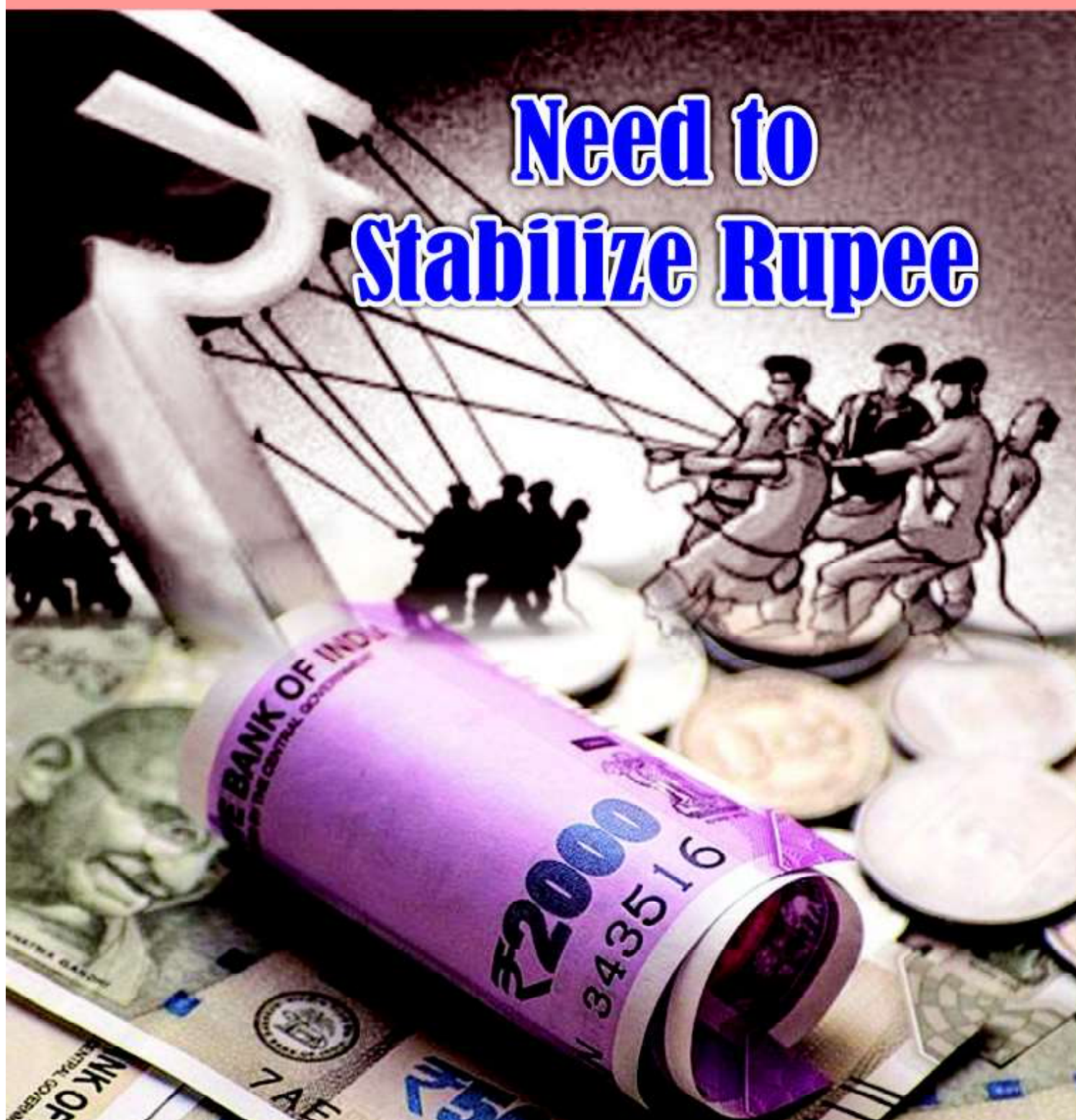
Rs 15/-, Page-40

# Swadeshi

PATRIKA

OCTOBER 2018

## Need to Stabilize Rupee





# VOICE OF SELF RELIANT INDIA

**SWADESHI**  
Patrika



**स्वदेशी**  
पत्रिका

**वार्षिक सदस्यता (Annual Subscription) :**

**150/-**

**आजीवन सदस्यता (Life Membership) :**

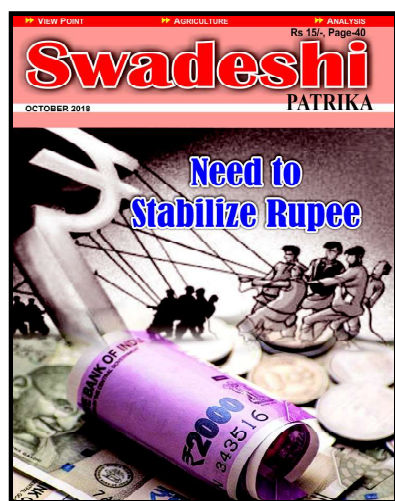
**1500/-**

*For subscription please send payment by A/c payee  
Cheque/Demand Draft/Money Order  
in favour of 'Swadeshi Patrika' at New Delhi, or Deposit the subscription amount in*

**Bank of India, A/c No. 602510110002740,  
IFSC: BKID 0006025 (Ramakrishnapuram)**

*Kindly write your full name and address in capital letters.  
If you do not receive any issue of Swadeshi Patrika, kindly e-mail us immediately  
or contact Sh. Suraj Bhardwaj (9899225926)*

# पढ़ें और पढ़ायें



Vol-23, No. 10  
Ashwin - Kartik 2075 October 2018

EDITOR

**Ajey Bharti**

ASSOCIATE-EDITOR

**Dr. Phool Chand**

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY:

Ishwardas Mahajan on behalf of Swadeshi Jagaran Samiti, 'Dharmakshetra', Sector-8, R.K. Puram, New Delhi-22,

COVER & PAGE DESIGNING  
**Sudama Dixit**

EDITORIAL OFFICE

'Dharmakshetra' Sector-8, Babu Genu Marg, R.K. Puram, N. D.-22

E-MAIL : swadeshipatrika@rediffmail.com

WEBSITE : [www.swadeshionline.in](http://www.swadeshionline.in)

**LETTERS** 3

**NEWS** 33



## CONTENTS

### COVER ARTICLE

6

## Need to Stabilize Rupee

**Dr. Ashwani Mahajan**



- 1 Cover Page
- 2 Cover Inside Page

### 08 OPINION

Why India Needs Strong Rules to Curb Corruption in Public Policy Development?

**Arun Gupta**

### 10 ISSUE

US interests explain Trump Enigma

**S. Gurumurthy**

### 12 DISCUSSION

Rajan needs to reveal more, Are NPAs designed for privatizing banks?

**Shivaji Sarkar**

### 14 EDUCATION

Transforming the educational firmament

**Sandhya Jain**

### 16 FOCUS

Kerala wake-up call on growth and development

**Dr. Vandana Shiva**

### 18 VIEW POINT

Reserve Bank of India and its performance

**Anil Javalekar**

### 21 AGRICULTURE

Highest Europe Court Ruling Confirms Serious Risks of Gene-Edited Crops

**Bharat Dogra**

### 22 ANALYSIS

Invest in technology to create jobs

**Dr. Bharat Jhunjunwala**

### 24 STUDY

Lack of mandis, funds may blunt PM-AASHA

**Devinder Sharma**

### 26 FARMING

The New Farm

**Kavitha Kuruganti**

### 28 REMEMBERING

Baghajatin – Jatindra Nath Mookerjee

**Saroj Mitra**

### 30 PERSUAL

RSS has initiated a new paradigm in the 'Culture of Discourse'

**Dr. Geeta Bhatt**

- 39 Back Inside Cover
- 40 Back Cover



## The Oil Toil

India in recent time has been facing immense difficulty in importing Oil. This has affected the Economy by widening CAD, increasing inflation and weakening rupee. While the OPEC countries continue to cut productions, which is likely to increase the price of Oil globally, India faces another grim situation in terms of sanctions on Iran by the United States. The US has set November as deadline, any country which has ties with Iran beyond November is bound to face Economic sanction from the United States. According to the news sources India hasn't placed order from Iran for the November as it is trying for waiver of sanctions.

While India can't assert its dominance over OPEC countries with regards to the production, it can surely continue importing Oil from Iran ignoring US sanctions. We should continue importing Oil from Iran due to the following reasons. Firstly, Iran is third largest supplier of Oil to India and a sudden change in this could increase the Oil prices drastically. Secondly, Iran and India have special arrangement where the Oil bill is settled in Rupee instead of US dollar which could help in strengthening Rupee. Thirdly, most of Indian refineries are technically suitable for grade of Oil imported from Iran. Any change in import of Oil also means a radical change in the refineries further aggravating the situation. Fourthly, while the US is trying to isolate Iran, strategically our interests lie in backing Iran due to Chabahar port which connects India to the mainland Asia and also Europe.

Also, to reduce the dominance of US and Organization of Petroleum Exporting countries (OPEC) countries, India and China along with other buyers of Oil should form Organization of Petroleum Buying Countries (OPBC) in line with OPEC to get better deal and end their monopoly. While these are the short-term measures, India should look to reduce dependence on Oil and shift towards alternative sources such as hybrid and electric vehicles in the long run.

– Harshwardhan, Hyderabad, Telangana

### EDITORIAL OFFICE

#### SWADESHI PATRIKA

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

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

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

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

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

IFSC: BKID 0006025 (Ramakrishnapuram)

Annual Subscription : 150/-

Life Membership : 1500/-

Kindly write your full name and address in capital letters.

If you do not receive any issue of Swadeshi Patrika, kindly e-mail us immediately.

#### Disclaimer

The views expressed within are those of the writers and do not necessarily represent the views of Swadeshi Patrika. Swadeshi Patrika often present views that we do not entirely agree with, because they may still contain information which we think is valuable for our readers.

## Quote-Unquote



Gandhiji's blessings are with us as India strives to eliminate open defecation in its entirety by October 2, 2019. This is the best 150th birthday gift we can give Gandhiji.

**Ram Nath Kovind**

President, Bharat



We do not want to dominate the society. The Sangh wants common man to lead the society in the right direction.

**Dr. Mohan Bhagwat**

Sarsanghchalak, RSS



India has always been resolutely committed to peace. We are committed to taking it forward... but NOT at the cost of compromising our self-respect & sovereignty of our Nation.

**Narendra Modi**

Prime Minister, Bharat



The food processing sector is generator of large volume of employment and does not need huge technology investment. But allowing FDI would mean huge investment on advanced technology & dampening of employment growth.

**Arun Ojha**, National Convenor, SJM



## An Opportunity to Protect Domestic Industry

Free trade protagonists, especially former Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog, Prof Arvind Panagariya was very much disappointed when Finance Minister Arun Jaitley announced automobile spares, cameras, television, electricity meters and smart phones will attract higher import duties in his budget speech 2018. Their disappointment had increased when the Revenue Secretary of Government of India announced that this increase in import duties is aimed at protection of domestic industries. Interestingly, there could be two objectives of increase in import duty, namely, increase in the revenue of the government and/or to provide protection to the domestic industry.

Later Government of India increased import duty on 328 textile items from 10 percent to 20 percent, again to provide protection to the domestic industry. On September 26, 2018 import tariff on 19 items including air conditioners, refrigerator, shoes, and washing machine, with an objective to reduce non-essential imports to the tune of nearly rupees 86 thousand crores. This means once again government has made its intentions clear to discourage imports and encourage domestic production, that is protection of domestic industry. Adoption of import substitution policy consistently, has sparked a new debate amongst economists in India and abroad, whether the present regime has turned protectionist and if yes, is this a good policy? Some economists think that it is not a prudent policy. They argue that if tariff is imposed on imports, goods will become expensive for consumers and domestic industry will turn inefficient due to lack of competition. For them, the only way to achieve the objective of cheaper goods and efficient production is to adopt free trade. But many economists also think that since India is facing the problem of heavy trade deficit, and that is causing rupee to get weakened day by day, employment in the country is also suffering due to huge imports, we need to make efforts to overcome this problem. They also argue that when other countries in the world are turning protectionist, there is no need to remain wedded with free trade.

Constantly growing trade war in the past few years, especially initiated by United States after Donald Trump taking over as President of US. US is fast giving up on free trade and has started with the slogan of 'buy American-hire American' sending a clear message that foreign goods and foreign workers are no longer welcome in US. Argument being given by US administration is that due to free import of cheap foreign/ Chinese goods, American Industry has got ruined and therefore, by raising tariffs they are actually protecting their industry. It started with imposition of tariff on steel and aluminium, and the same was extended to more goods coming from China. Latest announcement of tariff hikes ultimately take it to nearly \$500 billion imports coming from China. Meanwhile, China has also retaliated by enhancing tariff on goods coming from US. These steps aimed at curbing free trade, simply mean beginning of trade war in the world. Though US actions of curbing free imports are more against China; however, almost all trade partners of China are facing the heat of this trade war launched by US. This action of US is legitimising protectionism, which had become a thing of the past in the post WTO era. With this the future of free trade is also seemingly very gloomy. India has been facing the problem of huge deficit in its balance of trade, especially from China, which accounted for nearly 39 percent of its trade deficit. India has been suffering not only from payment problems and constantly depreciating currency, but has also seen its manufacturing and employment thereof getting destroyed. Despite, people boycotting Chinese products, overall imports from China are not coming down due to changing composition of Chinese imports, as Chinese imports are now comprising of nuclear reactors, project goods, power houses, telecom equipments, chemicals and most importantly electronic goods and spare parts. Government of India last year imposed anti dumping duties on over 100 items coming from China. On many other items standards were imposed to curb sub standard Chinese imports. We must understand that free trade is good only in theory; that too only if all trading countries follow the rules of the game and keep their tariffs low and do not give trade distorting export subsidies. If these conditions are not fulfilled then free trade will hurt those who reduce tariffs, as there will be import surge, while exports suffer. Given the situation that other countries continue to raise tariffs and are even subsidising exports, adopting free trade doctrine may ultimately be harmful for India. We should realise that opening up of trade and reducing our tariffs to less than bound rates as agreed in WTO agreements has led to import surge in the country, with exports growing at much slower rate as compared to imports, resulting in worst trade deficit and payment problems. Manufacturing in the country has been the worst victim and so was the employment. Therefore, when other countries of the world are engaging in trade war, divorcing free trade, it gives us an opportunity to dump free import policy, by raising tariffs and safeguard the interests of our economy in general and manufacturing sector in particular. When President Trump can argue for protecting US industry, nothing stops us to protect our industry. In the process we can revive our telecom, electronics, chemical, machinery and pharma especially our API (Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient) Industry.



