

Swadeshi

PATRIKA

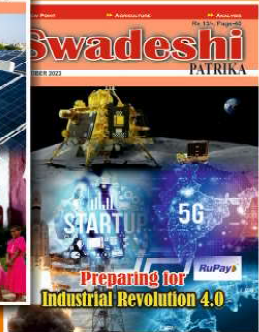
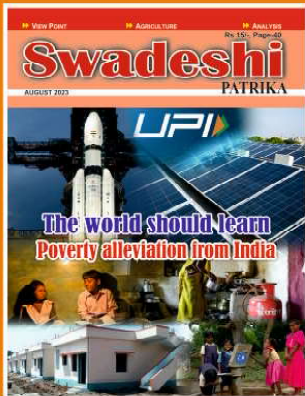
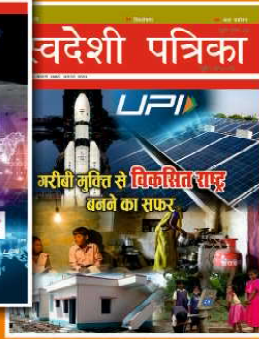
NOVEMBER 2023



Is Global Hunger Report A Conspiracy?

Swadeshi Patrika wishes its readers,
writers, contributors and entire Swadeshi Family

Shubh DEEPAWALI



VOICE OF

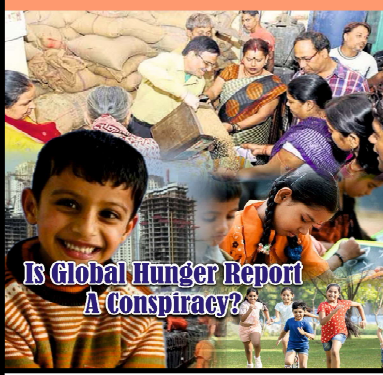
SELF RELIANT INDIA

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Patrika

स्वदेशी
पत्रिका

पढ़ें और
पढ़ायें

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EDITOR
Ajeay Bharti

ASSOCIATE-EDITOR
Dr. Phool Chand

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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

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Say with confidence: Vocal for Local

The country is witnessing a lot of success in campaign for purchasing, producing, using, and accepting local products. The union government has done lot for promoting indigenous consumables as well as indigenous discretionary goods. The huge success which is seen in electric mobility and many two wheelers' companies that are entering the automobile sector for the first time is proof that the government is promoting new startups very seriously. This leap has happened due to technological transition. These transition phases are a good opportunity to restart. The Covid pandemic was a nightmare but the leadership of the country accepted the challenge, and treated it as a transition phase in the making of the country, trusted their own human resources and we succeeded from making homemade simple masks to the efficient and complicated vaccine developed in our own laboratories. The trust is important, if the leader trusts their men, then their men do not disappoint their leader. This is reflected in the bank deposits made by the zero balance account holders. Our leadership trusted our space scientists, and the failure of last year was converted into success, and not only that but the deadline for manned mission and other space mission has been declared. This confidence is the signal that Bharat has arrived. The world has acknowledged us as no one can oppose us, we did humanitarian service during covid whether it be food supply or vaccine supply, our leadership didn't cooked cash on the death beds. We need such leadership to continue. It is the duty of the citizens to make it happen. The work of Swadeshi Jagran Manch has been well executed by this government. The examination of democracy for year 2024 is knocking on the doors and wish good luck to the visionary leaders.

— Kumar Gaurav, Samastipur, Bihar

EDITORIAL OFFICE

SWADESHI PATRIKA

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

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

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Quote-Unquote



The talented and hardworking youth of India are making invaluable contributions to many economies of the world and to the progress of knowledge and science in those countries. Today India is the fifth largest and fastest growing major economy in the world.

Droupadi Murmu, President, Bharat



Like every time, this time too, during festivals, our priority should be 'Vocal for Local'.

Narendra Modi, Prime Minister, Bharat



Today our stack, which is Aadhaar, Digilocker, the payments stack – combined these three can create any kind of solution. We have got very good traction for the e-commerce platform ONDC ... We are able to replicate this sector after sector and the world is taking notice.

Ashwini Vaishnaw, Railway Minister, Bharat



Yet another mischievous report on the Global Hunger Index. The SJM shows its deep anguish against this Global Hunger Report and calls upon the patriotic people of Bharat to not believe such reports (released) with mala fide intentions.

Dr. Ashwani Mahajan, National Co-convenor, SJM

Western world will have to live with high interest rates for now

The Federal Reserve, the central bank of the United States of America, has kept the federal funds interest rate in the range of 5.25 to 5.50 in September 2023. Before this, the Federal Reserve had raised interest rates 11 times consecutively; and interest rate today is the highest ever in the last 22 years. European Central Bank has also decided to keep the key interest rate at 4 percent for October 2023, which had been increasing continuously for the last 10 times and reached this level. It is noteworthy that such high interest rates in America and Europe have never been seen in recent years. High interest rates are making life difficult for people in every sector. The mortgage rate in America has reached 8 percent. The average interest rate on credit cards is 20 percent, the average interest rate on new car loans is 7.62 percent and even the interest rate on federal education loans for students has reached 5.5 percent. Although the US and European Central Banks have signalled some relief by not raising interest rates in October, there seems to be a consensus in official circles and experts that there is no possibility of interest rates being dropping in the near future due to ongoing fuel and food inflation, with no sign of war ending soon.

The policy interest rate is determined by the central bank of that country, like Reserve Bank of India in India, Federal Reserve in USA, Bank of England in England etc. But the determination of interest rate at any time in a country is influenced by the rate of inflation. The policy interest rate is generally called the bank rate. Apart from this, many other versions of it, like Repo Rate, Reverse Repo etc. are also announced, bearing different connotations. Broadly speaking, bank rate is the interest rate at which commercial banks of that country can borrow from the central bank. These policy interest rates influence various types of interest rates in the country like interest rates on deposits, interest rates on borrowings etc. If the inflation rate is high and the interest rate is low, then people who have accumulated savings will suffer losses because the real value of their deposits will be depleted. Therefore, according to the principles of economics, the policy interest rate should be higher than the inflation rate, so that real rate of interest is positive, to give real return on deposits and encourage savers. For example, if the inflation rate is 6 percent, then to keep the real interest rate at 2 percent, the interest rate on deposits should be at least 8 percent. Therefore, as inflation increases, it becomes imperative to increase the policy interest rates. On the one hand, there are no signs of inflation coming down, and fears of recession are increasing in countries around the world. Due to increase in interest rates, not only the demand for houses and cars can be affected, many other types of demand may also shrink. There is a possibility that the purchase of household goods will also be affected due to increase in interest rates on credit cards. While investment efforts in infrastructure, especially road infrastructure, were gaining momentum in the US, rising interest rates could depress that too. In such a situation, recession is knocking in these countries.

Developing countries are also not untouched by inflation and increase in interest rates. Both food inflation and fuel inflation are also affecting developing countries, due to which the inflation rate remains high there too. Therefore, the central banks of developing countries have also been continuously increasing the policy interest rates (Bank Rate, Repo Rate etc.). Among BRICS countries, this rate is 12.75 percent in Brazil, 8.25 percent in South Africa, 15 percent in Russia, 3.45 percent in China and 6.5 percent in India. Among other developing countries, it is 6.0 percent in Indonesia and 11.25 percent in Mexico. It is true that India is also not untouched by world inflation, but still India is the least impacted in both fuel inflation and food inflation. The reason for this is that India has been successful in procuring cheap petroleum products from Russia despite the obstacles from USA and European countries. It is noteworthy that in recent times, India has been buying more than 50 times more oil from Russia than before. The price of this oil is also only 60 percent of international price and to a large extent it is being paid in rupees and not in dollars. There is adequate production of food products in India, which is benefiting not only India but the whole world. Food inflation in India is much lower than many countries in the world. However, like other countries, disruptions in the supply chain are affecting India too.

Perhaps this is the reason why in a world where recession is looming large, India has emerged as the fastest growing economy among the major economies of the world. India has been able to keep inflation under control due to the good performance of agriculture and allied activities and the protection of the country's economic interests due to its independent foreign policy. We have to understand that by making our country self-reliant in every sector of the economy, minimizing our dependence on foreign countries, especially in the supply chain, and moving forward with international relations on equal footing, with other countries of the world, we will be able to take our economy forward regardless the challenges facing the world. But it is also true that the world will have to learn to live with high interest rates for some time.

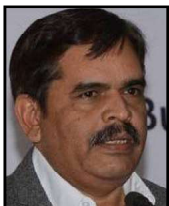
Is Global Hunger Report A Conspiracy?



Like previous years, once again a German organization named Welt Hungerhilfe has released its 'Hunger Index' and the hunger ranking of the countries of the world based on the same, in their so called Global Hunger Report 2023. In this ranking, India has once again been placed very low at 111th position. It is noteworthy that this year 125 countries have been included in this ranking. Last year in 2022, India was ranked 107th in the list of 121 countries and in 2021, India was ranked 101st in the ranking of 116 countries.

What they mean by this hunger index is that not only, there is a huge problem of hunger prevalent in India, but the performance of other countries is far better than India.

If we believe the report, the performance of countries like Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka etc., which are dependent on food supplies from India, is much better than India. In such a situation, it is natural to raise questions on this report. Let us try to understand the reality of hunger and its indices in India?



Welt Hungerhilfe agency has consistently been trying to defame India by using questionable data and methodology, which is far from the reality. Strict action should be taken against all such agencies trying to defame India.

Dr. Ashwani Mahajan

What is Welt Hungerhilfe's Hunger Index?

There are 4 parameters to measure this Hunger Index - malnutrition, stunting in children, underweight in children, that is wasting (low weight for height) and child mortality (mortality rate in children under 5 years of age). Hunger index based on all these parameters is estimated. Welt Hungerhilfe says that in India this index is 28.7, which is considered very serious, whereas in Pakistan it is 26.6, due to which Pakistan is ranked at 102nd position, which is above India. Similarly, Bangladesh is ranked at 81st position with 19.0 points and Sri Lanka is ranked at 60th position with 13.3 points.

If we see the parameters and scales used in constructing this Hunger Index, there are question marks on the data on one hand and the methodology on the other. Not only the Indian government, but many other experts have summarily rejected this report.

Child Mortality

According to the of Welt Hungerhilfe's methodology, child mortality has been a major determinant of the hunger index. While estimating, the hunger index for the year 2023, surprisingly the child mortality rate data of 2020-21 has been taken. The report puts India's child mortality rate at 31 per thousand.

According to the data published by the Sample Registration System of India, the child mortality rate had decreased from 35 per thousand in 2019 to 32 per thousand in the year 2020. If this rate of decline in child mortality is considered, then it is expected to reach 24.4 by the year 2023. In such a situation, there is

no reason why the outdated data on child mortality rate in India should be taken at 31 per thousand, to estimate hunger index in India in 2023.

According to the latest data, the infant mortality rate in Pakistan is 55.8 per thousand and child mortality rate is higher than that. Despite this, India is placed at 111th position in terms of hunger and Pakistan is shown at 102nd position. The reason for this is that wrong data has been used in other scales of the hunger index too.

There are some errors in the data of other international agencies as well. While figures published by the Indian government were showing the infant mortality rate at 28 per thousand in 2020, international agencies are putting it at 29,848. It is noteworthy that it's not ethical or even legitimate to use any data other than the official data, by any foreign or Indian agency. But this World Hunger Report openly says that it is not necessary that the data reported by the governments to United Nations has only been used in this report. The rapidly improving conditions in India may not be pleasing the organizations working with their mala-fide intentions.

Malnutrition

As far as data on malnutrition is concerned, Welt Hungerhilfe does not have any factual data, as the household consumption survey by the concerned official agency has not been conducted since 2011. Therefore, malnutrition figures have been prepared on the basis of a 'Gallup Survey' with a sample of 3000 people, the methodology of which is also questionable, which shows malnutrition at

16.6 per cent. It is worth noting that in reality, based on real time health data of more than 7 crore children, the Poshan Tracker, published that only 7.7 percent children in the country were malnourished in February 2023. If we talk about production and availability of food, India ranks 35th in the world in the latest global ranking (2020) of 188 countries. The continuously increasing per capita production of food grains, milk, eggs, fruits, vegetables, fish etc. confirms that India is today producing surplus food, compared to demand.

Stunting and Wasting

Till recently, data on stunting and wasting assessed by only the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) was available in the country. But due to the small sample size, the NFHS data was often questioned. Notably, a comprehensive nutrition campaign has been launched by the Ministry of Woman and Child, Government of India, to tackle the problem of malnutrition in the country. While NFHS used to draw conclusions based on a relatively small sample, Poshan Tracker is publishing figures based on real time data from more than 7 crore children, with wasting data consistently showing that only 7.2% of India's children were wasted, whereas Welt Hungerhilfe's Hunger Report (2023) used the wasting figure of NFHS 2019-21, that is, 18.7 percent.

As far as stunting is concerned, experts believe that there cannot be a single standard of height for the entire country. Not only stunting but wasting too depends on many factors including geography, environment and genetics, apart from nutrition. If we

see, the height of Punjabi children is several inches more than the children of North-East. The World Health Organization has also accepted this.

Not only this, the Indian Government's Nutrition Campaign (Poshan Abhiyan) is working hard to address the problem of malnutrition in the country, and assessing the outcome periodically, recognising the same, and the World Health Organization has also started using the data published by Poshan Tracker. Though there are many objections on the methodology of the Welt Hungerhilfe report, even if the formula used by the agency is followed, to calculate the hunger index, and if the correct data is fed i.e. child mortality rate (under 5 mortality rate) of 24.4 per thousand; if wasting and undernourishment are considered to be 7.2 per cent and 7.7 per cent respectively (assuming other age groups too have similar nutrition outcome), as per the data collected by Poshan Tracker, and if stunting figures are discarded since they are not comparable, then hunger index estimated by the author of this article, comes out to be 9.528. Accordingly, as per to the formula of Welt Hungerhilfe, India's ranking in the hunger index is not 111th but 48th.

It is natural that after the report of Welt Hungerhilfe, has been published, many opposition political parties have made hunger, an issue, based on this report. In such a situation, it is clear that this agency has consistently been trying to defame India by using questionable data and methodology, which is far from the reality. Strict action should be taken against all such agencies trying to defame India. □□

1937 Shariat Act – For Muslims or for Jinnah and the Zamindars?

Less than a week after the opposition parties met in Patna to oppose him, Narendra Modi threw a huge spanner into their works – the Uniform Civil Code (UCC). It was a philosophic challenge, also a political strategy. It split the 15 parties that met at Patna into three groups – one opposing the UCC, the next supporting it and the third confused whether to support or oppose. Modi's UCC idea seems more deeply thought than merely to divide the opposition. He knows that not supporting the UCC is equal to supporting the pre-partition Shariat Act of 1937 passed by the British. The UCC will not be written on a clean slate. It will be overwritten on the 1937 Act. The present political actors seem utterly illiterate about the 1937 Act and its sordid background. If Modi recalls the sleazy story of the 1937 Act, it will unveil secrets that can potentially nuke the opposition. Recalling the story of the 1937 Act will mean reinstating the pre-partition Idea of India, which appears to be Modi's dream project.

Climax first, story later

The long story later. Now straight to the climax. Today's political actors do not seem to know that it was not — repeat not — the Sharia, but the Hindu laws that governed the Indian Muslims before 1937. Muslims of all denominations, all over India, followed the uncoded local Hindu customs and usages. The 1937 Shariat Act was imposed on them as a win-win political deal between the British, keen to divide Hindus and Muslims, and the Muslim League, keen to lure the Muslims away from the Gandhi-led Congress. The intent of the League was first to cut off Muslims who were too mixed up with the Hindus through local Hindu customs and usages, then to create a Hindu-hostile Islamic identity for them, and finally to pave the way for the partition of India.

This hidden aim of the Muslim League was abetted by the British by obliging the League with the 1937 Act. The mission of the 1937 Act had other hidden and sleazy side stories too. The 1937 Act, the joint strategy of the British and the



The 1937 Act, the joint strategy of the British and the League, was driven by political expediency rather than a desire to enforce Islamic Sharia.

S. Gurumurthy



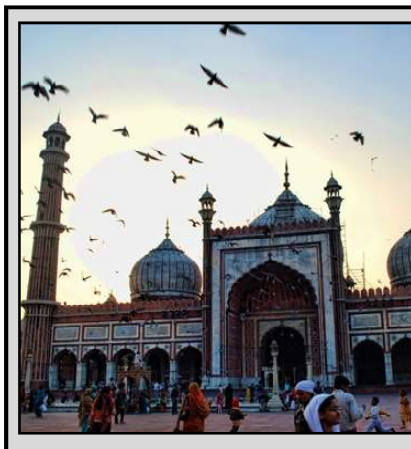
League, contained provisions to sabotage the Islamic Sharia. How? By secretly smuggling the Hindu customs and usages into the 1937 Act to save the property rights of the Muslim leaders, Jinnah and the Zamindars from harm by the Islamic Sharia. Did the Shariat Act of 1937 — now acclaimed as the holy law of Islam — contain Hindu law provisions to secure the property rights of the League leaders? Yes, it did. Indeed, it's an explosive story with a 1,000-year background.

No Sharia for 1,000 years

Islam came to India by trade in the 7th century and from the 8th century by the swords of Kasims and Ghaznis. It had spread to a large part of India by the 10th century.

But when was the Sharia law — now claimed by the Islamists as an immutable part of Islam — legislated over the Islamic converts in India? Any guess? Not in the 11th century, not in the 12th, nor the 13th or the 14th or the 15th or the 16th or the 17th, not even in the 18th by which time the Islamic rule had virtually ended and power shifted first to the Marathas — read Hindus — and then the British. It was also not in the 19th century when the British rule was rooting and deepening. From when then?

It was in 1937 — more than a century and a quarter after Aurangzeb, the most ardent Muslim ruler passed away without legislating Sharia for the Muslim convert. The British government recognised the superiority of the prevailing local — read the Hindu — customs and usages among the converts over the Sharia. The History of the Evolution of Muslim



Islam came to India by trade in the 7th century and from the 8th century by the swords of Kasims and Ghaznis. It had spread to a large part of India by the 10th century.

Personal Law in India by K K Abdul Rahiman (1986) says the British gave strength to customs and usage that had long been adhered to particularly in matters of succession by sections of Indian Muslims.

Hidden political agenda, secret economic agenda

Why then the sudden move for Sharia law in 1937? This leads to two more questions: One, did the Muslim converts, who did not think of the Sharia law for a 1,000 years, demand the Sharia law on their own? Or, did the British, who ruled India for over two centuries, suddenly think of the far-reaching Sharia law for Muslims, something that was bound to affect Hindu-Muslim harmony? The answers to these questions will unveil the truth that the 1937 law was a deal between the Muslim League — not the Muslims — and the British. First, the converts did not ask for Sharia. It was the Muslim League that did. The British had always a hidden political agenda to divide the Hindus and Muslims to perpetuate their rule. The League leaders who demanded the Sharia had a hidden political agenda to partition the country and a personal economic agen-

da to evade the Shariat law by secretly retaining the Hindu law to protect their property rights. Now look at the Sharia law 1937. It is explicit that it was no full Sharia law. The 1937 Act was a cocktail of legislated Islamic law and the continuance of the Hindu law smuggled into it. The League leaders felled two mangoes with one stone. One, they achieved psychological separation of Indian Muslims who were enmeshed in Hindu traditions, habits and laws and prepared them for the eventual partition of the country. Two, they escaped the Islamic Sharia and preserved the economic power which the rich and powerful League leaders enjoyed under the traditional Hindu law. It was a conspiracy not only against India and the Hindus, but also against the Muslim masses.

Hindu law smuggled into Sharia

The critical part of the 1937 law contains just 92 words to override the traditional Hindu law that the converted Muslims were following and force many rules of the Islamic Sharia on them. It is those 92 words in the 1937 Act that are now held out as the immutable and divine Islamic law which the Muslims cannot deviate from.

Who would have insisted on the anti-Sharia Hindu law being smuggled into the 1937 Shariat Act? Obviously not the British. Why would they have insisted on the Muslims having the right to adopt, or the right to Will their properties or on the exclusion of agricultural lands from the ambit of the 1937 law?

But was the Sharia Act 1937 really the divine Islamic Sharia law prescribed for Muslims by Islam? No. It was, and continues to be, actually against Islamic Sharia. Why? It smuggles in three core rights granted by the Hindu law into the Shariat. First, the 1937 law permitted Muslims to write Wills to leave their properties like the Hindus do, to whosoever they liked — which is prohibited by Islam. Second, it excluded the agricultural land — the most valuable asset then and even now — and made the laws of Hindu rishis continue to apply to govern the Muslims. And third, it permitted childless Muslims to adopt, like Hindus, which Islamic law — even the Prophet — prohibited. In pure Islamic theology, the 1937 Act is anti-Quran — a blasphemy in Islam. Who benefitted from the deal to smuggle the Hindu law into the 1937 Shariat law?

Hindu law for Jinnah, Zamindars; Sharia for the Muslims

The right to Will properties, not permitted by Sharia, smuggled into the 1937 Act was a personal deal Jinnah negotiated for himself first. Jinnah wanted his huge estate to pass as he wanted, not according to Sharia. Two years after 1937, on May 30, 1939, Jinnah did execute a Will to disinherit his daughter Dina who married a non-Muslim, a Parsi, against his wishes. As his sole heir under the Sharia, she should have got his entire estate. Jinnah's friend and prominent judge and jurist M C Chagla confirmed Jinnah wanted to disinherit Dina. Jinnah made his sister Fatima an executor of the Will and bequeathed to her all his movable assets and also the massive bungalow standing on a 2.5-acre plot in the most prestigious Malabar Hills area of Mumbai, valued at Rs 1,000 crore now. He made lots of charitable provisions and just gave a small annuity to the disinherited Dina. Surprisingly, Dina herself was born of a Parsi lady whom Jinnah married and converted to Islam. The next two deviations from the Sharia in the 1937 Act — the exclusion of agriculture lands and allowing the right to adopt — were designed for the Zamindars and other propertied gentry who constituted the backbone of the Muslim League. The exclusion of the agricultural land ensured that the entire land remained in the hands of the male heirs as per the Hindu law and girls did not get a share in it as per the Sharia. The right to adopt ensured that the Zamindars and others adopt a male child like the Hindus to deny any male heir from getting the property as per Sharia. The 1937 Act was Sharia

for Muslims and Hindu Law for Jinnah and Zamindars.