## Need to Stabilize Rupee



*We must understand that depreciation of rupee means a burden on economy. It increases the cost of debt servicing by both private sector and the government. Cost of foreign travel and education also increases and so does the inflation.*

**Dr. Ashwani Mahajan**

Once again rupee is in crisis and has depreciated by nearly 5 percent since August, 2018, from rupees 68.7 per US dollar to nearly rupees 72.4 per US dollar by September 19, 2018. Prime Minister Modi has taken over the command to manage this crisis. If we see overall depreciation it's more than 13 percent during 2018. Present decline in rupee value has been primarily due to outflow of foreign institutional investors and rising crude prices.

### Conflicting Signals

Whereas, generally people are worried due to depreciating rupee, those at the helm of the economic affairs are busy making their own, generally personal views about the value of rupee, which is sending conflicting signals. Recently Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog expressed the view that rupee is overvalued and therefore it is expected to fall further. The former Chief Economic Advisor before leaving India had expressed similar views. Economic Affairs Secretary Subhash Garg had said that rupee can go even to rupees 80 per US dollar. Interestingly Prime Minister Modi during his last election campaign had criticized these UPA regimes for having ruined the rupee. Under these circumstances constantly falling rupee and irresponsible statements by important government functionaries are actually causing embracement to the government.

### RBI's Role

As Central Bank of the economy Reserve Bank of India, is considered to be the custodian and controller of foreign currency. Though the exchange rate (value of rupee in terms of foreign currency) is determined by the market forces of demand and supply, role of RBI's interventions is also of great importance. Supply of dollars comes from the export of goods and services and also by inflow

of foreign investment, both FDI and portfolio investment. On the other hand demand for dollar comes from import for goods and services and outflow of foreign investment. If demand for dollars exceeds supply for dollar rupee depreciates, and more rupees are shed for every dollar. Same is happening at present as outflow of FIIs and rising crude prices are causing demand for dollars exceed their supply. Therefore, the rupee is depreciating. If RBI intervenes and raises the supply of dollars picking from its foreign exchange reserves, it can stem the fall of rupee. Till a few days back RBI was not inclined to do the same.

### **Is RBI's Approach Appropriate?**

Approach of the RBI, not to intervene in foreign exchange market, does not seem to be appropriate for many reasons. When the present regime took over the reign of power in 2014, foreign exchange reserves of India were hardly 312.4 billion dollars, which have increase to more than 400 billion dollars at present. In raising these reserves, net foreign institutional investment has a great contribution. It is interesting when FIIs bring money into India, the same is absorbed by RBI and rupee is generally not allowed to appreciate, while when they take their money out increase in the demand for dollars cause rupee to depreciate. The underlined concern of RBI has generally been that appreciation of rupee may impact exports adversely. However, when FIIs money outflows, RBI leaves the market forces on their own whims, saying that it will not intervene. This approach is funda-

mentally inappropriate, because if RBI absorbs dollars when FIIs bring money, why doesn't RBI supply dollars when they go out?

### **What Can We Do?**

It is true that government does not have any control on the factors causing the depreciation of rupee in the recent past. Rising oil prices are leading to increase in Current Account Deficit (CAD). On the other hand increase in interest rates by US Federal Reserves and reduction in income tax rates by US administration are encouraging reverse flow of investment by FIIs. However, in the long run government has a role to play in reducing the outflow of money by FIIs through making efforts to disciplining them. It is notable that FIIs do not pay any taxes on their profits. Therefore, they don't have any obligation on transfer of money overnight. The government can impose a minimum 'lock-in-period' on the investments made by these FIIs, to keep them invested in India. In some countries tax is imposed on conversion of currency by FIIs, which is known as 'Tobin Tax'. This may also discourage the outflow of investment by FIIs.

In the past few days the major reason for the depreciation of rupee has been the net sale of securities by FIIs and taking the money out of India. In such a situation demand for dollars increase overnight and in view of generally low supply of dollars rupee depreciates. A small scarcity of dollars causes a big fall in value of rupee. However, if we see, India doesn't have any deficiency of dollars per se. Today India is sitting at huge stock of foreign exchange reserves to the tune of more than 400 bil-

lion US dollars. Since the beginning of the year 2018 foreign exchange reserves have declined hardly by 11 billion US dollars, despite huge outflow of portfolio investment and rising crude prices. In the last one month FIIs have sent hardly 1.3 billion US dollars abroad. Extra burden on the economy due to increase in crude prices has been nearly 10 billion US dollars since the beginning of 2018. Since our foreign exchange reserve are more than sufficient to meet additional demand for dollar due to above mentioned factors, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) can easily intervene in the foreign exchange market to stem any depreciation of Indian rupee.

### **RBI intervention may be win-win for economy**

We must understand that depreciation of rupee means a burden on economy. It increases the cost of debt servicing by both private sector and the government. Cost of foreign travel and education also increases and so does the inflation. Foreign exchange reserves give promise to deal with the future payment problems, however, they do not earn any significant income. It is important to stabilize the value of rupee, to save the economy from problems related to depreciating rupee. Today Indian economy is in good shape, as GDP is rising fast with both industrial and agricultural production increasing and inflation is also under control. Therefore, Reserve Bank of India does not need to worry on that account. RBI's shying away from intervening into the foreign exchange market does not serve any purpose. Let's hope that the good sense will prevail and RBI will intervene to stabilize the rupee. □□

# Why India Needs Strong Rules to Curb Corruption in Public Policy Development?

Identifying and managing Conflicts of Interests is too important to ignore !



**The Phenomenon** of Conflicts of interest was in the news recently for the right reasons when 'Swadeshi Jagaran Manch (SJM) organised a Roundtable Conference of "Conflicts of Interest in Public Policy" a short while ago. Professionals from law, economics, media, nutrition, anthropology, medicine, research, social work, human rights, public health, people's movements and politics took part. The meeting presented and discussed about the concepts and definitions of the situation of conflicts of interest. Examples of revolving door dominated like e.g. bureaucrats in very high or powerful positions joining the industry with 'interest' in the subject they carry domain knowledge of or political

interests in public services or even judges showing particular interests after retirement. Concrete example of revolving door is head of national health mission joins a vaccine advocacy group GAVI, and a retired joint secretary of WCD ministry joins as an advisor to a foundation floated by a biscuit manufacturer.

"Duty of Loyalty", a term used in corporate law to describe a fiduciary's "conflicts of interest" and according to which the fiduciaries must put the corporation's interests ahead of their own. Similarly, government officials/representatives can be considered to be in a position of trust due to their duty of loyalty towards the country's citizens. They are obliged to work in the interest of the public, which pays for them or has brought them to power, both ethically and legally.

Conflicts of interest situations may influence or even appear to influence the conduct of government servants, or decisions /recommendations of the governance institutions or structures meant for public good. It becomes even more serious when corporate sector or their lobbyists are directly or indirectly involved in such situations. The Nobel Laureate economist Joseph Stiglitz rightly defined 'governance' as "How decisions are made in whose interest". No wonder, why the Rajya Sabha's department-related Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice, Government of India in its 69th Report recommended that conflict of interest be included under bribery.

There are several available definitions of Conflicts of interest. It is defined as a set of circumstances that creates a risk that professional judgment or actions regarding a "primary interest" will be unduly influenced by a "secondary interest". Conflicts of interest situations can be institutional or personal, and can stem from financial or other interests, including post-employment opportunities or during public-private partnerships. The West's Encyclopedia of American Law, defines conflict of interest as "a term used to describe the situation in which a



*India can learn from Global Standards available for identifying and managing conflict of interest.*

**Arun Gupta**



public official or fiduciary who, contrary to the obligation and absolute duty to act for the benefit of the public or a designated individual, exploits the relationship for personal benefit, typically pecuniary”.

Conflicts of Interest stems from the situations like e.g. when institution's secondary financial interests or those of its senior officials pose risks to the integrity of the institutions primary interests and missions; when public officials take policy decisions based on their personal interest; when representatives of food manufacturing companies sit on scientific panels to evaluate research and to set food standards; when food (including junk food) manufacturers or front organizations take on the task of educating children about healthy foods and nutrition; when vaccine manufacturers or their front agents/organisations that lobby for introducing new vaccines, sit on public health committees/boards nationally or internationally; when the “regulators” partner with “to be regulated” and to develop policy for the people; when politicians sit on the parliamentary committees dealing with sectors they are doing business in; when judges join political outfits; when public servants including bureaucrats and elected representatives of the people, after leaving public service, work for the companies they used to regulate, potentially using their experience and contacts to get decisions made in the favour of the company or organisations lobbying for a particular interest; (known as ‘revolving door’); when public servants join private players serving the same sector; and when public regulatory bodies accept the evaluation done by companies produc-

ing genetically modified seeds calling their own products as “safe”.

With the growing abundance of Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in the public policy sector especially noted in the health and nutrition policies, involve complex relationships among various actors. Unless it is logically identified through objective tools and managed; it is likely to be overlooked compromising public interest in favour of ‘interested’ partners only to have negatively impact on public health. The RTI has revealed that several ministries in the center or state governments don't have any guidelines or rules to abide by for identification or managing conflicts of interest. Some States don't even understand what is it.

### **Is it not a clarion call for having such tools?**

While the Constitution of India, article 246, Schedule 7-List III -Concurrent List item 12, provides for oath; the Rajya Sabha's Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice, Government of India recommended that conflict of interest be included under bribery, and in July 2014, Prime Minister Narendra Modi also called for a law on conflict of interest, the issue remains to be addressed.

If there is Will, India can learn from Global Standards available for identifying and managing conflict of interest. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) provides guidance and tools to identify, prevent and manage conflicts of interest, and article 5.3 of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control guides on the protection of public health policies

with respect to tobacco control from commercial and other vested interests of the tobacco industry. These tools are useful. Let NITI Aayog develop it and ministry of personnel implement.

At the roundtable, declaration of interest and management of revolving doors was thought to urgent actions that Government of India should take with a focus on health and nutrition first. The group also recommended immediate notification for declaration / registration of interest at any government meetings of any sector, including meetings of the expert committees/working groups/task forces etc. set up by the governments or by others concerned. Every one should be made to declare. Let NITI take lead in development of a framework for reporting such situations. If there is conflict of interest, appropriate remedial action should be applied like recusal. Such a practice could change the way we govern. To be transparent, minutes of any meetings of the public servants with concerned players and private sector should be made public immediately through its web sites.

The group also thought that that conflicts of interest could be prevented through a longish cooling off period of 5 years, and recommended that ministry of personnel issues a ‘notification’ with immediate effect.

As a long term strategy, Government of India should finally bring a law in the Parliament to identify and manage conflicts of interest in policy development. □□

*Dr. Arun Gupta is an Indian paediatrician, coordinator of Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India & Regional Coordinator of International Baby Food Action Network (IBFAN), winners of the 1998 Right Livelihood Award (also known as the Alternative Nobel Prize)*

# US interests explain Trump Enigma



Within just 20 months in office, Donald Trump has done what no American president could even think of in two terms. And the US itself could not have, in two decades. Trump came to power on the slogan, 'Make America Great Again'. No one had a clue about what he would do to achieve it. Trump started showing the way forward—by using the power of America. Just a few examples. The third day after he was sworn in as president, he terminated the 12-nation Trans Pacific Partnership. On the seventh day, he banned the entry of all refugees from Syria into the US and travel into the US from seven Muslim countries. In June 2017, he announced America's withdrawal from the Paris

climate deal. He took on the traditional US allies—Europe and even neighbours Mexico and Canada—and embraced long-time adversary Russia. He imposed tariffs on steel and aluminium imported from Canada, Mexico and the EU.

Trump unveiled a travel ban on certain people from Iran, Libya, North Korea, Somalia, Syria, Venezuela and Yemen. He recognised Jerusalem as Israel's capital and decided to relocate the US embassy to that city. At the G-7 summit in June, he batted to reinstate Russia, which was suspended after it had annexed Crimea. The US president refused to endorse the traditional G7 communique and accused Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of making false statements at a post-Summit news conference. His threat to the Chinese to behave or face trade war and walking the tough talk; and his threat to North Korea to denuclearise or face destruction and getting Kim Jong Un to succumb, are some of the latest examples of Trump striding where angels fear to tread—and yet succeeding.



*Clearly, Donald Trump's presidency has changed America as its citizens knew it, and its ties with others, as the world knew it, perhaps forever.*

**S. Gurumurthy**

## 'Strong' and 'arrogant'

Clearly, Trump's presidency has changed America as its citizens knew it, and its ties with others, as the world knew it, perhaps forever. In a national survey to find the one word that describes him best, the responses appeared "chiefly driven by his personality and not by his policy or his ideology". While 3 percent called him "strong", another 3 percent called him "arrogant". While some chose to describe him as "great", "determined" and a "leader", others berated him as "egotistical", "idiot" and "narcissistic". The sharp division in opinion shows how Trump polarised America before and after his election.