Deal against Islam, by the leaders

Who would have insisted on the anti-Sharia Hindu law being smuggled into the 1937 Shariat Act? Obviously not the British. Why would they have insisted on the Muslims having the right to adopt, or the right to Will their properties or on the exclusion of agricultural lands from the ambit of the 1937 law? Who benefitted by sneaking the Hindu law into the 1937 Act? The League leaders, not the British. Does it need a seer to say that those who had made deal with the British, and insisted on continuing the Hindu law for themselves, could only be those who benefited by it.

Can those who shouted from the rooftops that the 1937 Shariat Act is the Islamic law of the Muslims and cannot be touched by even Parliament, deny that the 1937 Act was Sharia law for Islamic politics, and Hindu law for Jinnah and the Zamindars' economics. By their deal with the British, the League leaders — who secured their property rights by smuggling the Hindu law into Shariat Act — triggered the communal emotions of the Muslims. In just 10 years, the Shariat Act 1937 broke the Hindus and Muslim social mix, divided them, solidified the Islamic identity, and triggered the demand for partition in 1940, which became a reality in 1947. The story of how starting with the 1937 Act, partition happened in just 10 years will appear tomorrow. Await the next part, The 1937 Act divided India. Will UCC integrate it? □□

The writer is editor, Thuglak, and a commentator on economic and political affairs
<https://www.newindianexpress.com/opinions/columnists/gurumurthy/2023/jul/06/1937-shariat-actndashfor-muslims-or-for-jinnah-zamindars-2591883.html>

M.S. Swaminathan (1925-2023): The Rice man of India

The year was 1984. Professor M.S. Swaminathan, the then Director General of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in the Philippines, was on a short visit to India to deliver a convocation address at an agricultural university. Soon after he finished the address, he received a message from the Prime Minister's Office conveying Indira Gandhi's request to meet him before he left for Manila early next morning. Swaminathan rushed to New Delhi and met the Prime Minister in her office the same evening.

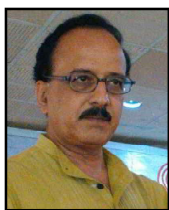
"Mrs Gandhi wanted me to write the Congress party manifesto," he told me on another occasion. I asked him why she would do that as the elections were still far away. "She told me that she wanted to go for early elections," he replied, adding that they discussed a few points she wanted to be included, and then requested him to finish it before he boarded the flight next morning.

Seven days later, Indira Gandhi was assassinated.

Subsequently, when Rajiv Gandhi called for elections, he was accused of taking advantage of the sympathy wave following his mother's death. While all kinds of political aspersions were being ascribed, little did the nation know that Swaminathan had already written the party's manifesto.

Here was a legendary agricultural scientist, a plant geneticist, hailed as the father of India's Green Revolution, instrumental in averting a mass famine as some would say, equally at ease with a finger on the electorate's nerve. The way he interacted with distinguished academics, celebrities, and political leaders, not only in India but also internationally, reflected the tremendous respect he had earned over the years. During my short stint as a Visiting Editor to the IRRI (1987-1988), I remember scientists and employees, on the day he completed his term, queueing up to get his autograph on the T-shirts they were wearing. In 1988, for a scientist to be accorded a celebrity send-off was not so common.

In 1990, when Swaminathan chaired the International Union for the Conser-



Despite his share of controversies, the father of the Green Revolution was responsible for averting a mass famine in the newly independent India.

Devinder Sharma





vation of Nature (IUCN), he was invited by the President of Guyana to be the interim chair of the Iwokerna International Rainforest Programme. This initiative was basically a 360,000-hectare rainforest patch that was made available to the Commonwealth to show how tropical forests could be conserved and at the same time used sustainably for business activities that help local communities.

Later, a time capsule in Swaminathan's name was buried deep in the rainforests by the then President of Guyana.

Swaminathan had supported a people's movement against the proposed hydroelectric project at Silent Valley in the Western Ghats of Kerala and had played an important role in convincing Prime Minister Indira Gandhi to scrap the project and instead build a rainforest biosphere reserve. The pristine rainforest is a hub of biodiversity, harbouring numerous rare species of birds, animals, and hundreds of flowering species.

He was also able to impress upon the then Odisha Chief Min-

ister Biju Patnaik not to disturb the unique nesting and breeding grounds of the Olive Ridley turtles at Bhitarkanika. More than half a million highly endangered turtles reach these natural breeding grounds every year. Swaminathan once shared a story of how Biju Patnaik wanted him to take the turtles away to some other spot, because he wanted to set up industries in that coastal region.

The political compulsion notwithstanding, Swaminathan understood the importance of preserving the place as a natural heritage site. In fact, he was much ahead of the thinking that is now being mainstreamed, to ascribe an economic value to the ecosystem services that nature provides.

The Keystone Dialogues that he steered included mangrove protection, the role of local communities to conserve sacred groves, the need to ensure people's control over genetic resources, the protection of the enormous biodiversity wealth, and the conservation of unique natural endowments. That, in a way, backed the idea of en-

suring farmers' rights, which eventually received global recognition.

Lifting a nation out of hunger

No haze can dim the role he played to lead the country out of hunger as the story of India's Green Revolution is now inscribed in history. Pulling the country out from a "ship-to-mouth" existence—when food would arrive in ships to feed the hungry population—to emerge food self-sufficient and then turn into a net exporter of cereals is perhaps the country's biggest achievement of the 20th century, as I have often reiterated.

Today's generation has little idea about how severe the food crisis was at that time. I recall asking C. Subramaniam, the then Food Minister, about how challenging it was to manage food shortages. "There was a time when we had food stocks only for about a week left in the country," he said, adding that his officials had identified the food-carrying ship sailing closest to India. An SOS was sent to the then US President Lyndon Johnson to divert the ship to India so that thousands would not perish.

Relying on miracle dwarf wheat varieties that Dr Norman Borlaug (at the time with the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center, a research organisation in Mexico) was trying to push, Swaminathan recognised the potential of these photo-insensitive varieties, responsive to higher doses of fertilizers, pesticides, and ample irrigation. Once the political approval came, 18,000 tonnes of the dwarf seed were imported from Mexico in 1966. The imported seed was distributed in small packs to the geographical regions identified for cultivating the new strains, and the rest is history.

A combination of factors led to the enormous success of the agricultural transformation aimed at increasing productivity as well as total production. Agricultural universities were set up at Pantnagar (now in Uttarakhand) and Ludhiana (Punjab) under the land-grant system from America, and a team of dedicated plant breeders and agronomists, many of them stalwarts in their own right, made huge contributions in breeding new high-yielding varieties that adapted to Indian conditions.

Subsequently, the wheat story was replicated in rice with elite lines coming from IRRI in the Philippines. In 1968, William Gaud, Administrator of the US Agency for International Development, used the term “Green Revolution” to define the tremendous achievement.

Almost at the same time, Swaminathan began to warn about the environmental consequences of applying high doses of fertilizers and chemical pesticides. He was also very particular about the depletion of groundwater in the days to come, a thought that made him give a call, subsequently, for an Evergreen Revolution. This had little impact on policymakers, who actually promoted more Green Revolution techniques as a way to address the second-generation environmental impacts that were becoming visible.

Swaminathan had his share of controversies. He was held responsible for the high lysine content in the Sharbati Sonora wheat variety during the Green Revolution, for taking India's rice germplasm to the International Rice Genebank at Los Banos in the Philippines, and for ushering in unsustainable farming practices under the garb of the Green Revo-

Believing in science and ecosystem preservation, Swaminathan certainly evolved with the times. Unlike most believers in science and technology, he did not get bogged down with worshipping technology. He knew that the blind pursuit of technology could cause irreparable ecological destruction.

lution. Nevertheless, he would still invite those who did not agree with him to seminars, conferences and interactions on various issues.

A nation's rice wiped out

Landing in Cambodia (then known as Kampuchea) 10 years after the tyrant Pol Pot had ravaged the country, I witnessed complete devastation in the countryside. More significantly, during the Khmer Rouge's “Killing Fields”, the entire Cambodian rice wealth was wiped out. Reports say that only about 40 of the 400 agricultural scientists survived the genocide. It was at that time that Swaminathan, as IRRI Director General, initiated discussions with the then Cambodian Prime Minister, Hun Sen, to rebuild the country's agriculture. Cambodia had lost all its traditional rice varieties, its staple food, and IRRI helped rebuild the country's economy by reintroducing 766 landraces and folk varieties that were in safe custody at the IRRI Genebank. He was also able to pull in Australia, which had strong historical linkages with Cambodia, to

lay the foundation to revitalise the country's agriculture sector.

Believing in science and ecosystem preservation, Swaminathan certainly evolved with the times. Unlike most believers in science and technology, he did not get bogged down with worshipping technology. He knew that the blind pursuit of technology could cause irreparable ecological destruction. That is why when the Coalition for GM-Free India invited him to write a preface of sorts for a book based on a compilation of “Adverse Impacts of Transgenic Crops/Foods”, he did not refuse. In fact, he wrote: “I hope the book will be widely read by all interested in ensuring that the new genetics represented by molecular biology becomes a blessing and not a curse.”

Swaminathan became a household name after he presented five reports of the National Commission on Farmers. Appointed in 2004 to head the Farmers' Commission, as it was then called, his suggestion to give farmers weighted cost plus 50 per cent profit (C2+50) as the price for farm produce eventually became a rallying point for farmers. Although successive governments did not accept the price formula, Swaminathan stayed away from publicly acknowledging his disappointment.

In private, of course, he would express sadness. When I released his biography (in Marathi) in Pune some years ago, he categorically told me that he might not have many years left, but his desire was to see farmers being pulled out of the acute distress and misery they continued to be in. That will be the real freedom for farmers, he said. □□

Devinder Sharma is a leading agriculture and food policy expert, researcher, and writer.
<https://frontline.thehindu.com/other/obituary/tribute-m-s-swaminathan-1925-2023-remembering-the-rice-man-of-india/>

Indian Economy: Optimism with caution

According to NITI Aayog by 2047 (100 years after Independence) India will be a \$30 trillion economy; currently it is the fifth largest economy with a GDP of \$3.7 trillion. By 2030, India is likely to be the third largest economy overtaking Japan and Germany. S&P estimates that India's nominal GDP will rise from \$3.4 trillion in 2022 to \$7.3 trillion by 2030. It is required that our economy grows at average of 9.2% per annum between 2030-2040, 8.8% between 2040-2047, and 9% between 2030-2047. For this it will have to introduce comprehensive reforms that, inter alia, save India from falling into the 'middle income trap', i.e. a situation where by a middle income country finds it difficult to transition to a high income economy due to rising costs and declining competitiveness. Thus the economy will have to identify relevant verticals and the strategy for creating an ecosystem needed to hit the target. This will include creating and nurturing human capital, leveraging the India's (vast) market potential, and improved export competitiveness. If India does all this within 100 years of India's independence it will be labeled a developed nation.

According to IMF India's contribution to global economic growth will increase to 18% over the next five years. India and China are expected to jointly account for half the world's growth in 2023 and 2024, with India's share being 16%.

India's economic growth remains robust, thanks to both resilient domestic demand and large public capital expenditure. For FY24, according to IMF, India is likely to grow at 6.3%. India has been growing at a steady pace due to demographic dividend, digitization, etc. However, the pace could pick up further if more structural reforms are undertaken, FDI norms are eased, labour force is upskilled, and financial system is deepened.

According to Finance Minister, domestic macro fundamentals remain strong and are improving although we cannot afford to underplay downward risks from global uncertainties and weather issues. According to S&P brisk digital transformation and a rapidly growing middle class are expected to drive India forward. It will become the third largest economy by 2030, behind only US and China, and overtaking Germany and Japan.

All in all a picture of optimism, a picture perfect. But what about the near term scenario.

It is indeed true that indicators like corporate balance sheet, demand for residential properties, investment demand, etc. are on even keel. But the fact is that income growth has been persistently slow; this has led to very slow growth of private consumption and investment. And inflation is not being tamed. Are we suffering from paradox of thrift (as formulated by Keynes, the great 20th century economist)? In this situation, in a low growth economy people, out of fear, spend less; this generates less income, followed by less spend. Thus a vicious cycle emerges. Answer is No.

This is not the reality. In India currently not only that consumption is low, but so are savings (at less than 30% of GDP). In presence of high inflation real



India is a shining star on the otherwise gloomy skyline. But we need to put in a lot of efforts in face of adversities.

KK Srivastava

incomes are actually falling. High end consumer goods demand is growing (3 bed room houses and SUVs) but demand for motorcycles and other two wheelers is not as robust. Whatever people are spending, in absence of growing real income, is perhaps out of loans. This is not a good indicator. Thus warning signs must not be ignored – from domestic as well as from the external side. If we don't take care of our short term, then, as Keynes said, in long run we are all dead. Hence a sense of jubilation on projected 6% plus growth rate (from IMF, S&P, other agencies) must meet with little trepidation. The projected vision document needs a reality check; we need to attain sufficient economic growth year after year – every year before we reach 2047 and take up to being called a developed nation.

Of late the aggregate global economic growth has been slowing. The pandemic of 2021 shook it all; we have not recovered since. The economic shock followed in the shape of upended supply chains and disrupted economic networks. The shock was compounded due to Russian invasion of Ukraine; this sent the commodity prices shooting. Inflation was going out of hands, so most central banks had to raise the benchmark interest rates. This led to dampened economic activity on one hand and volatility in asset markets on the other. And now the Israel – Hamas conflict. At least some, if not all of these factors, will certainly impact India adversely. World Bank as already rung the alarming bells.

The US central Bank has been driving up the US bonds yields. This will mean FPI funds, outflow



from India. This will lead to rupee appreciation which in turn will lead to higher cost of imports, adverse balance of payments, and upwards pressure on domestic prices. Similarly if Israel – Hamas war engulfs other middle eastern nations (most of them oil production), then there will be uncertainty over oil prices, especially when 8.7% of our crude is imported, as world bank has pointed out in its latest study.

Not only that, while 6% plus growth rate is one of the highest in the world, remember even the visions document says that we need to grow at average 8% between now and 2047 so as to ensure prosperity for a wider cohort of the Indian population and escape the middle income trap. Thus pain points are many and remain there which act as hindrance between what can be and what will be actually achieved.

Purely from a short term perspective we have many obstacles to overcome, many of which of course are imported. Thanks to the sluggish global demand therefore our exports are stumbling. Surprisingly while corporate balance sheets are healthy and the sector in great financial shape, as the FM wondered, it is a mystery why there are few signs of a broad based pick up in the investment cycle. Is it be-

cause there is lack of aggregate demand in the economy and therefore no incentive for the industry to undertake fresh investment? Rural demand is showing signs of sluggishness, for example.

A pointer is that while the labour force participation rate (LFPR) has inched upward, a significant portion is in the form of self employment. This means that the economy is not being able to create enough high quality jobs for the fresh ones entering the labour force. This is also borne out by the fact that demands for work under MGNREGA remains higher than even pre pandemic levels. Rural demand is under pressure; it was hit hard by the second wave of the pandemic and never really recovered from there. Unseasonal rains in the first quarter of 2023-24 resulted in significant crop damage, lower output, and loss of income. And as said earlier, many purchases of durables have been financed (on credit) which may lead to financial distress.

Thus we need to celebrate Diwali with cautious optimism. We are doing better than many others, including our rival-China. But this is still not good enough, especially when we have the lofty aim of being in the league of developed nations by 2047. □□

Ancient wisdom and modern warfare

The earliest wars in India were perhaps fought during Indus Valley Civilization; this hypothesis is confirmed by the fact that they built forts to defend themselves. Subsequently the Aryans battled against the natives. Later, during the ancient period, epics of Ramayana and Mahabharata detail the warfare trade of those times. In all periods wars of various denominations have been fought and the then accounts of these wars provide the craft of war prevailing during those times. Soldiers and animals were trained on one hand and strategies and tactics were designed to defeat the economy on the other.

During ancient times lot of emphasis was placed on physical fitness. Plus there was a rich tradition of games to maintain both mental and physical agility. There were specific games created around military tactics and strategy, such as Chaturanga, Ashtapada (Chess), archery, etc. Moreover, the officers, men, and handlers were taught subjects specific to their job. For example, a horse handler would learn about animal behaviour, its control, etc. Officers were required to have knowledge about warfare, law and justice ... Soldiers were taught how to fight as individuals and as combat units. At Gurukuls Dhanurveda or the art of fighting with weapons was taught to select few.

Military strategy was developed in the form of military science, which finds description in Agni Purana, Arthashastra, and other texts. Recently Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched the project Udbhav which seeks to draw upon ancient Indian philosophy for drawing relevant lessons in the areas of diplomacy, statecraft, strategy, and warfare. Thus treatises like Arthashastra, Nitisara, Thirukural, and others will be studied and analysed in great depth to learn significant axioms. This is in line with present regime's thinking that our ancient past was very rich repository of knowledge and wisdom that needs to be re-explored, revisited, and rehabilitated. But can these ancient thinkers, such as Chanakya and Ka-



While ancient wisdom is nothing to scoff at, and must be profitably imbibed, World now is a different battlefield; it needs updating.

Dr. Jaya Kakkar



mandaka, come to the aid of modern generals? Or is that these texts will be of little help – except for a self congratulatory message – in managing modern warfare? The Indian army with all vanity has decided to go deeper into “the profound depths of indigenous military systems, their evaluation, strategies ... and the strategic thought processes that have governed the land for millennia.” Further it intends to “reintroduce classical teaching” and revitalize (ancient) knowledge creation.”

Undeniably Arthashastra contains valuable insights into state building, geo-strategy and military warfare. Likewise for some other texts, including those from south. But interestingly Army says that the classical texts written before the 8th century will be studied for this purpose. Why not texts after this period, especially in view of the fact that later periods (such as 11th and 15th centuries) were witness to great military transformations. No doubt Arthashastra can serve as a primer for state building. But not in present context. Arthashastra considers no cost big enough (such as assassinations, extreme violence, etc.) to ensure victory. Thus mainly two objections; how far Arthashastra can be contextualized in a modern democracy? And, two, are the politics and texts ruling after the ‘classical period of 8th century’ - as defined by Indian army – irrelevant to draw important lessons for modern statecraft? To be sure, it was medieval kingdoms that witnessed the developments of advanced cavalry, gunpower tactics, etc.; many of these have been adapted by Indian army. Hence focus nearly on ancient times seems somewhat shortsighted.

But the most weighty objections comes in the form of the fact that ancient texts were written about the state as it should be, not a state as it was. All of them kept in mind a totalitarian state which had a single minded pursuit; to continue and expand its boundaries at all costs. And yet all is not irrelevant. Such studies will be of use.

Wars, as they are conducted today find their origin in the Napoleonic era where mobile artillery, infantry, and cavalry were supported by engineers and logistics infrastructure. Later came the more sophisticated arms like rifle, machine guns, along with telegraph and better mean of transport. This changed both the battlefield and military tactics. Generals and admirals who conduct operations in today’s battle space continue to be guided by the strategies devised by military thinkers who studied this new form of war.

Later the world saw two major – world – wars which devastated many countries and reshaped their armies and respective strategies. To this was added the discovery of nuclear weapons which initiated the era of the cold war as against active physical engagements against one another. Not that such physical skirmishes/battles/wars have vanished all together – witness recent Russian – Ukraine and Israel – Hamas conflicts. Right since early 1950s many dependent nations and even independent ones, were witness to insurgencies. Indeed India has been continuously engaged in intra and inter border conflicts. Canadian Sikhs (some of them) support movement for Independence from India and dream of forming a Khalistan separate from India.

The short point is that now war is being fought on many fronts, including with one’s own at times. There is no physical space, there is, in sight that can be demarcated as war zone. In the event no volume of human mind or technology support (Artificial Intelligence) can come to the aid of the ruling disposition in countering the enemy of the nation. No strategy is comprehensive enough, much less the ancient wisdom. The ancient wisdom may in fact fail to provide you the workable strategy or tactical aid to guide a General or an admiral. There are simply too many fronts to be guarded. It is a very complex world. Hence ancient text can provide at best additional insights.

As we said the physical space is not limited to some limited ground; indeed its vast domain may not even be comprehensible. The array of arms and weapons, and their lethality, is mind boggling. Technology involved is advancing by the day. This has resulted in availability of innumerable permutation and combination of creative means to an opponent to equal/defeat us. The net lesson to draw therefore is that while ancient wisdom may be of some use, we in fact require (political) leaders who are well versed in modern statecraft and (military) general who understand modern warfare.

To be sure, one must study ancient texts for their academic wisdom; one can even sharpen one’s intellect with them. But on the ground our leaders must study today’s global best practices and thoughts. There is a need to supplement knowledge about modern warfare with past wisdom, from all periods ancient and medieval. □□

‘India UK FTA: Emerging Issues’

Recent developments indicate that India and the United Kingdom (UK) are close to finalising their bilateral free trade agreement (FTA) less than two and a half years after prime minister Narendra Modi and then-prime minister Boris Johnson had given their green signal to negotiate such an agreement as part of a wider Enhanced Trade Partnership. If the agreement is signed before the end of 2023, it would be the second-quickest FTA to be concluded by India, next only to the one with the UAE that was finalised in less than six months.