His ascent to the presidency shook America, its allies, its competitors, its adversaries and the world at large. It continues to shake them 20 months into his presidency, more and more and not less and less. Not just China—the trade ad-

versary—even friends of the US like Canada and the European Union face his wrath. He accepts traditional rival Russia and alienates time-tested allies. He is at war with the liberals and the Left at home. His adversaries say under his watch, the USA (United States of America) has become the DSA (Divided States of America). While his adversaries thought he would be a disaster and wanted him to become one, he silenced them through sheer performance.

### Trump vs experts in 2016

Trump was written off by the US elite and the world a month ahead of the presidential elections. But he recovered. Liberals were terrified at even the remote possibility of his win. Economists, bankers, businessmen, media—all trusted experts in the US—converged and predicted the collapse of not only the US stock market but the world economy as well, if he won. In June 2016, five months ahead of the polls, Obama's chief economic adviser Larry Summers said, "Under Trump, I would expect a protracted recession to begin within 18 months. The damage would be felt far beyond the United States."

In August, Citigroup warned that "A Trump victory could cause a global recession." In October, The Washington Post said in an editorial, "A President Trump could destroy the world economy." Steve Rattner, an economics guru, said: "If Trump wins you will see a market crash of historic proportions, I think... The markets are terrified of him." Simon Johnson, an MIT economics professor, wrote, "Trump would likely cause the stock market to crash and plunge the world into recession." When Trump was seemingly winning and the markets

were plunging the day after the poll, Nobel Laureate in economics Paul Krugman said, "We are very probably looking at a global recession, with no end in sight." Even after he won, a headline in the UK's Independent in January 2017, read: "Donald Trump's first gift to the world will be another financial crisis." In the face of these catastrophic predictions, he promised 3.5 per cent growth, which few US presidents after Ronald Reagan could achieve.

### Performance pays

What was Trump's answer to all those who had predicted the collapse of the market? In one word: Performance. The US stock index rose by nearly 40 per cent in 22 months from November 2016, adding over \$6 trillion in wealth to investors. His tax breaks have benefitted as many as 75 million citizens. The dollar index rose 5.6 per cent from the election through December 28 and hit a 14-year high, according to a Forbes report last year.

Trump's promise of 3 per cent plus growth over his predecessor Obama's eight-year average of 1.6 per cent made economists and experts laugh at him. He achieved 2.6 per cent—two-thirds more than Obama in the first year. Leaving out the first quarter of 2017, when he had just taken over, the growth in the next nine months of 2017 was 3.3 per cent.

Yet, critics ridiculed him for failing to deliver on his promise. Trump retorted, "I'm sticking with my 3 per cent growth story... I'm predicting 3.5 per cent for the first half of 2018." And he did it by achieving 4.2 per cent growth in the second quarter of 2018! The US now adds more than 2,23,000

jobs in a month, unemployment rate is down to 3.8 per cent—a new 18-year low. Trump has fooled all experts.

### Bonus for India

Trump is a bonus for India. His sweetest tweet for India is about Pakistan. It read: "The United States has foolishly given Pakistan more than 33 billion dollars in aid over the last 15 years, and they have given us nothing but lies & deceit, thinking of our leaders as fools. They give safe haven to the terrorists we hunt in Afghanistan, with little help. No more".

In every meeting and on every occasion, the US president has been positive on India, calling it an emerging global power. In his own words, the Trump presidency has made Indo-US relations stronger than ever before. Yes, Trump is a friend of India, but not at the cost of his country—America. Trump's America is not an unmixed blessing for India. His H-1B visa policy hurts Indian business. His Iran sanctions prejudice the geopolitical and economic interests of India. He threatens duties on Indian exports that he thinks hurt the US. But the overall effect of Trump's policies is positive for India.

So, how does one explain the Trump enigma? Winston Churchill's radio broadcast in October 1939 offers a clue. Churchill said: "I cannot forecast to you the action of Russia. It is a riddle, wrapped in a mystery, inside an enigma; but perhaps there is a key. That key is Russian national interest." Substitute Trump for Russia that will describe Trump. All his actions are in America's interest alone. Others don't matter in his scheme of things. Like him or hate him, that's Trump for you. □□



## Rajan needs to reveal more, Are NPAs designed for privatizing banks?

The nation is in a quandary. It wants to know who is telling the reality of bank non-performing assets (NPA) –Raghuram Rajan, who functioned as RBI Governor from September 5, 2013 to September 4, 2016 or NITI Ayog vice chairman Rajiv Kumar. Rajan also held the position of chief economic advisor during 2012-13.

Rajan in a note to Parliament's Estimates Committee headed by Dr Murali Manohar Joshi said that banks' functioning during 2006-08 is responsible for the NPAs. Kumar pinned the blame squarely on Rajan's policies as central bank governor, his deleveraging of credit and slowdown in economy due to rising NPAs. "When this (NDA) government came into office, this figure was about 4 lakh crore. It rose to 10.5 lakh crore by the middle of 2017," Kumar added.

"Under Rajan, they had instituted new mechanisms to identify stressed assets and NPAs. This is why the banking sector stopped giving credit to the industry" says Kumar. It is good mud-slinging. People need to know. What Rajan is saying is contrary to what the Reserve Bank documents say. There was problem in 2005-06. The RBI found that it was due to unbridled disbursement of retail loans. It hit 33 banks to the tune of Rs 19,062 crore, peanuts compared to the today's figures of Rs 10 lakh crore.

In 2004-05, addition to gross NPAs of these banks - 26 public sector banks, five private sector banks and two foreign banks was Rs 17,756 crore. Fresh generation of NPAs in wholesale loans in 2005-06 was not large, as many bad and



*During 2009-10 the gross NPA ratio showed an increase to 2.39 percent. This was the beginning of the crisis that has become too grave now.*

**Shivaji Sarkar**



potentially bad accounts had gone through debt restructuring and the industry has, in general, been doing well for the last couple of years.

On March 31, 2006, addition to net NPAs for 2005-06 in absolute terms was Rs 10,248 crore for 31 banks, 16.18 per cent more than Rs 8,820 crore a year earlier. This was cited by RBI as decisions taken by the banks themselves.

The situation as per other reports started deteriorating post-2007-08 as the sub-prime crisis led to meltdown in the west. This was the time the UPA government started “incentivizing” the industry and opened up bank coffers for giving large loans. Many industries did not possibly need such largesse but nobody wanted to miss on it.

Too many loans were reportedly given to well-connected promoters with a history of default. It was aided by an inefficient loan recovery system. The correction process with the new bankruptcy law and other stringent measures were introduced recently by the Modi government. So the Economic Survey of 2016-17 (ES) pointed out that 50 large companies were responsible for the NPA. What was pointed out was that the biggest loan defaulters were power steel, road, infrastructure and textiles. This has led to hit a record high of Rs 9.5 lakh crore at the end of June 2017. Is it a coincidence that the record rise coincided with the term of Rajan?

The ES quoting Credit Suisse data says that the top ten stressed corporate groups owe Rs 7.52 lakh crore in 2016. It was Rs 45,400 crore in 2006. Total non-performing assets are estimated at about Rs 12 lakh crore, part of which has been restructured – repayment of-

ficially delayed. At least 13 of the public sector banks, says ES, accounting for approximately 40 percent of total loans are severely stressed.

Rajan also writes that he had written to the prime minister about the crisis. Good. He does not say which prime minister or when before 2014 or later. But on February 7, 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his speech on motion of thanks alleged that the middle men looted the banks during UPA regime. “The rising NPAs had dealt a deathly blow to the banks”.

The RBI working paper series 3 of February 7, 2014, when Rajan was governor, mentions the period 2001-2006, major part of Atal Behari Vajpayee’s NDA government was marked by a sharp decline in the growth of gross NPAs and was marked by rapid product innovations and increased financial deepening.

The paper states that after a sustained improvement, NPA ratio witnessed a steep increase from 0.2 per cent as at end-March 2011 to 8.2 per cent by June 2012 indicating repayment defaults, post-2007-08 when recklessly loans were distributed. Was Rajan referring to this period when he indicated political interference?

The RBI paper of November 8, 2010 marks 2008-09 as the crisis year. This was the period when lending increased but repayments slowed down. So NPAs, it says, reflected at 2.25 percent. “However, during 2009-10 the gross NPA ratio showed an increase to 2.39 percent”. This was the beginning of the crisis that has become too grave now.

Since 2012, when Rajan became chief economic advisor to

September 5, 2016, he was in a commanding situation. It is difficult to understand why he did not take steps to stem the NPAs or rising lending or suggest stringent measures.

Rajan, in 2007, was made chairman of a 12-member committee in Planning Commission. The committee submitted report on “Hundred plus steps”. Soon after this PM Manmohan Singh nominated him as his economic advisor in 2008. He could have done a favour if he had cautioned the government in 2007 itself. Instead what he suggested was to privatise the public sector banks. This had raised a storm in political and economic circles and the proposal was put off. But it raises another question - whether the process of making the banks sick was a part of a plan or not. The banking sector now is in crisis. It is all people’s deposits. Pessimism has gripped the sector. Deposits are coming down. Recapitalisation has a limit.

Rajan was told by Dr Joshi’s Estimates Committee to state the facts. What he has done appears to be a process of not stating the reality and lacks clarity. The way forward that a person like him should have given is still not clear.

The nation knows that the banking sector custodian of people’s money is in deep crisis. It has to come out of the grim situation so that the world’s engine of growth continues of purr and puff. Banks have to be nursed back to health. The diagnosis is known, the treatment has to be decided. One definite step is to have strong regulation – not political, less of rules, paper work and allow the banks to function business like without a dictat. □□

# Transforming the educational firmament



On the education beat, one recalls an overwhelming sense of fatigue while covering events in which India pledged, with obvious insincerity, to achieve the universal goals of education for all by year X, ad infinitum. No one wanted to address the known obstacles. First, the absence of adequate investment to build schools in every panchayat so that universal primary education, piously enshrined in the directive principles, could be achieved.

Second, the lack of political will to fix the rot that frustrated social development at grassroots level. States did not build schools in backward areas as powerful politicians and landowners did not want to lose the virtually

captive labour that worked on their farms to aspirations unleashed by education. In other places, a novel system of patronage saw schools built and party workers appointed as full-time teachers on Government salaries. They would serve the party and the political masters while a high school pass (if that) would be given a modest stipend to serve as proxy teacher.

This degradation of education produced the mass copying crises in some places, as unhappy students knew nothing on any subject. A corollary to this system was 'fixing' results; examiners knew that if the university revealed their names (always) and 'guests' landed up with 'requests' (always), they had to be 'adjusted'. The system collapsed when over-fixing made toppers out of students who should have failed in the normal course. Another fraud was adult education — later literacy classes conducted by NGOs among young adults. Yet one routinely encounters women in banks who request you to fill their forms — their literacy is limited to signing their names.

Then there are college teachers who routinely bunk classes. Perhaps they will now be tackled through compulsory retirement. A prominent university observed a strange omerta code for five decades — no minimum attendance was required to sit for the examinations. Teachers taught what they liked or knew and gave the marks. The university became famous for its revolutionary faculty and students, all of whom thrive on public funding. Naturally, the State did not wither away and it funded its own emasculation.

It has taken a non-elitist like Prime Minister Narendra Modi to challenge this entrenched orthodoxy. As a result, the Ministry of Human Resources Development (which should revert to Ministry of Education) has ushered in much needed changes at all levels of the system. The aim is to provide quality education to all, ensure teacher/school accountability, while ensuring that higher education, re-



*There has been an overwhelming sense of fatigue in achieving education-for-all. Now, with a non-elitist Prime Minister in office, the aim is to transcend literacy targets and meet contemporary needs.*  
**Sandhya Jain**



search and innovation are not neglected. It's a tall order. Nevertheless, meaningful steps have been taken to measure learning outcomes in each subject and class every year as a benchmark of teaching standards. Over the time it should take the emphasis away from marks and towards learning.

The Ministry supports reversing the no-detention policy which had made teachers and students negligent. States will, henceforth, conduct examinations at class V and VIII levels to assess learning. In possibly the world's largest National Assessment Survey, 22 lakh students (class III, V, VIII) and 15 lakh students (class X) were assessed to prepare district and State level profiles.

Serious efforts are also being made to reduce the curriculum load and make space for sports (now a growing career option) and other experiential activities. This is an urgent imperative as many schools still emphasise on exams and pass the burden of classroom projects to parents, making school life stressful for working mothers.

The Government plans to ensure adequate budgets for a library in every school. Steps are being taken to ensure uninterrupted education up to class XII for underprivileged rural girls, especially from deprived sections of society. Students are being encouraged to play with 3D printing, robotics and artificial intelligence – their nutritional needs, hygiene, special needs, such as ramps for access, are also being integrated into the system.

A Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) aims to replace the University Grants Commission (UGC), which since its inception in 1956, has focused more on financing than on main-

***Between 2014 and 2017, the Centrally-sponsored Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan had provided a Model Degree College to 60 educationally backward districts.***

taining standards in higher education, including research, scientific and technical institutions. However, the UGC Act mandated that the chairman, vice chairman, member secretary and other members must be professors of Central or State universities and not bureaucrats or owners of educational institutions (now a lucrative industry).

In the decades before and after Independence, rich men, who opened colleges followed State practices regarding fee, salary, curriculum, and even handed over the institutions to the State, and certainly did not expect to make money out of them. This scenario has changed drastically. Hence, the bureaucrat-heavy HECI must ensure the paramountcy of genuine educationists. Corporates invested in education must not be accommodated in this body. The move to allow closure of institutions shunned by students for lack of facilities and teaching staff is welcome.

Since 2014, as many as 171 institutions have been granted autonomy (total 653) and can restructure their courses and curriculum and introduce new frontier areas with employment potential. However, Central universities have at times offered new courses without developing adequate study

material. On no account should an institution be allowed to offer courses without providing access to learning materials, including for further research.

Between 2014 and 2017, the Centrally-sponsored Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan had provided a Model Degree College to 60 educationally backward districts. The colleges will have infrastructure facilities and they will also set standards for other colleges to emulate viz adequate classrooms, library, laboratory, faculty rooms, toilet blocks et al. The aim is to cover unserved and under-served districts and provide access to higher education to socially-deprived groups.

New initiatives are fostering the culture of innovation in higher education via Smart India Hackathon, grand and mini-challenges, idea competitions, and students are being invited to harness their creativity to tackle future challenges, including environment, economy, energy, water, food and security.

The Smart India Hackathon was organised in 2017 and 2018 to identify new and disruptive digital technology innovations. They yielded solutions for intelligent water level monitoring in bore wells; temperature control of motors; digitising ticket checking system in the Indian Railways for ticket checkers; a smart editor tool for fetching and editing information from scanned document (mainly image type); ambulance tracking system for 108 Services; an android app for safe driving; and many others. The goal of education for all now transcends dreary literacy targets to meet contemporary needs. □□

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

## Kerala wake-up call on growth and development



The images of floods and mudslides in Kerala, known as “God’s own country”, should be a wake-up call — we should ask ourselves if we are on a sustainable development path. In the 1970s deforestation was leading to landslides and floods in what is now Uttarakhand. The women of the mountains banded together as “Chipko” to stop the logging. I became a volunteer in the Chipko movement. After 1978’s devastating floods, the government realised that the small revenues it collected from extractive forestry in the fragile hills were insignificant in the context of the costs of flood destruction.

The Gadgil report on the Western Ghats established that deforestation of fragile catchments, building of too many dams, and construction in flood plains was a recipe for ecological disaster. Add to it climate extremes driven by climate change, and we have the disaster we are now seeing in Kerala.

Every ecological warning was ignored as governments of different parties share the religion of “development” and “growth”. These two words dominate the economic, political, social, cultural discourse. They are amoeba words that can be given whatever shape/meaning the speaker and listener assign to them.

Development is originally a biological, not an economic term. It refers to the auto-poetic evolution of a seed into a plant, an embryo into a person. It refers to self-organised, self-directed, self-evolutionary development. The structure of future forms of development is enfolded in the complex potential of living systems.

“Development” was genetically engineered into an economic/political concept on January 20, 1949 when US President Harry Truman, in his inaugural speech, declared the former Southern Hemisphere colonies drained of their wealth



*The world’s peasants, providing 72 per cent of its food, are defined as unproductive.*

**Dr. Vandana Shiva**

through colonisation as “underdeveloped areas” needed development, which became another term for recolonisation.

From its meaning as self-organised evolution, it became externally imposed economic systems to keep former colonies dependent on the empire, trapped in debt, sources of rents from interest repayments. In a meeting at Bretton Woods in 1944, two years after Mahatma Gandhi gave the “Quit India” call, new institutions like the World Bank and IMF were created to continue the colonial extraction and economic drain. “Development” became the new colonisation to legitimise displacement of tribals from their forests, and farmers from their land.

“Growth” too has its origins in the world of biology and life. Plants grow, children grow. Growth, like development, earlier referred to growth and flourishing of life. “Growth” as GDP was invented to mobilise resources for the war. The definition of growth was based on “if you produce what you consume, you don’t produce”. This was a global assault on local self-provisioning, self-reliant economies, like those for women’s sustenance.

Nature’s amazing cycles of renewal of water and nutrients are defined thus as non-production. The world’s peasants, providing 72 per cent of its food, are defined as unproductive. Women who do most of the work are defined as not working in this paradigm of “growth”.

GDP, or gross domestic product, emerged both as the most powerful number and dominant concept of our times. It is supposed to measure the wealth of

nations. Limitless growth is the fantasy of economists, businesses and politicians. It’s seen as a measure of wealth and progress.

It is repeatedly said that to remove poverty, we must have growth. The rich must become super-rich, millionaires become billionaires, so that “growth” can end poverty.

The increase of money flow via GDP is totally disassociated from real value, but those who accumulate financial resources can stake claim on people’s real resources: land and water, forests and seeds. “Hungry” money is predating on the last drop of water, and the last inch of land on the planet. This isn’t an end to poverty, but an end to human rights, justice and ecological security. People are made disposable in a world where money rules and the value of money had replaced human values that lead to sustainability, justice and human dignity.

What growth measures is the super-profits of the one per cent. What it fails to measure is destruction of life in nature and society. The poverty and exclusion of the 99 per cent from the economy of one per cent is linked to the growth paradigm. It’s said the cake must grow bigger so that it can be shared among a larger number. That’s how poverty will be removed in the fundamentalist religion of growth.

But the illusions substituting real wealth and real people are actually making the ecological/material cake shrink. Further, the shrinking cake is being poisoned by processes that create “growth”: another word for profits of the one per cent. A shrinking poisoned cake becomes a cause for increas-

ing poverty, inequality, disease. It’s not an answer to poverty, it’s the cause of both poverty and ecological destruction.

The processes that allow the one per cent to accumulate limitless wealth are those through which they grab resources and livelihoods of people, creating poverty. The creation of extreme poverty and accumulation of extreme wealth is a single interconnected process. England’s increase in wealth during colonialism was linked to the creation of poverty and famines in India. The concentration of wealth in the hands of the one per cent is linked to the planetary crisis, and the crisis of deepening hunger and poverty.

Economic growth hides the poverty it creates, both through destruction of nature, and nature’s ability to provide goods and services, as well as through destroying self-provisioning capacities of societies which Gandhi called “swadeshi”. The manipulation of the economy through GDP needs to be replaced by a development model for the well-being of all life and all people.

That’s why nations like Bhutan have adopted Gross National Happiness instead of Gross National Product to measure well-being. Economists like Joseph Stiglitz and Amartya Sen have admitted GDP doesn’t capture the human condition. Navdanya is working with Bhutan to make a transition to a 100 per cent organic Bhutan, as well as transition from GDP to Gross National Happiness as a measure of socio-economic well-being. Growing organic is growing happiness and well-being for the planet — for farmers as well as for everyone who eats. □□



# Reserve Bank of India and its performance



*RBI has achieved commendable targets by keeping inflation at 3.6 percent for the year 2017-18, improved credit delivery and promoted financial inclusion, strengthened sectors of financial market and successfully handled debt management.*

**Anil Javalekar**

**Reserve Bank of India** has the status as important as other institutions like Indian supreme court and Indian parliament though it is not that independent. RBI act more in coordination with Government and within the limits of policies prescribed by Government. This apart, RBI plays an important role in stabilising Indian financial system. To know more about RBI and its performance, one need to read RBI's annual report.

## RBI's Annual Report 2017-18

As is known, RBI deals with Monetary policy, Credit delivery and Financial inclusion, Financial markets and Foreign exchange management, Regulation, supervision and financial stability of financial system,

Public debt management, Currency management and Payment and settlement systems apart from doing related research and collecting statistics about Indian economy. RBI's annual Report 2017-18 concluded that 'The Indian economy exhibited resilience during 2017-18, with upturns in investment and construction. Inflation eased on a year-on-year basis in an environment characterised by high variability. In the evolution of monetary aggregates, currency in circulation surpassed its pre-demonetisation level while credit growth revived to double digits from a historic low in the previous year. Domestic financial markets were broadly stable, with rallies in equity markets and intermittent corrections, hardening bond yields, the rupee trading with a generally appreciating bias except towards the close of the year and ample liquidity in money markets. The implementation of GST achieved another important milestone towards an efficient indirect tax structure. On the external front, the current account deficit was comfortably financed with accretions to foreign exchange reserves'

## RBI's performance as per the AR 2017-18

**First**, RBI could keep inflation within the target of 4%. The inflation averaged 3.6 per cent for the year 2017-18. **Second**, RBI took initiatives to improve credit delivery and promote financial inclusion. Some of these initiatives were revision in guidelines on lending to the priority sectors with an emphasis on enhanced flow of credit to more employment intensive sectors, revamping of the Lead Bank Scheme (LBS) to ensure economic development of districts and adopting innovative approaches to financial literacy to bring more people under financial inclusion. Further, RBI implemented key recommendations of the Committee on Medium-Term Path on Financial Inclusion (2015) including launching of the CCCs (Certified Credit Counsellors) scheme in co-ordination with Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) for MSMEs, Business Correspondent (BC) registry portal and BC certification course.

**Third**, RBI made concerted efforts to strengthen various segments of the financial markets and used a variety of instruments to absorb the persisting sur-

plus liquidity in the system for ensuring better alignment of money market rates with the policy rate in order to achieve efficient transmission of monetary policy signals. It operated in both over-the-counter (OTC) and exchange traded currency derivatives (ETCD) segments to maintain orderly conditions in the forex market. Further rationalisation of regulations while maintaining a mechanism for effective monitoring of foreign exchange transactions was carried out during the year for facilitating cross-border flow of funds.

**Fourth,** The Indian banking sector continued to experience deterioration in asset quality, which had a significant impact on their profitability and their capacity to support credit growth. In response to mounting delinquent loans of banks, and in order to align the resolution process with the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016, the framework for resolution of stressed assets was revised, and the previous schemes were withdrawn. Further, the various processes and input constraints that were embedded in earlier regulatory schemes for restructuring were removed. In order to keep a close watch on financial stability risks, network analysis for the financial conglomerates in various market segments is proposed to be carried out to assess the systemic risks posed by these institutions. Given the increasing popularity of digital payments, data protection and cyber security norms were strengthened. Know Your Customer (KYC) norms were modulated further to make them more effective.

**Fifth,** the Reserve Bank successfully achieved the objectives of the debt management by ensuring

that the government's financing needs and its payment obligations were met at the lowest possible cost. **Sixth,** the focus of currency management during 2017-18 broadly remained on remonetisation, processing and reconciliation of SBNs (Specified Bank notes) received at the Reserve Bank from circulation.

**Seventh,** the Bank worked towards building up a robust and resilient technology infrastructure which ensured smooth functioning of the critical and systemically important payment and settlement systems in the country. **Eight,** the Reserve Bank, adopting various measures, strengthened its communication efforts further during the year which was also marked by the successful completion of the Financial Sector Assessment Programme (FSAP). Efforts were sustained towards improving research and statistics – both inside and outside the Reserve Bank – as also for providing better banking services to governments. Foreign exchange reserves were managed and guided by the consideration of safety, liquidity and returns. In order to ensure a robust legal framework for the banking and financial sector, a number of financial laws/bills were introduced/amended during the year.

### **RBI's Important agenda for 2018-19**

RBI's intermediate target will be the inflation forecast and the focus would be on a detailed assessment of the likely factors impinging upon the inflation outlook. The factors influencing inflation include the demand pressures arising because of strengthening of domestic growth impulses and the dynamics of crude oil prices apart

***Foreign exchange reserves were managed and guided by consideration of safety, liquidity and returns and ensured a legal framework as a number of financial laws/bills were introduced/amended.***

from the impact of increased MSP. The Reserve Bank proposes to prepare a framework for credit delivery to tenant farmers and strengthen BC Model by capacity building of BCs through the "Train the Trainers" programme. The integrity of the financial markets and eradication of market abuse continue to be high on RBI's agenda. RBI intend to continue its interventions in an effective manner to curb undue volatility in the exchange rate. RBI will continue to conduct macro-prudential surveillance, publish the FSR and will strengthen the framework / methodology for current stress testing to eventually migrate to the stressed scenario-based supervisory capital requirement for banks. RBI agenda propose to ensure that rural cooperative banks are adequately capitalized to meet any challenges and mitigate risks arising due to changes in the banking scenario. The supervisory action framework for UCBs, framed in 2014, will also be reviewed. In an endeavour to strengthen the cyber security posture of Indian banks, focused and theme-based IT examinations are planned during 2018-19.

### Overall RBI is doing well

RBI is one institution which Indian commons trust more not because of their dependence on RBI but because of its performance. RBI has performed well in most Indian financial crisis and for most period of Independence though RBI has its failures too. **First**, Indian economy is growing despite failure of monsoons, global collapses, weak infrastructure and corrupt governance and financial systems. Indian financial system remained comparatively stable during the global crises and has not faced liquidity problem nor seen run on banks. This is true even in current crisis of dwindling rupee value and high level of NPAs of Indian banks. RBI is instrumental to all this and deserve the credit.

**Second**, Reserve Bank's major energy has gone in controlling the Inflation, maintain stable supply of currency and keep its exchange value within reasonable limits. RBI has indeed done a good job in these areas of action. RBI has managed recent demonetisation wisely and replaced banned currency notes smoothly. Reserve bank played a great role in maintaining a stable and enough supply of currency all over India through all its financial systems even when many of the culprits run parallel system of black money and rackets of fake currency.

**Third**, Indian fiscal policies right from the beginning depended on borrowings and for many of recent years, Indian government has borrowed even for its governance expenses. Reserve bank helped government to get these funds either by monetising or by channelling Indian bank's funds for the purpose through various means.

**Fourth**, the new reformed financial system expanded beyond government sector and now include not just public, private and foreign banks or cooperative banks but asset managers, private equity, venture capital, individual and corporate investors, non-bank financial companies and public and private markets. The idea of universal banking has also reached India and financial institutions now provide not only extensive credit lines but also help raise capital in varied forms. RBI thus has not only implemented financial reforms successfully but regulated and supervised it for good.

**Fifth**, RBI is doing its maximum to take financial system to each one of Indian society. The financial inclusion, defined in whatever terms and achieved whatever little, would not have been possible without Reserve bank involving itself and directing financial system towards the end.