A number of factors have encouraged the two countries to negotiate the FTA. The most compelling for India was the fact that the UK's importance as a trade partner had consistently diminished since the turn of the millennium. In 2000-01, UK's share in India's total trade was 5.8%, making it the second largest partner. Within a decade, UK's share declined to 2.3%, and when the decision to negotiate the FTA was taken in 2021, this figure was 1.7%.

In its Strategic Approach to India-UK FTA, the UK's department for international trade (DIT) stated that an FTA with India offered “high economic potential across a wide range of key sectors of mutual interest, including life sciences, science, technology, and services”. The UK also saw the FTA as an opportunity to address the issue of significant barriers to trade with India, including high tariffs. The FTA with India offered an opportunity to meet UK's aspirations to establish itself as a major trading power in the post-Brexit phase.

However, as negotiations proceeded, differences emerged between the two countries on several key issues and some of them remain. Tariff reductions on key products have been difficult to resolve, as have been issues related to digital trade and free flows of data. Other contentious issues in the negotiations are government procurement, labour and environmental standards, and digital trade. The two



A number of factors have encouraged the two countries to negotiate the FTA.

Biswajit Dhar



countries began with radically different positions on the issue of intellectual property rights, with the UK insisting incorporation of higher standards of protection in Indian laws. But the dependence of UK's National Health Service (NHS) on India's generic medicines may prevent it from pushing for amending India's Patents Act.

As in most bilateral FTAs, India's relatively higher tariffs were flagged as a major area of concern. A House of Commons reported in its report in April this year that while 60% of Indian exports to the UK are already tariff-free, only 3% of UK exports to India are. Average tariffs faced by UK exports to India was nearly 15% in 2022, while India's exports, on an average, faced about 3% tariffs in the UK.

On the issue of tariffs, there are major differences between the countries in three sectors, automobile products, alcoholic beverages, and milled rice. The UK has demanded reduction of India's tariffs on passenger cars, which range from 70-100%, depending on the engine capacity and has insisted that the tariff reduction must be fast tracked. But indications are that India may agree to reduce to reduce tariffs to 75%. An additional problem, which, according to the UK could limit its market access in India for automobiles is India's rules of origin, namely, the Customs Administration of Rules of Origin (CAROTAR). British automobile manufacturers have argued that given their extensive dependence on global supply chains, application of the CAROTAR would adversely affect their interests in India.

Equally important is the UK's interest in removing India's 150% tariff on alcoholic beverages. The

India has always insisted on inclusion of enabling provisions in FTAs aiding temporary movement of professionals, but the British govt seems less inclined to open its borders.

UK has been seeking halving of the tariffs when the FTA became effective, followed by a sharp cut in tariffs to 30% over three years. However, India is willing to reduce tariffs initially to 100% and to then reduce them to 50% over a decade.

India, too, is seeking increased market access in milled rice through removal of the tariffs that the UK currently imposes. The UK Rice Association, which represents the processing industry, has argued that the UK should extend the list of varieties of un-milled basmati rice allowed tariff-free access to its market, besides granting tariff rate quotas for other types of brown rice.

Digital regulations are significant, considering the increasing digitalisation of economies. Addressing issues like free and trusted cross-border data flows, data localisation, and transfer requirements for source codes and algorithms have been critical for both countries. India's insistence on maintaining red lines in these areas reflects the significance of these regulations in the country's framework.

Home to some of the world's largest pharmaceutical companies like to GlaxoSmith-Kline and AstraZeneca, the UK had initially sought changes in India's Patents Act, targeting provi-

sions that facilitate growth of its generic firms. However, this position ran contrary to the interests of the NHS, which sources cheap generic medicines from India. Eventually, the DIT seems to have decided to protect the interests of the NHI and argued, "we will not accept any provisions that would increase the cost of medicines for the NHS" and emphasising that "our commitment to this will not change during our negotiations with India". Does this imply that the UK will withdraw its pressures for amending India's patents act?

One of the features of the FTAs signed by the UK is the inclusion of international labour standards, which commit partner countries to enforce ILO's Fundamental Conventions. The UK and India have differed on this issue as the latter has not ratified the Conventions on freedom of association and collective bargaining, in view of its decision to adopt flexible labour market policies. This leaves India in a piquant position since the captains of the industry have advocated longer working hours than prescribed by the ILO, as was reiterated forcefully recently, while businesses and trade unions in the UK has insisted on strict adherence to the ILO norms.

India has always insisted on inclusion of enabling provisions in FTAs aiding temporary movement of professionals, but the British government seems less inclined to open its borders. Alongside, India is keen that a social security agreement with the UK is included in the FTA, which would benefit Indian professionals working in the country for a short period. □□

Biswajit Dhar, Distinguished professor, Council for Social Development

<https://www.financialexpress.com/opinion/more-give-than-take-from-tariffs-to-labour-norms-the-differences-are-many-and-someone-has-to-give-in/3291780/>

Bharat@2047: Futuristic Medical Technologies

A nation cannot be truly considered developed until its citizens and healthcare system is advanced medically. Health serves as a parameter for assessing the progress of a country. A robust and accessible healthcare infrastructure, coupled with cutting-edge medical technologies, plays a pivotal role in elevating the overall well-being and quality of life for its citizens.

India has already taken a significant step towards self-reliance by manufacturing a large number of medical equipments and developing indigenous COVID-19 vaccines. This commitment to innovation and self-sufficiency showcases India's dedication to enhancing healthcare accessibility and positioning itself as a reliable global contributor. By prioritizing medical advancements, India aims to build a sustainable and advanced healthcare ecosystem that prioritizes the needs of its citizens and contributes to the nation's overall progress and well-being.

Over the next two decades, demographic and economic factors will significantly influence the healthcare sector and medical science. The global aging population will lead to an increased demand for specialized elderly care and treatments for age-related diseases. Simultaneously, the rising costs of healthcare, driven by advanced medical technologies and the prevalence of chronic diseases, might present economic challenges.

Confronting global health threats will necessitate the world to come together in unity, as exemplified by our Prime Minister's emphasis on the principle of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' in forums like the G20. International cooperation driven by economic resources will play a paramount role. The collective response to global health challenges will rely on shared commitment and financial investments. The progress of healthcare technology will also be contingent on both its affordability and economic feasibility. These factors will be interconnected, highlighting the vital role of demographics, economics, and technology in shaping the future of healthcare and medical science on a global scale.

In an era marked by rapid technological advancements, the potential for disruption resonates across industries, but few are as profoundly affected as the field of medicine. The intersection of cutting-edge technologies, data-driven knowledge, and the limitless quest for innovation has paved the way for a transformative revolution that reshapes the healthcare industry. From artificial intelligence and genomics to telemedicine and wearable devices, these disruptive technologies are set to revolutionize the medical world, surpassing the boundaries of traditional healthcare delivery and empowering both patients and practitioners with unprecedented capabilities.

Future of Surgical Procedures

In the future, the concept of robots conducting surgical procedures will signify a remarkable fusion of technology and healthcare. Robotic surgery will introduce a new era where human surgeons will collaborate with sophisticated robotic systems to enhance precision, dexterity, and overall surgical outcomes.



The global aging population will lead to an increased demand for specialized elderly care and treatments for age-related diseases.

Dr. Jaya Sharma

These surgical robots will offer the potential for minimally invasive procedures, reduced surgical trauma, enhanced visualization, and improved patient recovery times.

One of the key advantages of robotic surgery will be its ability to overcome the limitations of human hands. The robotic arms will be equipped with highly articulated instruments that will provide a greater range of motion and precision compared to traditional laparoscopic tools. Surgeons will control these robotic arms from a console, manipulating the instruments with greater stability and precision, while a 3D high-definition camera system will provide a magnified, immersive view of the surgical site. This combination of advanced technology and human expertise will allow for intricate procedures to be performed with unprecedented accuracy.

Moreover, robotic systems will have the potential to incorporate artificial intelligence algorithms that can assist surgeons during complex procedures. Machine learning algorithms will analyze vast amounts of patient data, offering real-time insights and predictive analytics to guide surgical decision-making. This fusion of human intelligence with machine learning capabilities will enhance surgical planning, improve intraoperative guidance, and optimize post-operative care.

While the integration of robots in surgery will hold immense promise, it will be important to acknowledge the challenges and ethical considerations that will accompany this advancement. Safety, reliability, and the need for rigorous training and certification of surgeons in robotic procedures will

remain crucial aspects that need to be addressed. As technology continues to evolve and the capabilities of robotic systems expand, the boundaries of what is possible in surgical interventions will be redefined. While the ultimate goal will be to improve patient outcomes and quality of care, the integration of robots in surgery will undoubtedly reshape the roles of surgeons, redefine surgical workflows, and inspire ongoing discussions regarding the ethical, societal, and economic implications of this transformative technology.

Future of Nanotechnology in Diagnostic Testing

Nanotechnology, the science of manipulating matter at the nanoscale (one billionth of a meter), will hold tremendous potential to revolutionize traditional diagnosis. By harnessing the unique properties exhibited by materials at this scale, nanotechnology will open up new ways of diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of diseases. Its impact on traditional medical practices will be transformative in several ways.

One of the key areas where nanotechnology will make a profound difference is drug delivery. Nanoparticles will be engineered to encapsulate medications, allowing for precise targeting and controlled release of therapeutics within the body. These nanoparticles will be able to travel through biological barriers, deliver drugs directly to specific cells or tissues, and even release drugs in response to specific stimuli, such as pH or enzyme levels. This targeted drug delivery approach will enhance the effectiveness of treatments while minimizing side effects and reducing the required dosage.

Nanotechnology will also enable advancements in diagnostics. Nanosensors and nanodevices will be designed to detect specific biomarkers or pathogens at an incredibly sensitive level. These tiny devices will be incorporated into wearable sensors, implantable devices, or even used in point-of-care testing. The ability to detect diseases at an early stage with higher accuracy and speed will allow for timely interventions and improved patient outcomes.

While the potential of nanotechnology in traditional medicine will be vast, it will be important to address concerns such as biocompatibility, toxicity, and long-term safety of nanomaterials. Extensive research and regulation will be crucial to ensure the responsible development and deployment of nanotechnology-based medical interventions.

In conclusion, the future of healthcare and medical science is marked by both promises and challenges. In addition to the technologies mentioned above, genomics engineering, genome editing, molecular medicine, to name a few will define the healthcare landscape. These next-generation technologies, along with the potential contributions brought by artificial intelligence, are set to transform traditional methods of diagnosis and therapeutic treatments. By fostering a healthcare system that integrates advanced technology, economic viability, and international collaboration, we can envision a future where medical advancements improve the well-being of people and nations. This path signifies not only progress but also a shared dedication to a healthier and brighter future for all. □□

Stubble Burning: How regenerative farming, biochar and generous financing can solve many problems in one go



From air pollution to degrading soil nutrients to depleting groundwater levels, North India is facing ecological disasters on multiple fronts. This is where India needs to make the shift to regenerative farming sooner than later. It will also help both the soil and the air if, instead of stubble burning, farmers are taught techniques to produce biochar
Indra Shekhar Singh

It's the soot season in Delhi. As grey smoke clouds begin to rise from paddy fields in north India, we are reminded of our collective failure to address the ecological-industrial disharmony plaguing India.