### Reserve bank has its failures too

**First**, with all its regulation and supervision, Reserve bank is unable to manage increasing trend of Non-performing assets of Indian banks, particularly of PSBs. High level of NPAs from Industrial class is a serious matter. More serious is the increasing number of wilful defaulters. **Second**, RBI is killing cooperative sector by introducing small private payment and deposit banks and converting cooperative banks in to commercial banks. Cooperative sector is still the best type organisation suitable to Indian society and has already reached to poorest of poor.

**Third**, RBI has widened the definition and scope of priority

sector that has accommodated large urban sectors and urban large borrowers marginalising unorganised rural sectors and small agrarian borrowers. **Fourth**, RBI has based Indian financial system on western model which is private, profit oriented and volatile. RBI has supported and facilitated Indian financial reforms mainly to Internationalise Indian financial system in the name of making it competitive and efficient as also large enough to serve the needs of growing Indian economy without giving due weightage to local factors and local requirements. Looking more towards developed countries and their systems and imitating their institutions can be termed as vision fault.

### The problem is with the approach to development

Reserve bank and Indian financial system alone are not responsible for development problems. Indian central and state governments are also equally responsible. It is the Indian Politico-bureaucratic preference for globalisation model of developed world that is failing Indian economy. It is their strategized approach of corporatizing every of small economic sector of Indian economy that is killing localised small entrepreneur led model of self-reliant economy. And it is political bureaucratic interference in PSBs functioning that caused their collapse. The need, therefore, is to revisit Indian development model and reevaluate the approach of imitating others apart from stopping Politico-bureaucratic interference in financial system. RBI need to be given importance and government need to take its advice seriously. □□

# Highest Europe Court Ruling Confirms Serious Risks of Gene-Edited Crops



At a time when more and more people in the world are becoming concerned about the serious health risks and numerous other adverse impacts of genetically modified (GM) crops and genetically modified organisms (GMOs), the enormously powerful billion dollar GMO multinationals have tried once again to introduce confusion and uncertainty in public mind by coming up with the concept of gene-edited crops and claiming that these should not be subject to the same restrictions as GM crops. However in July 2018 the highest court in Europe ruled that gene-edited crops should be subject to the same strict rules and regulations as GM crops.

Earlier a review of the legal and scientific facts surrounding this debate earlier by Dr. Janet Cotter and Dr. R. Steinbrecher (published in the Ecologist) had concluded, "It is clear that gene-edited crops and animals need to be assumed as GMOs in the same way as current GM crops." The court verdict is along similar lines. With gene editing researchers can add, delete or modify bits of an organism's genome. The European Court has said that any crops edited using CRISPR or other gene-editing techniques must abide by the same laws restricting the use of GMOs. More specifically the Court concluded it "considers that the risks linked to the use of these new mutagenesis techniques might prove to be similar to those that result from production and release of a GMO through trans-gensis, since the direct modification of the genetic material of an organism through mutagenesis makes it possible to obtain the same effects as the introduction of foreign gene into the organism (trans-gensis) and these new techniques make it possible to introduce genetically modified varieties at a rate out of all proportion to those resulting from the application of conventional methods of mutagenesis."

Welcoming the court verdict Franziska Achterberg, Greenpeace EU's food policy director said, "Releasing these new GMOs into the environment without proper safety measures is illegal and irresponsible, particularly given that gene editing can lead to unintended side-effects... The European Commission and the European governments must now ensure that all new GMOs are fully tested and labeled, and that any field trials are brought under GMO rules."

A spokesperson of Friends of the Earth said, "We applaud the European Court of Justice for this forward looking decision."

We may add that this will be also useful in countries like India where highly powerful and resourceful multinationals and their local agents are trying all sorts of deceit to somehow spread more and more GMOs. □□



*Releasing these new GMOs into the environment without proper safety measures is illegal and irresponsible, particularly given that gene editing can lead to unintended side-effects.*

**Bharat Dogra**

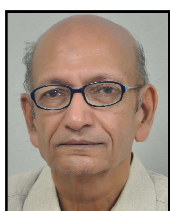


# Invest in technology to create jobs

America has become the global economic leader mainly on the strength of new technologies. Many of the path-breaking inventions in the last century has been made in America—with Government support. The atom bomb was made in the forties in midst of the Second World War. It led to the creation of nuclear technologies that made a decisive impact on electricity generation. The second invention was that of the internet. This was invented with support of the US Government. In turn, this led to the development of new products like routers where America has an edge even today. Companies like CISCO have conquered the global markets with these technologies. I understand that CISCO has got the largest ever order from Reliance Jio to supply routers for its emerging telecom network. The prowess of the American economy has been built on the support provided by the US Government to these inventions.

There have been periods of difficulty as well. The American economy faced a crisis in 2008. The reason was that few such path-breaking inventions took place in the first decade of this century. The result was that the American Multinational Companies (MNCs) did not have unique products that they could sell to the rest of the world at high prices and earn incomes from exports or royalties.

The absence of new technologies put the American economy at a disadvantage. They paid high wages to their workers. The cost of manufacturing a car, for example, was high in America. American auto makers like Ford and General Motors made investments in India to produce their cars with cheap Indian labour. Then they imported these cars in America. This situation was doubly beneficial for us. We got Foreign Investment from Ford and General Motors; and we got



*Innovative technologies like nuclear power, internet, robots and artificial intelligence with the support of the government have made America a great economy.*

**Dr. Bharat Jhunjunwala**



dollars from the export of cars to America. In the result capital fled from America to India; manufacturing shifted from America to India and exports rose from India to America. The basic competitiveness of an economy depended on two factors—high technology and cheap labour. The absence of new inventions eroded the competitive advantage of America which was built on new technologies. However, the competitive advantage of India held because it was built on the strength of cheap labour. As a result, we got good amounts of foreign investment and also we were to export our goods. Thus we remained largely unaffected by the American crisis of 2008. On the other hand, America lost investments and was flooded with cheap imports. This aggravated the crisis.

The situation has changed dramatically in the last few years. Robots have been invented that can undertake most repetitive works in manufacturing such as assembling cars. That has made it possible to manufacture the same goods with maybe one-tenth of the number of workers required previously. This has eroded the competitive advantage in manufacturing enjoyed by India till now. It has become profitable for American corporations to manufacture cars in America with robots because the number of workers required is few. This has led to the return of manufacturing to America. American MNCs are no longer finding it profitable to establish automobile factories in India for export of cars to America because the low wage in India is no longer relevant.

The invention of Artificial Intelligence has done the same in the services sector. It is now possible

***We need much less money to make the same inventions because the salaries of the scientists are much less in India.***

to undertake legal research with sophisticated software. I am told that large number of jobs were being created for our engineers in customizing complicated software. Now this work is being done by AI. Works like medical transcriptions and translations can possibly be done by computers. It is no longer necessary for American corporations to employ large numbers of engineers from India to provide these services. These technological developments will have a deep impact on India. The cost of production of goods in India and the cost of production of services by Indian engineers is no longer very less. In the result we are not likely to receive large amounts of foreign investment or increase our exports.

The problem does not stop here. If investing in India is not profitable for American corporations, then it is also not profitable for Indian corporations. There are indications that Indian businessmen are no longer interested in investing in India. They are more interested in investing abroad. The Prime Minister has himself expressed anguish that Indian businessmen are not investing in India. Exports are also down. Our trade balance is getting worse. We have not only lost the competitive advantage, America has moved towards protectionism. Thus, our

exports are doubly suffering. This tendency is only likely to get deeper in absence of development of new technologies in India.

We need a totally different strategy in this situation. The old formula of building our economy on the strength of cheap wages coupled with foreign investment will not work. The way forward is for us to make heavy investments in the inventions of new technologies just as America invested in the atom bomb and the internet. We have to invent new technologies and build our economy on the strength of these new products. Some of the new emerging areas where we can invest and invent are space travel, next generation of internet, genetics, big data processing and the like. We will be able to challenge the global economic supremacy of the United States with these inventions and become a global economic leader. In fact, we need much less money to make the same inventions because the salaries of the scientists are much less in India. The difficulty is that we do not have the big money to invest in such research. The solution is to cut down in other areas. For example, the Government has made available Rs 80,000 crores to enable the loss-making Public Sector Banks to survive. Instead, of putting money into these banks, the Government could sell them and earn 100 times the amount of Rs 80 lakh crores and use this money to invest in research. There is no future for the Indian economy unless we make such investments. The old strategy of building on cheap labour will not work. This is the challenge facing Prime Minister Modi. □□

*The author is formerly Professor of Economics at IIM Bengaluru.*

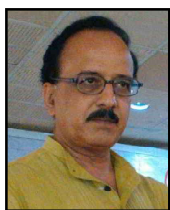
## Lack of mandis, funds may blunt PM-AASHA

Consider this: for nearly 40 years, the average price Indian farmers are getting for tomato is not much different. Adjusted for inflation, the price of tomato remains almost the same in 1978 and 2018, perhaps a little less. Reports of angry farmers dumping tomato onto the streets for failure to get a price that covers even the cost of cultivation have donned the media space for the past two consecutive years. As far as I can recall, reports of farmers feeding tomato to cattle or throwing it on the streets used to appear frequently in the newspaper even way back in the early 1980s.

In the absence of a truly national market, with restrictions on movement and open participation of traders, one can certainly say that an efficient market for agricultural commodities is still not a reality in India. Even if only six per cent farmers get the benefit of Minimum Support Price (MSP), which means the remaining 94 per cent are dependent on markets, the low prices of farm commodities are not a reflection of market efficiency. In that case, let's look at farm prices in the developed world that are competitive, bigger players operate with relative ease, and, where futures trading dominate thereby allowing for what is called as price discovery.

In a tweet, a Canadian farmer, Philip Shaw, who farms in Ontario province, quotes the corn price on September 12, 2018 at \$3.52 per bushel, which means a fall of 4 cents from what was traded in January this year. In the words of an American farmer: "The farmer who planted his first field of corn in 1974 can expect the same prices for his corn as he retires."

If markets were so efficient, I don't see any reason for the completely distorting price signals. If for 44 years, the markets fail to discover the real corn price



*PM-AASHA is an important step towards bridging income divide between the agricultural sector and other sectors of the economy. This is an acknowledgement that our farmers need a guaranteed income.*

**Devinder Sharma**

### PM आशा Scheme:

1. मूल्य समर्थन योजना (PSS)
2. मूल्य न्यूनता भुगतान योजना (PDPS)
3. निजी खरीद एवं स्टॉकिस्ट पायलट योजना (PPPS)

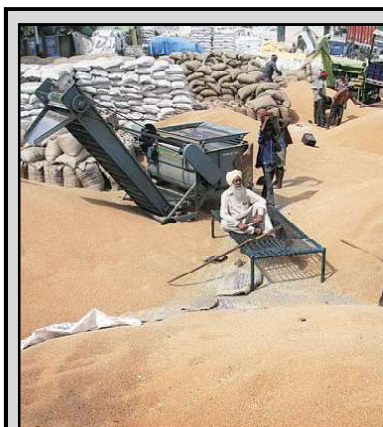


that a farmer needs to get, it is quite obvious that the markets are far from efficient. After all, as the American farmer said, all the while the prices of seed, land, equipment, fertiliser, and fuel have grown exponentially but the output price remains the same. Nothing can be more painful.

Dr Robert Johannson, Chief Economist of the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), stated explicitly: "Real farm prices, when indexed for inflation, have fallen sharply since 1960." Yes, you heard it right. This is happening in America. No wonder, to meet the market's inability to pay the farmer the rightful price, the US provides an average of \$ 50,000 per year as subsidy support to every farmer.

In India, a recent OECD study has conclusively stated that farm prices remained frozen for the past two decades. Farmers have been deliberately paid 15 per cent less all these years to keep food inflation under control. In the absence of any corresponding subsidy or direct farm income support, Indian farmers have been very conveniently left in the lurch. Hit by rising input prices, declining public investments in agriculture, and the increasing price volatility, farmers are the victims of an inefficient market. Yet, the dominant economic thinking is that the best way to address agrarian distress is to further liberate the markets, which will provide the right price signals. What is however not being acknowledged is that even in the US markets have failed to prop up agriculture.

As the kharif harvest season begins, prices of moong, urad, groundnut, bajra and jowar are already ruling much below the MSP.



***Govt. will push three schemes- continuation of the existing price support, expanding the price deficiency payments scheme and allow on a pilot basis private players in procurement operations.***

Take the case of moong. Against the procurement price of Rs 6,975 per quintal, the prevailing prices in the past week in Madhya Pradesh mandis hover between Rs 3,900 and Rs 4,400 per quintal. In Maharashtra, the best price offered is Rs 4,900 per quintal. In case of urad, against the MSP of Rs 5,600 per quintal, what the farmers have been able realise in Maharashtra mandis is anything between Rs 3,900 to Rs 4,200 per quintal. This is the beginning of the season and I wonder what will be the prices when the arrivals peak. But going by the past two years experience, when prices of pulses fell by 20 to 40 per cent in mandis across the country, there is hardly any expectation of prices going up this year.

At a time when markets have failed miserably to pull out farmers from perpetual indebtedness, the launch of Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA) has to be seen as an acknowledgement of the fact that farmers need a guaranteed income. The thinking behind assuring farm incomes alone is a significant step forward in bridging the great income divide that prevails in agriculture vis-a-vis other sectors of the economy. As part of the PM-AASHA initiative, the government

will in reality push three schemes, including the continuation of the existing price support scheme, and expanding the price deficiency payments scheme as tried out in Madhya Pradesh. The third scheme, and which needs critical evaluation, is to allow on a pilot basis private players in procurement operations, to begin with in oilseeds.

After announcing a higher MSP, even if it is much below what farmer unions have been demanding, the promise to buy 25 per cent of the entire marketable surplus can only be implemented successfully if an adequate market infrastructure is laid out. Against the requirement of 42,000 APMC mandis at 5 km radius, India only has about 7,600 mandis. While the mandi network has to be expanded, what is also needed is an appropriate financial back up to meet the price support.

The budgetary provision of Rs 15,053-crore that has been set aside for the next two years is far too low. If India Inc can be provided with an economic stimulus package of Rs 1,86,000-crore in 2008, and which has still not been withdrawn, I see no reason why a similar package by way of procurement prices cannot be announced for agriculture to begin with. □□



## The New Farm

Everyone in Edamelaiyur village in the Thiruvavur district of Tamil Nadu knows where Selvamani Valarmathi lives. This is unusual as most village women in India are known as someone's wife, daughter or mother. But Valarmathi's identity as a special woman farmer is established in the area. Valarmathi, 45, is one of those rare women farmers whose work is recognized by leading agricultural research institutions. She received a district-level award for being the best soya-grower in the area. The Tamil Nadu Rice Research Institute, near Kumbakonam (Thanjavur district), is full of praise for Valarmathi for having managed to obtain a very good yield of rice by trying out a new method of cultivation - the System of Rice Intensification (SRI).

The SRI method was evolved in Madagascar in the 1980s. In India, it was first tried out by the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University in 2001. The SRI method is being popularized by the government in states like Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. It is considered a more eco-friendly method of cultivation and its high yields can help the community overcome food insecurity.

Conventionally, rice seedlings are transplanted from a nursery after they are more than a month old. The seedlings are usually transplanted very close to each other, which causes intense competition amongst them for nutrients and other resources. In the SRI method, 14-day seedlings are transplanted leaving enough space between two seedlings. This allows each single plant to grow profusely. The SRI method does not require the purchase of new seeds or the use of new high-yielding varieties. Neither does it require chemical fertilizers or pesticides.

Also, conventionally, paddy (or rice plants) remains in water throughout the season. But new research says this method damages the roots and prevents the plant from growing to its full capacity. In the SRI method, farmers use 40-50 per cent less water for cultivation. We met Valarmathi in her rice field. She first tried the SRI method in September 2002 on an acre of land. The agricultural scientists in the state had heard about her expertise in farming and encouraged her to start



*The special woman farmer from Tamil Nadu, Selvamani Valarmathi has successfully obtained a very good yield of rice by SRI and established a model farm for the country.*  
**Kavitha Kuruganti**



using the SRI. She prepared the nursery herself and used material like gypsum and neem cake (made with neem seeds) to fertilize the land. She then transplanted very young seedlings, using very little water and spacing the seedlings well. That year, there were around 25 tillers (green shoots) per plant on an average. Conventionally, a plant does not get more than six tillers. The rice yield was around 7.5 tonnes per hectare, though the area does not report more than 3.5 tonnes per hectare.

“There was so much produce, that with one sweep of your sickle you could not harvest the whole plant - you had to cut each plant three to four times to cover all the grain,” she described.

In 2003, Valarmathi decided to try out the SRI method again, and this time on four acres of land. She followed the same procedures

and things went well enough for the first fortnight or so. Then, several things happened at once. Her husband, who is a road contractor and active in local politics, met with an accident and was hospitalized. Her daughter’s marriage also kept Valarmathi busy for a while. When she returned to her paddy field (after a gap), she was shocked. “I could not distinguish between the weeds and the main crop. Because of abundant weed growth, the rice plants had not grown well,” she says, regretting that she scaled up too fast.

The SRI method is Labour-intensive and requires skilful management: transplanting has to be done carefully and weeding has to be checked. Weeding takes place because of the space between seedlings. But despite the setback, male farmers were inspired by Valarmathi. Today, around 5 to 6 farmers follow the SRI method in the village.

Valarmathi is the only woman farmer in her village. Although the land is not in her name, Valarmathi takes all the decisions about farming. She started farming after marriage as her husband was too busy to take care of the land. Today she runs the whole show on her own - she knows officials in the local agriculture department by their names and designations, which is again rare amongst Indian farmers, leave alone women farmers. However, she says her responsibilities towards her husband and three daughters don’t give her the luxury to innovate that her male peers enjoy

Like several Indian farmers, Valarmathi is also running up agricultural debts. But she does not believe that committing suicide will solve anything. She is confident that she will survive. □□

<https://www.boloji.com/articles/6372/the-new-farm>

# SWADESHI PATRIKA

## *Voice of Real Economy*

**Dedicated to Swadeshi Movement in all its dimensions;  
Battles threats to the economic sovereignty of the nation; and  
Gives Voice to all sections of Economy**

**SUBSCRIBE AND/OR RENEW YOUR SUBSCRIPTION**

**FILL THE FORM AND SEND IT TO US : Medium : ..... (Hindi / English)**

**Name .....**

**Address.....**

**.....Contact No.....**

**City ..... Pin .....**

**YEARLY Rs. 150/-**

**LIFE Rs. 1500/-**

**Website: [www.swadeshionline.in](http://www.swadeshionline.in) Email: [swadeshipatrika@rediffmail.com](mailto:swadeshipatrika@rediffmail.com)**

For subscription please send payment by A/c payee Cheque/Demand Draft/Money Order in favour of  
**‘Swadeshi Patrika’** at New Delhi, , or Deposit the subscription amount in **Bank of India A/C No. 602510110002740,**  
**IFSC: BKID 0006025 (Ramakrishnapuram)**

Baghajatin – Jatindra Nath Mookerjee

## Immortal Heroes who offered their lives for Mother India and remained unknown

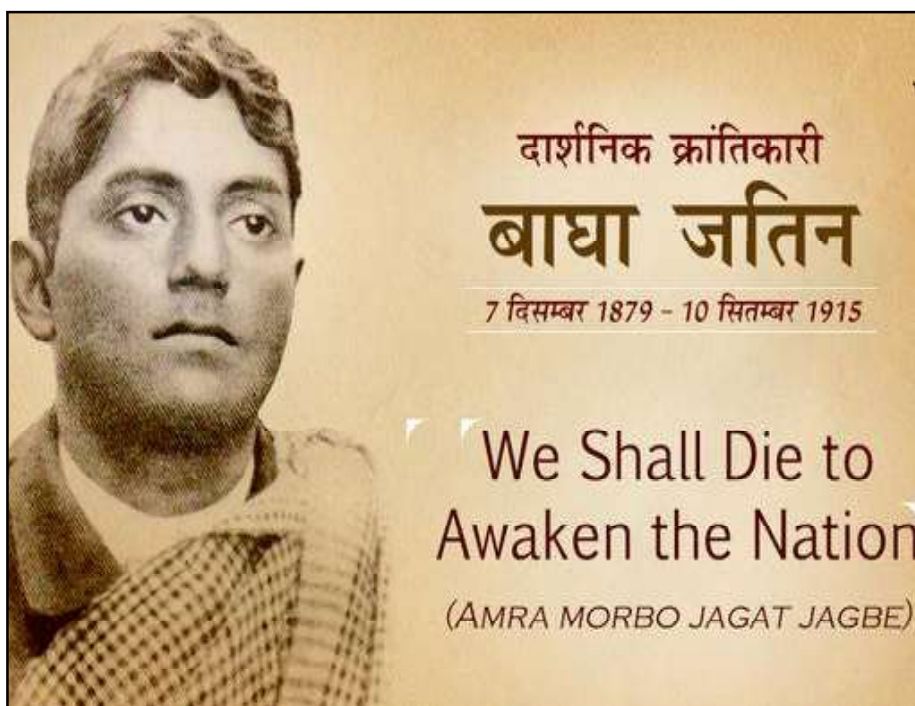
Jatin Mookerjee was a spiritual personality said Gandhi ji. Jatin was imprisoned in Howrah conspiracy case in 1911. He refused to remove rudrakhya from his neck and threatened jailor of dire consequence if he attempt to remove it. Master da or Surya Sen who declared independence of Chittagunj (now in Bangladesh) was in deep meditation before his hanging. These dare devil youths who declared, “tin of gun powder is mightier than tons of paper and not barking of dogs but roaring of lions” were inspired by Bhagavad Gita and Hindu saints like Bhola Nath Giri in case of Jatin and Vivekananda etc. Narendra Bhattacharya who went to USA changed his name MN Roy went to Russia and founded Communist Party of India at Tashkent in 1925. Being a genius he developed independent ideas and roadmap for India. His radical humanism and Radical Party did not toe Russian directions for which he was discarded by Indian communists.

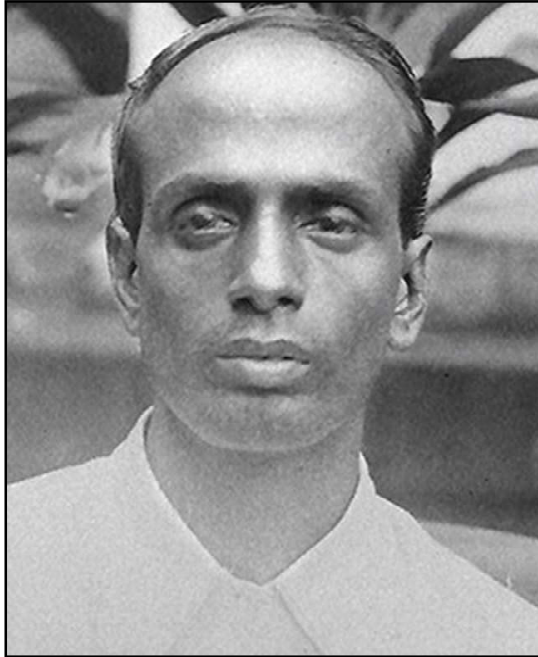
From Chapekar brothers (Pune 1882) to Subhash Chandra Bose (1943) the militant youth derived inspiration or for that matter their source of inspiration was Mother India. Never British police recovered from any revolutionary in India books or papers on, “dialectical materialism, Marxian literature on Russian revolution”. Rather such literature supplied to prisoners by the then govt. during World War-II when Russia was an ally of Britain.

Invoking mother India both militant and non-militant people joined freedom movement in India. Course of events reveal that Indian lacked national



*From Chapekar brothers, Bhagat Singh, Chandeshkar Azad, Surya Sen, Rashbehari Bose to Subhash Chandra Bose the galaxy of revolutionaries and their martyrdom should be repeatedly focused.*  
**Saroj Mitra**





**Surya Sen**

(27 March 1894 - 12 January 1934)

consciousness and national character. In 1757 after defeat of Siraj Udwalla in battle of Palasi due to betrayal of Army Chief Mirjaffer Robert Clive took out a victory procession towards Mursidabad the capital. Wrote Clive "on both sides of road thousands of peo-

ple were witnessing the procession led by handful of English soldiers and if they would have simply spitted the British empire would have washed out into Bay of Bangal".

Anusilan Samiti members were to take oath in front of Goddess Durga or Kali keeping sword over their heads and writing in their blood to fight against foreign rule to free mother India with a caution that if secrecy of their activities was revealed by them then they would face killing

by any one of their associates. Despite such rigorous training in majority of cases turn coats out of such organisations frustrated their moves by disclosing it to police. Netaji sent his emissary to Bengal to operate secret radio station of Azad Hind Fauz which was re-

vealed to police. In contrast no Englishman could be turned as informer for the cause of Indian freedom movement. Vivekananda told Sakhambari Deoskar of Anusilan Samiti in 2001 that he travelled all over India for five years to organise revolution and contacted Haren Maxim the arm manufacturer but situation was not conducive. Vivekananda further told that cadres of Brahmacharis would be created to arouse patriotism among people.

Thus while section

of youth indulged in violent activities to destabilise British regime others were engaged in mass movement undertaken by Gandhi ji till Quit India Movement of "do or die" in 1942.

Most cynical thing done after independence in 1947 was down grading sacrifices, heroism of these revolutionaries. British administration was feeling insecure in India as Indian army was influenced by Azad Hind Fauz of Netaji and exploring escape route to leave India causing maximum damage by partitioning it.

In 1956 Atlee the ex-prime Minister of England (1947) visited Kolkata where he was asked by Governor of West Bengal P.B. Chakravorty as to what made necessary for the British to leave India in a hurry since the Quit India Movement of Gandhi ji died out long before 1947?

Atlee replied that activities of Subhash Bose weakened the very foundation of attachment of the Indian land and naval forces to the British government. All these incidents were kept out of reach for common man. All we know is Gandhi ji, Nehru, Patel and a distant Netaji. From Chapekar brothers, Bhagat Singh, Chandrasekhar Azad, Surya Sen, Rashbehari Bose to Subhash Chandra Bose the galaxy of revolutionaries and their martyrdom should be repeatedly focused. □□

(RSS founder Dr. K.B. Hedgewar was an active member of revolutionary organisation called Anushilan Samiti where his name was changed as Coacan after taking oath of secrecy. He was associated with Shyam Sunder Chakravorty, Barindra Ghosh and Aurobindo. His activities not yet fully revealed.)

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



**Rashbehari Bose**

1886 - 1945



## RSS has initiated a new paradigm in the 'Culture of Discourse'

At times, the perception created about a group or organisation is a well-orchestrated polemic which gets built over decades, largely on rubrics of ideology. For a long time, Rashtriya Swayam Sevak Sangh (RSS), a social and cultural organisation relentlessly working towards nation building has been judged on certain pre-conceived notions. However, the body of work developed and sustained by the organisation and its affiliates through their volunteers (called swayamsevak) in various fields of national life in the post-independence era, has resulted in the ideological untouchability exhibited by its detractors losing moral ground. The three-day lecture series which was held at New Delhi by the Sarsanghchalak of RSS, Mohan Bhagwat, sharing the perspective of RSS on the 'Future of Bharat' has set a milestone in reviving the Indian tradition of 'Dialogue' among those who are either unacquainted or have ostensibly a difference of opinion with RSS.