Many of us are quick to blame stubble burning paddy farmers in Punjab and Haryana for this smoky problem. They are only partly correct as historical data suggests that stubble burning at its worst contributes only 6 percent to our air pollution problem. Most pollutants come from automobiles and industry, not the farmers.

Automotive Fixes For Agrarian Problem

Despite this, a strong push was made by the government to fix the agrarian side of the problem. In recent years, the government listening to the automobile sector introduced the "happy seeder" programme. The happy seeder is a no-till planter which is attached to a tractor to cut the stubble, mulch it in the field and simultaneously sow new seeds.

The programme had many setbacks including limited access, inflation, incompatible technology, etc. Despite the government loosening its purse strings, the stubble burning did not reduce nor did air pollution. After a few years, one can assume that concerned policy makers have corrected course too or at least are waiting for suggestions to improve the national clean air programme.

For years now the clean air programme budgets have been underutilised, and if the government is serious in fixing the agrarian side of the problem new policy measures can be undertaken that will not only ameliorate the stubble burning problem but has the potential to help fix the ecological decay in rural India.



Think Regenerative Farming

The first step toward this reconnection is regenerative farming. There are a whole new range of techniques of nature-based farming – from biodynamic to zero budget to organic farming. And given the track record of regenerative farmers in Punjab, these offer a sustainable solution towards poison-free food and no stubble smoke. However, income support, marketing links and organic certification needs to be provided through the underutilised PMP-KVY (Pradhan Mantri Paramparaghat Krishi Vikas Yojna).

Organic farmers in Punjab and Haryana are leading the fight against stubble burning, as most of them have diversified into other crops, while the paddy-growing ones grow Basmati and other indigenous varieties. The straw or stubble of these native seeds is used for cattle fodder, and hence not wasted on the field. The government can have a special programme for procurement of organic paddy from Punjab, in this way farm incomes and ecologically can both be saved.

As Punjab produces about 12 million metric tonnes of paddy each year, a small portion of it is consumed within the state. Most of the 12 million tonnes is produced using agri-chemicals – fertilisers, pesticides, etc and is a great stress factor on north India's water resources. The government can offer price support per quintal for ecologically produced rice.

A vast participatory guarantee system for regenerative auditing can be deployed using FPOs and farm organisations to ensure agri-chemicals are not being used on the farms. We will also greatly

Now biochar is produced when certain organic matter like paddy straw are burnt in a controlled burn. Biochar throughout the world has been used as a soil amender and has huge potential to restore decaying soils and prevent land degradation.

reduce our national fertilisers bill.

Organic farming can produce ample quantities of food, even at large scale. The US organic sector has demonstrated high efficiency and it is small-time organic farmers who are promoting biodiversity and boosting nutrition per acre.

However, a larger programme may be required in India to procure more regeneratively produced crops. Through this programme government market yards can grade and also procure organic lentils to paddy cheaply for the PDS system, it may create a new market for organic products in north India.

Mandi-based price floors or MSP can be introduced for cushioning the shift from chemical farming to organic farming for farmers. The government can further through financial incentives draw more farmers into organic farming and offer DBTs for ecological services. Through this ecological income support, our government can keep farmers and the bullies at the WTO both happy.

Biochar Instead of Stubble Burning

Now at the agro-industry and village industry level, the government immediately needs to look towards biochar (lightweight black residue, made of carbon and ashes – a form of charcoal – obtained from the thermochemical conversion of biomass in an oxygen-limited environment).

Now how is biochar and stubble burning connected? Paddy straw that is inedible for cattle are left out in the fields and eventually gets burnt. Now biochar is produced when certain organic matter like paddy straw are burnt in a controlled burn. Biochar throughout the world has been used as a soil amender and has huge potential to restore decaying soils and prevent land degradation.

Punjab ranks very high on the soil degradation chart, and by promoting biochar-based village level industries through financial incentives for farmers and biochar manufacturers to process the paddy straw within the villages or block, the government can kill two birds with one stone.

At a larger level, industrial crop varieties have disrupted the natural cycle and hence the paddy straw is no longer well-integrated and every season is a waste product. By either moving towards native seeds and indigenous paddy varieties farmers can re-enter the natural cycle, or else the government can have a short-term measure to create a new biochar ecosystem that can recycle paddy straw stubble for healing the soils and generating employment at the same time. □□

Indra Shekhar Singh is an independent agri-policy analyst and writer. He was former Director - Policy and Outreach, NSAI.

<https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/opinion/stubble-burning-regenerative-farming-biochar-generous-financing-solve-many-problems-11629811.html>

Diverting Resources from Online Gaming and Cryptocurrency to Stock Market

Bharat is young today and will remain young for the next twenty-five years. The internet along with affordable smartphones, and other computing devices have penetrated the deep interiors of the country. There are many places where the internet and smartphones arrived earlier than the arrival of electricity and tap water facilities. This combination of youngness and affordable internet connectivity has created a huge opportunity for the rural population. The rural-urban gap for internet-dependent businesses has evaporated.

The energetic youth is much more convenient in milking these opportunities and it is reflected when one can see that even the illiterate youngsters are using the smartphones more conveniently than the educated elderly. There was an experience in the year 2015 when an illiterate helper of a carpenter sent a voice message using WhatsApp to a well-educated professional client, and the professional-client replied using a text message, then the helper again sent a voice message acknowledging that he was illiterate so couldn't read but can send and receive voice messages. Initially, it was tough to believe that a person can't send text messages but can send voice messages. Today it's not surprising at all. That's an exemplary application of technology which even demolishes the boundary between the illiterate and educated to communicate from a distance using technology.

Online games are the other area where the semi-literate is participating in huge numbers. These people are not only the urban educated people but also the urban skilled and unskilled laborers, and further, the young populations from rural areas have also joined this sector. The way the over-the-top "OTT" and other entertainment channels are accessed by the rural population, with the same enthusiasm the rural population is participating in online games and fairly educated people even participated in cryptocurrency. The magnitude of participation



The 'fiinfluencers' is a new jargon that has emerged on social media, they are like self-declared financial influences and are already providing consultancy to small and vulnerable investors.
Alok Singh



might differ for cryptocurrency. But as far as online game is considered it is equally participated by youths from rural and urban areas. The internet and smartphones are boundaryless technology and the users are not constrained by the location of their stay in accessing, investing, participating, and losing money or making money through these online games and other technological innovations.

The success of BHIM-UPI in receiving and paying money is equally available to urban and rural civilizations. This payment civilization is acknowledged worldwide and we have offered to share the technology with the whole world, and it is like walking the talk of a "Vishwa Guru".

These illustrations are sufficient to admit that the rural population is equipped and is participating in online games and cryptocurrency businesses. The union government has developed laws, policies, taxation, and other regulations to safeguard the interests of the vulnerable population and the nation. These choices which have exploded due to affordable smartphones and cheap internet connections are of concern as these are addictive and need proper vigilance by the lawmakers as well as by the society.

These concerns also come up with the opportunity and idea of engaging these resources involved in online games and cryptocurrency toward stock markets. The awareness, education, promotion, and regulation of stock market-related business can emerge as a win-win situation for the stakeholders of the nation. The idea is to promote such investments and participation by rural Bharat.

The successful execution of real estate investment trusts (REITs) and infrastructure investment trusts (INVITs) are signals to engage small investors of online games and cryptocurrency towards the stock market. The expressway construction is not constrained by budget today, the innovative idea of engaging small investors in mega projects is a success. Earlier one or a few big wealthy contractors or builders invested their money in such projects and earned revenue for decades through toll collection. All the profits were pocketed by a single or group of individuals. The INVITs are an opportunity for small investors to participate in mega construction projects and milk the profit later through toll collection. INVIT is diminishing the constraints that only big and wealthy people can do such business. INVIT can be simplified to be a cooperative for mega projects like expressways. In the same way, REIT is an opportunity for small investors to own expensive commercial buildings like office spaces, malls, and even five-star hotels. The REITs and INVITs provide an opportunity for partial ownership. Before the arrival of these two investment trusts it was beyond the imagination of common people to invest in such projects. This motivates to think about small investors hedging the volatility created by single big investors.

The theme of vocal for local capital needs to be promoted. When we think about the stock market then foreign institutional investors and high-net-worth individuals were able to create sudden volatility in the market. The hot money is still an issue. Hot money is defined as money that can easily

enter and exit our financial system like the stock market and currency market and weaken the stability of the stock market and currency market. If the domestic investors are participating in the stock market such hot money can be hedged.

The idea to divert vulnerable resources, i.e., Vulnerable youth, small investors, and less educated people's money from online games and cryptocurrency to the stock market might help to hedge the hot money. There is a need for the concerned authorities to come up with a plan to create awareness, promote investment in the stock market, and regulate such investments so that rural resources can also contribute to meaningful opportunities.

Online games and cryptocurrency have attracted a lot of resources from our people including those of rural Bharat through their advertising mechanism. To counter it and provide an alternative to those having interests in online games and cryptocurrency, there is a need to create, divert, promote, and regulate investment opportunities for less educated in the stock market. The 'finfluencers' is a new jargon that has emerged on social media, they are like self-declared financial influences and are already providing consultancy to small and vulnerable investors. This is possible today, as before the year 2015 the internet and smartphones were not available to all.

The regulators have multiple tasks in hand with multiple opportunities, to hedge the impact of hot money and promote 'vocal for local capital' in our financial economics system. □□

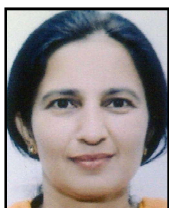
(Alok Singh has a doctorate in management from the Indian Institute of Management Indore and is a freelance academician.)

The Role of Social Entrepreneurship in Indian Economy



In the dynamic landscape of the Indian economy, a new breed of entrepreneurs is emerging - social entrepreneurs. These are individuals who are leveraging business principles to solve societal problems, creating a significant impact on both the economy and society. India, one of the world's fastest-growing economies, is a land of immense opportunities and daunting challenges. While the nation has seen impressive economic growth, it still grapples with deep-rooted problems like poverty, inadequate access to quality education and healthcare, environmental degradation, and wealth inequality. Social entrepreneurship is the answer to these issues. Social entrepreneurs are like modern-day heroes, using innovative business models to tackle these challenges head-on. They combine the pursuit of financial sustainability with a strong commitment to creating a better society. They work in various sectors, from education and healthcare to clean energy and sustainable agriculture, bringing together profit and purpose.

The history of social entrepreneurship in India is a journey marked by the tireless efforts of pioneers who sought to address social and environmental problems through innovative business models. Back in the early 20th century, visionaries like Jamsetji Tata set the stage for socially responsible entrepreneurship by creating institutions like Tata Steel and the Tata Institute of Social Sciences. These early efforts laid the groundwork for businesses to consider their social responsibilities alongside making profits.



Social entrepreneurs are driving change, and the government, as well as various funding sources, is stepping up to support their efforts.

Dr. Sunita Dahiya

However, it wasn't until the late 20th and early 21st centuries that the term "social entrepreneurship" gained real prominence in India. Ashoka, founded by Bill Drayton in 1980, played a pivotal role in catalyzing the social entrepreneurship movement. Ashoka's approach focused on identifying and supporting social entrepreneurs as change-makers, bringing much-needed visibility to the sector. Additionally, organizations like the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) and SKS Microfinance demonstrated the potential for financially sustainable models to address poverty and financial inclusion. The real turning point in India's social entrepreneurship history came with the rise of new-age social enterprises in the early 21st century. Organizations like SELCO Solar Light and Narayana Health showcased innovative solutions for providing clean energy and quality healthcare to underserved communities, challenging conventional notions of service delivery.

All of these historical developments underline the evolution of social entrepreneurship in India from early philanthropic efforts to a vibrant ecosystem of social enterprises addressing a wide range of societal challenges.

Social entrepreneurship isn't just about doing good; it also plays a crucial role in India's economy. It addresses societal issues while contributing to economic growth. It fosters innovation, creates new markets, and generates employment opportunities. In a country where a significant portion of the population faces

unemployment and underemployment, social enterprises are engines of job creation, especially in sectors like renewable energy, agriculture, and healthcare. Organizations like SKS Microfinance have enabled financial inclusion for millions, contributing to inclusive growth. In the healthcare sector, social entrepreneurs like Aravind Eye Care System and Narayana Health have made quality healthcare accessible and affordable, reducing disparities in healthcare access. In the education sector, social entrepreneurship is bridging gaps by enhancing access and improving quality through initiatives like Pratham, which focuses on remedial education for underprivileged children.

However, navigating India's regulatory landscape can be a challenge for social enterprises. Legal frameworks, like the Companies Act of 2013, can pose hurdles for social entrepreneurs trying to align their mission with their revenue models. Access to funding remains a persistent challenge, as traditional financial institutions often see social enterprises as high-risk ventures. Many of these enterprises operate on a small scale and face difficulties when trying to expand their operations while maintaining their social impact.

The other significant challenges that social entrepreneurs face is the lack of awareness and understanding about the concept of social entrepreneurship among the general public and potential investors. This lack of awareness often leads to misconceptions about the viability and impact of social enterprises, making it difficult for these enterprises to gain the support they need.

Moreover, social entrepreneurs often struggle with scaling their operations. While they may have innovative solutions to address social issues, the lack of infrastructure, resources, and support can hinder their ability to scale and maximise their impact. This is particularly true in rural areas where the need for such initiatives is often the greatest but resources are scarce. Despite these challenges, there are several reasons for optimism. The rise of impact investing and corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives have opened up new avenues for funding for social enterprises. These trends reflect a growing recognition of the role that businesses can play in addressing social issues.

Furthermore, there is an increasing emphasis on collaboration between different sectors to address social issues. Social entrepreneurs are increasingly partnering with governments, non-profit organisations, and corporations to amplify their impact. These collaborations not only provide additional resources but also allow for a more holistic approach to problem-solving.

The Indian government has recognised the significance of social entrepreneurship in addressing critical societal challenges and has introduced several initiatives and policies to support and promote the sector. The National Policy on Skill Development and Entrepreneurship aims to empower youth with the skills and knowledge necessary for entrepreneurship, including social entrepreneurship. The Startup India initiative, launched in 2016, encourages entrepreneurship and innovation, providing incentives, tax benefits, and a supportive regulatory framework. The

National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) empowers rural social entrepreneurs through financial support, capacity-building, and market linkages. The Companies Act, 2013 introduced provisions for corporate social responsibility, requiring certain companies to allocate funds for social and environmental initiatives. This incentivised corporate involvement in social entrepreneurship activities. The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), launched by the NITI Aayog, promotes innovation and entrepreneurship among students and startups, including social innovation. In 2021, the Indian government proposed an impact investment policy to encourage investment in social enterprises and impact-driven ventures. The Credit Guarantee Fund for Startups provides credit guarantees to facilitate loans for startups, including social enterprises.

To sum up, the Indian government has introduced a range of initiatives and policies to support social entrepreneurship, recognising its potential for addressing societal challenges and promoting economic development.

Social entrepreneurship is addressing the pressing societal challenges while fostering economic development, empowering communities, and redefining philanthropy. The transformative power of social entrepreneurship in India lies in its innovative business models and deep commitment to social impact. Social entrepreneurs are driving change, and the government, as well as various funding sources, is stepping up to support their efforts. Together, we are creating a brighter, more equitable future for India. □□

Dr. Sunita Dahiya: Founder, AAINA Foundation

An economic analysis of Shri Laxmi Narasimha Swamy temple of Yadadri in Telangana – A case study

In modern times, temples should be seen as an important player in local and community development, especially since temple spirits are seen as having a legal identity because they still have economic resources and land that are controlled by religious trusts.

**Dr. S. Lingamurthy
& Ms. Shivanjali Shukla**

In Bharat, temples serve as the utmost symbols of faith and spirituality. In addition to serving a variety of other purposes, temples have made a far larger contribution to the accumulation, distribution, redistribution, and mobilization of commodities. In the past, rulers would lavishly donate to temples; today, society has turned these religious temples into vast treasuries of wealth, including land, jewelry, and financial assets, making them powerful economic institutions that directly and indirectly support the livelihoods of millions of people. Due to their encouragement of Dharma-based economic activities, temples have traditionally played a significant role in advancing their constituents' spiritual and financial well-being, and temples serve as key institutions in the dissemination of Vedic thought.

In modern times, temples should be seen as an important player in local and community development, especially since temple spirits are seen as having a legal identity because they still have economic resources and land that are controlled by religious trusts. Telangana State Temples have been part of the growth of their communities in many ways for several hundreds of years. Temples give their towns and cities specific symbolic identities, bring in tourists and investors from outside, help shape the way modern cities look, limit how the land can be used, and are often given land on which economic activities are put in place (Trouillet, 2017). Also, ancient and modern temples can help small towns to grow and progress, even though geography and other factors too always play a big role in it. Historically from ancient times, India talks about the holistic development of its people, which is based on Dharmanomics (Economics based on Dharma), and the temples provide a livelihood to people living in and around the temple. Temples also create their own network economy through the pilgrims' visits from one temple to another temple.

Vendors' data analysis and interpretation

The pattern of shops or vendors, their source of existence, and their socio-economic conditions such as vendors' age group, caste component, gender, education and their house ownership status. Total of 49 vendors have responded to the research team during the study. The majority of the vendors have vacated the shops because of displacement owing to the re-construction of the Temple supported by the Government of Telangana.

The results show that among the existing shops, the majority of the shops are related to Gifts and Toys which comprise 38.78 percent of the whole, followed by Bangles and General store about 24.49 percent and Puja, Coconut, Mess and Others. Almost all of the respondents have revealed that their shops have been existing only because of the Temple and only one respondent denied it, out of 49 samples.

With regard to age group of the vendors, majority of the vendors belong to the age group of 31-50 years with 55 percent and followed by 20-30 age group.

It shows that majority of the young age group people are making livelihood in and around the temple areas. Of course, more than 20 percent of vendors belong to above 50 years of age group which is significant in the analysis.

Temples have shown their inclusivity by facilitating all groups of people to make their livelihood. As per the analysis, majority of the vendors belonging to Other Backward Classes comprising 77.55 percent and followed by General Category with 14.29 percent and Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes communities together forms about 8.16 percent. Temples accommodates both males and female management vendors in its premises although majority of the vendors belongs to Male category with 77.55 percent and remaining are female managers.

With regard to the vendor's education, out of 49 respondents, 16 respondents have completed their intermediate (12th Class) or diploma education comprising 32.65 percent, followed by higher secondary with about 26.53 percent, graduation 20.41 percent, primary education 8.16 percent and about 6.12 is the percentage for both post-graduation as well as illiterate vendors. More than 50 percent of the respondents have completed intermediate and above education among the vendors, which means the temples are accommodating even higher educated people in their livelihoods.

Among the vendors, 34 respondents i.e., 69.39 percent have revealed that they have own houses and about 30.61 respondents have been living in rented houses. Irrespective of ownership status of the house, 93.88 percent of the



Devotees line to have darshan of the main deity inside the temple

respondents have been living in pucca houses only in and around the temple area.

Majority of the vendors have their livelihood pattern based on temple products such as gifts, toys, bangle stores and puja stores, attracting all communities to make their livelihood in temple-based products particularly other backward classes, irrespective of educational backgrounds, even higher educated people with pucca houses for living.

More than 40 vendors out of 49 have been earning respectful amount in temple areas. Majority of the respondents have been earning above Rs. 20,000/- per month from all sources and coincidentally almost all the amount is based on only temple-based business activity. Similarly, 15 respondents have said that they have been earning in the range of Rs. 15,000 to 20,000 per month from all sources and majorly from existing shop which is located at temple area only. 4 respondents have been earning in a range of Rs. 10,000 to 15,000 and only 5 vendors have been earning less than Rs. 10,000 per month. The results indicates that majority of the respondents have been earning a decent and respectful income

for their survival in the temple area.

Many shops have closed down because of re-construction of the temple by the Government of Telangana and many of the vendors have been displaced and replaced to different places. However, as per the collected data from the field shows that out of 49 respondents 33 vendors had been surviving at the temple area through their livelihood and only 16 vendors have started their shops after 2014 which is the time period when temple re-construction took place. About 18.37 percent of the vendors have been there even before the year 1990 and during 1991-2014 about 24 vendors have started their business activity. Majority of them have been satisfied with their business and 85.71 percent of the respondent's desire to continue the same business. Majority of the respondents have revealed that their profits level is good and about 41 percent of the respondents have opinion that their profits level. Significant number of vendors have been complying taxes to the government as well as to the local authorities.

It is interesting to notice that minimum amount of monthly income from all sources and shop is

Rs. 5,000/- which means those who have less than Rs. 10,000 incomes are solely depending on temple-based livelihood. Average income from the shop at the temple area is Rs. 26,081 which is quite encouraging and attractive to the competitors. Total investment ranges from Rs. 2000 to Rs. 2 million which indicates that irrespective of the size of the business all vendors can co-exist in the market. There are many vendors who run their shop with their family members and without employing people. However, there are certain vendors who have been employing people at max 9 persons. On an average each shop employing more than 1 person.

Every economic activity has its own business cycles. Similarly, the vendors at the temple areas also have their own normal business and peak seasons. During festivals, congregations, special puja days, Dussehra and Summer vacations, they have very good business. Number of pilgrims visit to the shops increase almost three times (2.92 times) from normal season to peak season and almost at the same rate the business also increases (2.64 times). It shows that there is a positive correlation between the number of pilgrims visit to the temple and business prosperities as well as special days of puja, festivals, congregations and vacation influences the business prosperities at the temple areas.

Pilgrims' data analysis and interpretation

The socio-economic conditions of the pilgrims who visit the Yadadri Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple. It is interesting to note that the majority of the pilgrims comprise the age group of

Every economic activity has its own business cycles. Similarly, the vendors at the temple areas also have their own normal business and peak seasons. During festivals, congregations, special puja days, Dussehra and Summer vacations, they have very good business.