Taking a lead in rendering an invitation to critics, supporters and non-aligned so as to put forth the viewpoint of Sangh on social, cultural issues and deliberate, respond to their doubts, queries; a new paradigm has been initiated in the 'Culture of Discourse' in our country.

Those who have had an uncomfortable kinship with the nationalist perspective are unable to counter an invitation to build fraternity. An organisation, which has never placed an advertisement to publicise its work finds the most assertive and vocal within the society taking note of it; some in affirmative some other-



*RSS under the leadership of Sarsanghachalak Dr. Mohan Bhagwat has set a milestone in reviving the Indian tradition of 'Dialogue' and a new paradigm of 'culture of discourse' in our country.*  
**Dr. Geeta Bhatt**



wise. Though this has been perceived by some as a PR exercise, many are oblivious of the munificence in the spirit and character of this organisation.

In some of the darkest periods of its existence, RSS has never resorted to a reactionary campaign. When Mahatma Gandhi was killed in 1948, the contemporaneous RSS Chief Madhav Sadashiv Golwalkar, popularly known as Guruji and many RSS workers were put in the jail. Many were questioned, detained on the pretext of investigation. When no substantive evidence surfaced, they were released after a year.

There was anger among the cadres over the false charges framed on RSS and many wanted to react to the ill-treatment meted out on them. Guruji narrated to them from Mahabharat, an instance where Kaurav brothers were being defeated by Gandharv kings in the forest. Though Pandava's were serving their exile period pronounced by the Kaurav brothers on them, Yudhishtira called upon his four brothers to help Kauravas. Yudhishtira said Vayam Panchadhikam Shatam, fighting among brothers (Kauravas and Pandavas) does not imply we do not help each other when attacked by an outsider. Guruji explained that when our tongue gets bitten in between our own teeth, we do not extract our teeth.

A similar incident can be recollected from the worst phase witnessed by our democracy, during the emergency. RSS was one of the first organisations to be banned during the emergency when nearly a lakh swayamsevaks were jailed including the RSS Chief Balasaheb Deoras. The atrocities inflicted on



***Swayamsevaks are an integral part of the social fabric of the country, contributing towards nation building, imparting the values imbibed in Shakhas in professional and social lives.***

the RSS workers during that time had gashed their self-respect. When they looked for a direction from Balasaheb, he told them to just 'forgive and forget'. Such magnanimity in thoughts, inherited from the tolerance in our culture speaks volumes about the values imparted by RSS in their daily shakhas.

The swayamsevaks are perceived by many as those who live a life in isolation, away from the mainstream. On the contrary, they are an integral part of the social fabric of the country; contributing towards nation building, imparting the values imbibed in shakhas in their professional and social lives. Many

among them have been the unsung heroes of India. One example is of the teenage swayamsevak Arjun Tirki who was a tribal student in the border village of West Bengal. When Pakistan army was moving forward to attack from present-day Bangladesh in 1971, Arjun who was playing near the BSF post was asked by the soldiers to rush and inform the nearest BSF camp. He participated along with the BSF soldiers in carrying grenades and other supplies before reinforcement arrived. Arjun Tirki laid down his life when shot by an enemy bullet. This Swayamsevak's memorial statue still stands tall near Raiganj.

This initiation of 'Samvad' by RSS with the civil society, political and social organisations has shed many myths about RSS like conservatism, orthodox work culture, women participation etc. Its moral probity, simplicity in discourse and bearing has already won hearts of many. Those shying away from this 'Culture of Discourse' need to overcome their insecurities and prejudice to accept the diversity in ideologies and work towards the prime cause of nation-building. □□

*(Writer is an Associate Professor at University of Delhi and Member, Academic Council, University of Delhi)*



## **Declaration on Conflicts of Interest in Public Policy**

11th September 2018, New Delhi.

We, the participants, individuals and organizations in various capacities such as law, economics, media, nutrition, anthropology, medicine, research, social work and human rights, public health, peoples movements, have come together at the at the Roundtable Conference of “Conflicts of Interest in Public Policy” organized by the ‘Swadeshi Jagaran Manch (SJM)’ and Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India (BPNI) having discussed the concepts, issues, and methods of preventing and managing conflicts of interest in public policies;

Recognize that there has been a global recommendation by the United Nations Convention against Corruption, which India is a signatory to, identifies conflicts of interest as a precursor to corruption; Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) provides guidance and tools to identify, prevent and manage conflicts of interest; article 5.3 of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control on the protection of public health policies with respect to tobacco control from commercial and other vested interests of the tobacco industry (ratified by Government of India ); and World Health Assembly resolutions on infant and young child nutrition urging State parties to prevent conflicts of interests in policy and programmes; and many countries including developed and developing countries have taken steps to develop certain mechanisms to prevent and detect conflict of interests;

Acknowledge that Constitution of India provides for oath under Article 246, Schedule 7-List III Concurrent List item 12; the Rajya Sabha’s Department-related Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice, Government of India in its 69th Report also recommended that conflict of interest be included under bribery (15 A); and in July 2014, Prime Minister Narendra Modi called for a law on conflict of interest;

Note that Conflicts of Interest can be institutional or personal and with the growing abundance of Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in the public policy sector especially noted in the health and nutrition policies, involve complex relationships among the government actors and ‘interested’ partners;

Alarmed that situations of conflicts of interest in health and nutrition policies can have a negative impact on public health or the economy;

Concerned that the Government of India has not taken any serious action in this direction;

We therefore recommend the following in public interest:

1. Government of India and State governments should issue a notification for declaration of interests by all participants in all official meetings/related bodies/expert committees etc.
2. Government of India should issue guidelines on identifying and managing conflicts of interest.
3. Formulate and implement tools to identify and manage conflicts of interest in public policy/programmes with the use tools including those suggested by OECD and WHO.
4. Enact a legal framework to prevent and manage conflicts of interest

□□



## **SJM alarmed by conflicts of interest in public policy, demands govt issue guidelines**

Swadeshi Jagran Manch on Tuesday said it has demanded that the Centre should issue guidelines on identifying and managing conflicts of interest in policy making, especially in the health sector.

“Alarmed” that the situations of conflicts of interest in health and nutrition policies can have a negative impact on public health or the economy, it said the Centre “has not taken any serious action” in this direction.

“The government and state governments should issue a notification for declaration of interests by all participants in all official meetings, related bodies, expert committees. The Centre should issue guidelines on identifying and managing conflicts of interest,” Ashwani Mahajan, the co-convenor of the SJM, said in a statement.

It has also asked the Centre to formulate and implement tools to identify and manage conflicts of interest in public policy, programmes with the use of tools, including those suggested by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development and World Health Organisation (WHO).

<https://www.firstpost.com/india/rss-affiliated-swadeshi-jagran-manch-alarmed-by-conflicts-of-interest-in-public-policy-demands-govt-issue-guidelines-5166851.html>

## **SJM on MSMEs' Definition**

The bill to re-define Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) on turnover basis has been reportedly opposed by various political parties as well as some trade bodies related with MSMEs including Rashtriya Swyamsevak Sangh (RSS) and Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM). Speaking to KNN India, Co-convenor of SJM, Ashwini Mahajan said if this bill is enacted, MSMEs will lose their distinct identity as the turnover amount is very high.

“No-where in the world, turnover is sole criteria to define MSMEs,” he added. He said that it is ironical that the country like India where small scale provides a lot of employment is being discouraged. Schemes like Make in India or inclusive growth, self-employment and more are also not encouraged through this bill, he said.

The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha during the monsoon session. Only two more sessions remain for the current House, its life is till the term of



the 15th Lok Sabha. If the government does not get the Bill passed during the next two sessions, it will automatically lapse.

The MSME Development (Amendment) Bill, 2018, prescribes any business with a turnover of up to 5 crore will be considered a ‘micro enterprise’. The other slabs are 5-75 crore for ‘small enterprise’ and 75-250 crore for ‘medium enterprise.’

At present, there are two sets of definitions, depending on whether the units produce goods or services. Under the goods category, the slabs are up to 25 lakh for micro, 25 lakh to 5 crore for small and 5-10 crore for medium. In the case of services, the slabs are: up to 10 lakh, 10 lakh to 2 crore and 2-5 crore.

The Bill’s statement of objects and reasons said, “It has been felt necessary to change the criteria for the classification in order to align it with the needs of the current times and changing business ecosystem.”

The statement also said the criterion of investment entails physical verification, bringing with it transaction costs. It also incentivizes promoters to keep the investment size small to retain the MSME tag.

“Overall, the turnover based classification will promote the ease of doing business and will put in place a non-discretionary, transparent and objective classification system,” the statement read.

<https://knnindia.co.in/news/newsdetails/msme/if-bill-to-re-define-msmes-is-passed-msmes-will-lose-their-distinct-identity-sjm-to-knn-india>

## **Modi & Macron selected for UN's highest environmental award**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron are selected for this year’s ‘Champions of the Earth’ award - UN’s highest environmental honour. Both of them are selected in the Policy Leadership category for their pioneering work in championing the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and promoting new areas of levels of cooperation on environmental action, said the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).





India and France had together launched the ISA on sidelines of the UN climate conference (COP21) in Paris in 2015. The ISA is an inter-governmental body of solar rich nations whose objective is to galvanise actions for increasing solar power footprints in 121 potential member countries across the globe. The ISA is headquartered in Gurugram near New Delhi in India.

India's Cochin International Airport - the world's first fully solar-powered airport - is also selected for the award. It is selected in the Entrepreneurial Vision category for its leadership in the use of sustainable energy. The UNEP while announcing the award noted Macron's work on the Global Pact for the Environment and Modi's "unprecedented pledge" to eliminate all single-use plastic in India by 2022.

The annual 'Champions of the Earth' prize is awarded to outstanding leaders from government, civil society and the private sector whose actions have had a positive impact on the environment.

Total 84 persons and organisations – ranging from leaders of nations to grassroots activists – in the categories of policy, science, business and civil society have, so far, been honoured with this UN Environmental awards in the past 13 years.

Past recipients of the award include Afroz Shah, who led the world's largest beach cleanup (2016), Rwandan President Paul Kagame (2016), former US Vice-President Al Gore (2007), Ocean Cleanup CEO Boyan Slat (2014), scientist-explorer Bertrand Piccard, and developer of Google Earth Brian McClendon (2013).

The 'Champions of the Earth' are organised in partnership with Weibo – China's leading social media outlet. Other winners of the 2018 'Champions of the Earth' awards include Joan Carling (lifetime achievement award) for her work as one of the world's most prominent defenders of environmental and indigenous rights; Beyond Meat and Impossible Foods (jointly recognised in the Science and Innovation category) for their revolutionary development of a popu-

lar, plant-based alternative to beef, and for their efforts to educate consumers about environmentally conscious alternatives and China's Zhejiang's Green Rural Revival Programme for inspiration and action for the transformation of a once heavily polluted area of rivers and streams in East China's Zhejiang province.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/environment/the-good-earth/narendra-modi-emmanuel-macron-selected-for-uns-highest-environmental-award/articleshow/65972653.cms>

## Wealth of richest 831 Indians equal to quarter of GDP: Report

At a time when policymakers are grappling on how to reduce inequalities, a wealth report on Tuesday revealed that there has been a 34 per cent increase in the number of Indians having a net worth of Rs 1,000 crore or more. These individuals collectively own \$719 billion, which is about a quarter of the nation's GDP. Led by Reliance Industries chairman Mukesh Ambani with a net worth of Rs 3.71 trillion, there were 831 Indians with a net worth of Rs 1,000 crore or more in 2018, which is 214 individuals more than the 2017 list, according to a Barclays-Hurun India rich list.

A January 2018 report presented by Oxfam at the World Economic Forum had expressed concern on the rising inequalities, stating that 1 per cent of the country's population holds 73 per cent of the wealth.

Mumbai, the financial capital, which presents stark contrasts like housing the largest slums in the continent as also costliest mansions like Ambani's Antilla, has the highest number of contribution to the rich list at 233, followed by the national capital at 163 and Bengaluru at 70.

Anas Rahman Junaaid, managing director and chief researcher at Hurun India, says the country is the fastest growing when it comes to people entering the rich list.

"The number of Rs 1,000 crore-plus wealthy Indians have nearly doubled in the past two years - from 339 in 2016 to 831 in 2018," he said. From a demographic perspective, the average age in the list is



60, with 24-year-old Ritesh Agarwal of Oravel Stays, which runs Oyo Rooms, being the youngest and 95-year-old Dharam Pal Gulati of the masala brand MDH being the eldest. There was a massive 157 per cent spike in the number of women in the list, which grew to 136. Pharma sector promoters/executives dominate the list with a 13.7 per cent occupancy, followed by software and services at 7.9 per cent and fast moving consumer goods at 6.4 per cent.

Nine individuals in the list saw a doubling of wealth in 2018, with Krishna Kumar Bangur of Graphite India being the biggest gainer with a 430 per cent jump in his personal fortunes.

[https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/richest-831-indians-collectively-own-a-quarter-of-gdp-report/articleshow/65955083.cms?utm\\_campaign=andapp&utm\\_medium=referral&utm\\_source=native\\_share\\_tray](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/richest-831-indians-collectively-own-a-quarter-of-gdp-report/articleshow/65955083.cms?utm_campaign=andapp&utm_medium=referral&utm_source=native_share_tray)

## Govt. Hikes Basic Customs Duty On 19 Items To Curb Imports

India will increase the import duty on 19 items, including air conditioners and washing machines, in an attempt to curb imports that would help in bridging the widening current account deficit and reduce pressure on the rupee. The increase in rates of basic customs duty will be effective from midnight today, according to a statement by the Finance Ministry. The total value of imports of these items in 2017-18 was about Rs 86,000 crore.

Import duty on air conditioners, refrigerators and washing machines under 10-kilogram capacity has been doubled to 20 percent each from 10 percent earlier. The basic customs duty on radial tyres is now 15 percent compared with 10 percent earlier, while the levy has been hiked to 25 percent from 10 percent on footwear. The government also introduced an import levy of 5 percent on the aviation turbine fuel.

A higher oil import bill along with strong growth in non-oil non-gold imports have led to a wider trade deficit for India. While export growth has picked up in recent months, it has remained below the rate of growth of imports, leading to a widening of the trade



gap. The merchandise trade deficit in the April-August 2018 period stood at \$80.35 billion compared to \$67.27 billion in the same period last.

<https://www.bloomberquint.com/business/2018/09/26/government-hikes-basic-customs-duty-on-19-items-to-curb-imports#gs.jRnAHw4>

## A committee to run MCI till new legislation comes into place:FM



The government has finally kicked off restructuring of the contentious Medical Council of India (MCI). Without waiting for Parliament's nod to a bill seeking replacement of the scam tainted medical education body, the government on Wednesday issued the Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Ordinance, 2018, setting up a committee to run MCI. While the National Medical Commission (NMC) Bill 2017 that seeks to overhaul the medical education system in India and replace MCI is yet to be enacted by Parliament, the term of MCI's elected body members ends soon.

As the government believed that the passage of the NMC Bill is likely to take some time, immediate steps were needed to be taken, said aware of the developments. Thus, an ordinance to supersede MCI was promulgated and the powers of the council have been vested in a board of governors (BoG).

"The ordinance was cleared by the Union cabinet this morning and the President has now given his assent. Since the term of the elected body of the MCI is ending shortly, a need was felt to run it by a committee to run its affairs. Now, the government has appointed the BoG in supersession of MCI," Union finance minister Arun Jaitley said. "All members of the committee will be professionals of great eminence," he said. With the ordinance coming into force, the powers of MCI switched from the elective council body to the BoG headed by V.K. Paul, member, NITI Aayog. The BoG will continue to perform till a council is constituted in line with the provisions of the Act in one year.

The board members include Randeep Guleria, director, All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi, Jagat Ram, director, Postgraduate

Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh, B.N. Gangadhar, director, National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS), Bengaluru, Nikhil Tandon, professor, department of endocrinology and metabolism, AIIMS, New Delhi, S. Venkatesh, directorate general of health services (DGHS) and Balram Bhargava, secretary, department of health research (DHR) and the director general of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) will be the ex-officio members.

“All the BoG members are eminently qualified and apolitical. It is expected that the BoG will bring about urgent and much required reforms in the field of medical education and promote access to quality healthcare for all the people of India,” the ministry of health and family welfare said.

“We had our first meeting. We discussed several things focusing on how to transform the medical education in the country. There are several areas which need immediate attention,” Paul said.

Amid allegations of corruption against MCI office bearers and probes into opaque accreditation to medical colleges, the Supreme Court had in May 2016 directed the government to set up an oversight committee with the authority to oversee all statutory functions of MCI till the new legislation comes in. Many MCI members have been accused of taking bribes to fast-track accreditation. In 2017, another oversight committee was set up with the approval of the apex court after expiry of the one-year term of the first panel. The second committee was chaired by Paul. The other members of the panel included doctors from AIIMS (Delhi), PGI Chandigarh and NIMHANS. In July 2018, the committee resigned citing instances of “non-compliance of their instructions by MCI”. The government has been pushing the NMC Bill amid resistance from Indian Medical Association and other sections.

The government claims that the Bill provides for simplification of procedures and is expected to spur rapid growth in the number of Under Graduate (UG) and Post Graduate (PG) seats in the country besides enhancing the governance and quality of medical education. The NMC Bill provides for distribution of functions among four autonomous boards whose members would be persons of proven ability selected through a transparent process.

<https://www.livemint.com/Politics/kaesiN8N1KjW/CsrocXDPAYK/A-committee-to-run-MCI-till-new-legislation-comes-into-place.html>

## NDA's big bang Modicare is on



Prime Minister Narendra Modi today launched the world's largest health assurance scheme, PM Jan Aarogya Yojana (PMJAY), from Ranchi, to cover 40 per cent of the national population. The scheme, one of the two pillars of NDA government's Ayushman Bharat Mission (the other being the creation of 1.5 lakh village-level health and wellness centres) will provide financial cover of Rs 5 lakh annually for hospitalisation care to 10.74 crore poor and vulnerable families enlisted in the Central Socio Economic Caste Census (SECC). The scheme will cover costs for secondary and tertiary healthcare of beneficiaries, while primary care will be provided to people at the health and wellness centres being established in villages, close to the community.

Launching the scheme on the birthday of national poet Ramdhari Singh Dinkar, and ahead of the birth anniversary of RSS ideologue Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyay, the PM said, “PMJAY will provide health assurance to the last man in the line and will offer Rs 5 lakh cover per family per year benefitting over 50 crore people. This is the world's biggest health assurance scheme. The number of beneficiaries nearly equals the population of the European Union, or the population of the US, Canada and Mexico, taken together.”

The scheme will roll out in over 400 districts today with the Ministry of Health having already identified beneficiaries in these areas through gram sabhas earlier. “Each beneficiary family has been sent letters containing QR codes. Once any family member needs medical care, they just have to go to a nearby hospital with the letter and any identification card, show it to an Ayushman Mitra which every hospital will deploy and proceed to get medical care and hospitalization. Anti fraud mechanisms have been created to deter hospitals from cheating patients or staking exaggerated claims,” CEO, Ayushman Bharat Mission Indu Bhushan says.



- Angioplasty Rs 65,000 (costs around Rs 2 lakh in pvt hospitals)
- Knee replacement Rs 80,000 (current cost Rs 3.5 lakh)
- C-section: Rs 9,000 (current cost around Rs 1.5 lakh)
- Bypass surgery: Rs 1.7 lakh (as against Rs 4 lakh)
- Stents & cervical surgery: Rs 20,000 (as against Rs 1 lakh today)
- Bone tumour surgery Rs 2.35 lakh (costs double today)
- Acute leukemia surgery in kids Rs 1.2 lakh (costs three times today)

Room, bed charges, nursing care, diagnostics, procedure cost and physician fee; consultation and diagnostics pre hospitalisation; two-week medicine, patient food, stitch removal, follow-up consultancy for two weeks post discharge

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/nation/nda-s-big-bang-modicare-is-on/657938.html>

## Overseas companies want a say in India's ecommerce policy

Foreign firms that were left out in the initial round of discussions on the ecommerce policy have approached the government, requesting they too be consulted by the committee of secretaries reviewing the draft rules. The government had earlier invited ecommerce and Internet companies with Indian-led promoters to be part of the task force that deliberated on the draft policy released in July, and kept the foreign players out. The committee of secretaries held its first meeting last week. Industry bodies such as US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) have sent formal representations to the ministry of commerce and industry to be included in drafting of the ecommerce bill. USISPF chief executive Mukesh Aghi told ET that ecommerce companies that were global or funded by foreign institutional capital were central to growth of the sector.

“Despite their large contribution of more than \$10 billion to growth of India's ecommerce sector, the government has not involved some key companies in the formal process of drafting the policy,” said Aghi. “USISPF has reached out to the ministry of commerce to be formally included in drafting the ecommerce bill in India and to contribute as a thoughtful participant in the process,” he added.

The government formed the committee of secretaries, chaired by the secretary in the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, after the draft ecommerce policy received a lot of flak over proposed provisions that were seen by some players as

restrictive. Other members of the group are secretaries of the ministry of electronics and IT and department of commerce, as well as representatives of the Niti Aayog and the Department of Economic Affairs. The committee is open to feedback and comments from all companies including foreign ones, one of its members told ET, requesting anonymity.

“It's a democratic country and all companies are welcome to give feedback. Even in the last round, foreign companies were represented through bodies such as Nasscom,” he said. The industry, however, wants a deeper engagement this time. Nisha Biswal, president of USIndia Business Council, told ET the body was willing to work with the Indian government to find solutions to the government's concerns without imposing unnecessary and burdensome regulations.

“We are concerned that recent draft policies under discussion would call for forced localisation and other measures that restrict data flows. These policies, if adopted, will neither enhance privacy nor security, and will ultimately reduce trade, investment, and technology exchange between our nations,” said Biswal.

Main concerns raised by the industry include provisions which make it compulsory for ecommerce firms to store in India all data generated by local users, restrictions on bulk purchase of branded goods such as electronic products (especially mobile phones), white goods, branded fashion by related party sellers and prohibition of competitive prices and discounts.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/retail/overseas-companies-want-a-say-in-indias-ecommerce-policy/articleshow/65905941.cms>

## Swiss NGO links pesticide to Indian farmer deaths, calls for export ban



The Swiss NGO Public Eye called Tuesday for an export ban on the pesticide Polo, produced by agriculture giant Syngenta, implicating it in the death of 20 Indian farmers last year. Syngenta, bought by ChemChina for \$43 billion in 2017 in China's largest-ever foreign takeover, has rejected the allegations by Public Eye. “There is absolutely no evidence to suggest that Syngenta's product Polo was at all responsible for the incidents that have occurred,” the company said in a statement.

Last September, officials in the western Indian



state of Maharashtra reported that 20 farmers had died and hundreds of others were in hospital after inhaling poisonous pesticides while spraying crops. After visiting the affected Yavatmal region and interviewing farmers and their relatives, Public Eye said there was strong evidence that Polo — specifically its active agent diafenthiuron — was responsible for the poisoning. Public Eye noted that while the evidence was not conclusive, the spraying of Polo was a common link among those who died or fell sick.

The NGO also said farmers in Yavatmal likely inhaled excessive amounts of the insecticide last year as cotton plants grew higher than normal, forcing them to spray closer to their mouths. Officials in Maharashtra reportedly opened a criminal investigation targeting Syngenta over the deaths, but the status of the probe is not known. The European Union banned diafenthiuron in 2002. The Swiss government pulled it from the market in 2009 “for reasons of health or environmental protection”, according to official documents. Syngenta branded Public Eye’s allegations “salacious and incorrect”. In response to the spate of deaths and illnesses, the company said it “conducted stewardship programmes in the district and adjoining regions, conducted doctor training programmes and established mobile health clinics to support treatment of farmers who may have been affected.”

Syngenta noted that Polo “has been successfully and safely used by Indian Farmers across the country for the last 14 years,” and that diafenthiuron is registered in 25 countries worldwide. While diafenthiuron cannot be used in Switzerland, it is produced in Monthey, in the Valais canton. Under current Swiss law, Syngenta has to inform the federal government about its diafenthiuron exports, including quantities and destination countries.

Bern is then responsible for informing the recipient countries, so they are aware of the risks. Public Eye says this does not go far enough and that companies based in Switzerland should be barred from exporting products deemed unsafe for Swiss people. “The Swiss authorities must put an end to this policy of double standards,” the NGO said. It urged backing for a motion introduced by federal lawmaker Lisa Mazzone calling for the prohibition of “the export of pesticides whose use has been banned in Switzerland due to their effects on human health or the environment.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/swiss-ngo-links-pesticide-to-indian-farmer-deaths-calls-for-export-ban-118091801195\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/swiss-ngo-links-pesticide-to-indian-farmer-deaths-calls-for-export-ban-118091801195_1.html)

## Cow Urine, Dung-Based Soaps And Face Packs Soon A Click Away On Amazon



Soaps, face packs, shampoos and medicinal products made from cow urine and dung may soon be just a click away as an RSS-backed centre says it is set to sell these on e-commerce major Amazon India. Deen Dayal Dham, a centre run by the RSS in Farah town of Mathura in Uttar Pradesh, will first put up a dozen products related to health, beauty and apparel on the website for sale, a manager at the centre said.

“We had a discussion about this with Amazon a few days ago. After a week or so, advertisements of our products will reflect on Amazon’s website and people will be able to order our products through it,” said Ghanshyam Gupta.

“As soon as an order is placed on Amazon, the website will inform us and accordingly, the goods will be dispatched from our centre here,” he said.

Mr Gupta, who has been associated with Deen Dayal Dham for more than two decades, said women living in nearby villages are working with Deen Dayal Kamdhenu Gaushala pharmacy. The pharmacy makes products like Ghanvati, used for treatment of general fever and building immunity, panchvagya churn and chayawanprash. The tailoring unit of the centre creates various styles of kurtas, some of them popularised by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Mr Gupta said.

“Amazon’s courier service is currently not available here. So we have signed an agreement with the Indian Postal Department and it has ensured that the products will be delivered within 10 days,” he added. □□

<https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/cow-urine-dung-based-soaps-face-packs-from-deen-dayal-dham-soon-a-click-away-on-amazon-1920667>

## Swadeshi Activities

## Seminar on Employment - Problems & Solutions (Yamuna Nagar, Haryana)

### Pictorial Glimpses



Swadeshi Saptah - Saharsha (Bihar)



Swadeshi Vikas Model & Ekataam Manavdarshan  
BHU (Kashi)



Sh. Nimbaramji addressing the participants in Swadeshi Zila Sammelan at Churu (Rajasthan)



Sh. Satish Kumar attended the prant meeting at Indore (MP)





## Swadeshi Activities Delhi Prant Sammelan

(30 September 2018, Delhi)

Pictorial Glimpses



## Prant Vichar Varga

(15-16 September 2018, Pushkar-Ajmer (Rajasthan))

Pictorial Glimpses



## Vibhag Vichar Varga

(23 September 2018, Ganjam, Odisha)

Pictorial Glimpses