20-40, which is young and energetic, followed by the 41-60 years of age group. 78.26 percent of the pilgrims belong to age group of 20-40 years, and more than 65 percent of the pilgrims are graduated and above, indicating that the younger generation with higher education is inclined more towards our culture and pious to the God Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy at Yadadri.

Temple is open to all, irrespective of their professions and caste. All the caste groups are allowed to have the divine darshan of the main deity. Analysis shows that the majority of the respondents are from the OBC category followed by the general community. However, a significant number of respondents belong to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes among the devotees. The majority of the pilgrims come either with their friends or families, which comprises more than 80 percent of the pilgrims. They come from far of places ranging from 100-200 KM predominantly followed by 50-100 KM range. A significant number of devotees are

there from more than a 200 KM radius of the temple, and majority of the pilgrims use their own vehicle to travel to the Yadadri Temple though there are Train and RTC Bus facilities.

About 89 percent of the pilgrims offer cash in Temple Hundi for the development activities of the temple and the welfare of the stakeholders.

It is very interesting to note that the majority of the devotees, about 31.31 percent visit the temple once in every six months, followed by about 29.5 percent visit once in a year or more time. Moreover, 20.56 percent of devotees said that they visit once in every three months, which shows the significant influence of Sri. Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy on the younger generation and educated people and perhaps Vaishnava philosophy.

The majority of the pilgrims belong to poor, below middle-class income group, and their income is below Rs. 5,00,00 per annum. However, Yadadri Temple receives pilgrims from all types of income groups, irrespective of their social or economic status.

Irrespective of their income category, every pilgrim spends a good amount of money on their visit to the temple. The majority of the pilgrims are spending in the range of Rs. 2001-5000/- followed by Rs. 1001-2000/-. A significant number of pilgrims are also spending above Rs. 5000/- at the Yadadri Temple. Various means of expenditure by the pilgrims, indicating that maximum amount of expenditure goes on transportation and food. A significant amount of spending goes on to have temple darshan, puja materials, and general items by the pilgrims. □□

Genesis of Hamas attacks on Israel - 1

The world was horrified and grief struck when Hamas's brazen dawn assault began on 7th October 2023 with rocket fire from the Gaza Strip into southern Israel. Simultaneously, the Palestinian militant group dispatched armed drones, fighters on motorbikes and paragliders across the strip's border, targeting civilian towns and military checkpoints. The Israeli civilians who had been sleeping or resting during the Shabat, Israel's day of rest — fled for their lives across fields. Hamas's deadly, carefully planned and multi-faceted operation had unleashed Israel's most terrifying nightmare. Israeli analysts describe the attack as the worst inside the Jewish state's territory since 1948 — the year it was founded. At least 600 people had been killed in Israel, and Hamas has taken 100 hostages. The October 2023 conflict between Israel and Hamas marks the most significant escalation of the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict in several decades. Hamas's ability to launch such a well-planned attack from within the confines of the impoverished, hemmed-in Gaza Strip, which is surrounded by Israeli military fences and checkpoints, suggested a massive intelligence failure that sent shockwaves — and fear — through Israeli society. Some are even tagging this as the “third Intifada” (Arabic word meaning uprising). The first lasted from 1987 to 1993, and the second from 2000-2005.

The death toll in Israel remains at 1400, with over 200 hostages taken during the October 7th attack. The total death toll now stands at 6,500. For, the current hostility tests the Abraham Accords and the efforts towards rapprochement between Saudi Arabia and Israel that held the promise of reshaping age-old fault-lines in the Middle East.



“Our thoughts and prayers are with the innocent victims and their families. We stand in solidarity with Israel at this difficult hour,” the PM said.

Vinod Johri

Gaza is a narrow strip of land sandwiched between Israel and the Mediterranean Sea, but with a short southern border with Egypt. Just 41km (25 miles) long and 10km wide, it has more than two million inhabitants and is one of the most densely populated places on Earth. Gaza is ruled by Hamas, an Islamist group which is committed to the destruction of Israel and is designated as a terrorist group by the UK and many other countries. Hamas won the Palestinians' last elections in 2006, and seized control of Gaza the following year by ousting the rival Fatah movement of West Bank-based President Mahmoud Abbas. Since then, militants in Gaza have fought several wars with Israel, which along with Egypt has maintained a partial blockade on the strip to isolate Hamas and try to stop attacks, particularly the indiscriminate firing of rockets towards Israeli cities. Palestinians in Gaza say Israel's restrictions and its air strikes on heavily populated areas amount to collective punishment. This year has been the deadliest year on record for Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem. They also complain of the restrictions and military actions being carried out there in response to deadly attacks on Israelis.

The 7th October 2023 attacks have echoes of the 1973 war when Egypt and Syria caught Israel unawares by leading an Arab offensive in the Sinai and the Golan Heights on Yom Kippur, the holiest day in Judaism. It is unlikely to be a

coincidence that Hamas launched its assault close to the 50th anniversary of that war. But Saturday's attack took place inside Israel and civilians were targeted, whereas in 1973 the Sinai and the Golan Heights were under Israeli occupation. Despite fighting at least four wars with Hamas since the group seized control of Gaza in 2007, Israel clearly under-estimated the militants' capacity. The most recent conflict was in 2021 when Hamas fired barrage after barrage of rockets into Israel, surprising Israeli security officials with their scope and scale. Israel responded by pounding Gaza with air strikes and artillery and ended up fighting on multiple fronts.

Iran-backed Hezbollah has already joined Hamas offensive and has a far larger and more sophisticated rocket and missile arsenal than Hamas. Its involvement in the conflict has threatened to overwhelm Israel's Iron Dome defence system, which protects its towns and cities. Hezbollah had delivered a bloody nose to Israel during a month-long conflict in 2006 and it has gained battleground experience after intervening in Syria's civil war to back President Bashar al-Assad. Israel has long warned that it would respond to any serious Hezbollah attacks with massive force against Lebanon, a country already on its knees after years of economic crisis and political malaise. Saturday's events also raise Israeli fears that Iran, which supports Hezbollah, Hamas, and Palestine Islamic Jihad (PIJ), another militant Palestinian group in Gaza, may decide to stoke the flames. The West Bank, meanwhile, has been simmering with tension as it endures the worst cycle of

Between the 1920s and 1940s, the number of Jews arriving there grew, with many fleeing from persecution in Europe, especially the Nazi Holocaust in World War Two.

violence since the second intifada, or Palestinian uprising, ended in 2005. Israel has been conducting almost daily raids in the occupied territory. Rarely in recent years has the situation appeared so combustible? The war has already engulfed Lebanon and Syria.

Background

1. The/Israeli-Palestinian conflict/ dates back to the end of the nineteenth century. Britain took control of the area known as Palestine following the defeat of the Ottoman Empire, which ruled that part of the Middle East, in World War One. The land was inhabited by a Jewish minority and Arab majority, as well as other, smaller ethnic groups. Tensions between the two peoples grew when the international community gave the UK the task of establishing a "national home" in Palestine for Jewish people.

This stemmed from the Balfour Declaration of 1917, a pledge made by then Foreign Secretary Arthur Balfour to Britain's Jewish community. The declaration was enshrined in the British mandate over Palestine and endorsed by the newly-created League of Nations - forerunner of the United Nations - in 1922. To Jews, Palestine was their ancestral home, but Palestinian Arabs also claimed the land and

opposed the move.

2. Between the 1920s and 1940s, the number of Jews arriving there grew, with many fleeing from persecution in Europe, especially the Nazi Holocaust in World War Two.

Violence between Jews and Arabs, and against British rule, also increased. In 1947, the UN voted for Palestine to be split into separate Jewish and Arab states, with Jerusalem becoming an international city. That plan was accepted by Jewish leaders but rejected by the Arab side and never implemented.

3. In 1947, the United Nations adopted/ Resolution 181, known as the Partition Plan, which sought to divide the British Mandate of Palestine into Arab and Jewish states. On May 14, 1948, the State of Israel was created, sparking the first Arab-Israeli War. The war ended in 1949 with Israel's victory, but 750,000 Palestinians were displaced, and the territory was divided into 3 parts: the State of Israel, the West Bank (of the Jordan River), and the Gaza Strip.

4. In 1948, unable to solve the problem, Britain withdrew and Jewish leaders declared the creation of the State of Israel. It was intended to be a safe haven for Jews fleeing persecution, as well as a national homeland for Jews. Fighting between Jewish and Arab militias had been intensifying for months, and the day after Israel declared statehood, five Arab countries attacked. Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians fled or were forced out of their homes in what they call Al Nakba, or the "Catastrophe". By the time the fighting ended in a ceasefire the following year, Israel controlled most of the territory.

5. Jordan occupied land which became known as the West Bank, and Egypt occupied Gaza. Jerusalem was divided between Israeli forces in the West, and Jordanian forces in the East. Because there was never a peace agreement there were more wars and fighting in the following decades.

6. In a war in 1967, Israel occupied East Jerusalem and the West Bank, as well as most of the Syrian Golan Heights, Gaza and the Egyptian Sinai Peninsula. Most Palestinian refugees and their descendants live in Gaza and the West Bank, as well as in neighbouring Jordan, Syria and Lebanon. Neither they nor their descendants have been allowed by Israel to return to their homes - Israel says this would overwhelm the country and threaten its existence as a Jewish state.

7. In the wake of the 1948-49 war, Gaza was occupied by Egypt for 19 years.

8. Over the following years, tensions rose in the region, particularly between Israel and Egypt, Jordan, and Syria. Following the/ 1956 Suez Crisis/ and Israel's invasion of the Sinai Peninsula, Egypt, Jordan, and Syria signed mutual defence pacts in anticipation of a possible mobilization of Israeli troops. In June 1967, following/ a series of manoeuvres/ by Egyptian President Abdel Gamal Nasser, Israel pre-emptively attacked Egyptian and Syrian air forces, starting the Six-Day War. After the war, Israel gained territorial control over the Sinai Peninsula and Gaza Strip from Egypt; the West Bank and East Jerusalem from Jordan; and the Golan Heights from Syria. Six years later, in what is referred to as the Yom Kippur War or the October War,

Egypt and Syria launched/ a surprise two-front attack/ on Israel to regain their lost territory; the conflict did not result in significant gains for Egypt, Israel, or Syria, but Egyptian President Anwar al-Sadat declared the war a victory for Egypt as it allowed Egypt and Syria to/ negotiate over previously ceded territory. Finally, in 1979, following a series of cease-fires and peace negotiations, representatives from Egypt and Israel signed the/ Camp David Accords,/ a peace treaty that ended the thirty-year conflict between Egypt and Israel.

9. Even though the Camp David Accords improved relations between Israel and its neighbours, the question of Palestinian self-determination and self-governance remained unresolved. In 1987, hundreds of thousands of Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza Strip rose up against the Israeli government in what is known as the first intifada. The 1993,/ Oslo I Accords/ mediated the conflict, setting up a framework for the Palestinians to govern themselves in the West Bank and Gaza, and enabled mutual recognition between the newly established Palestinian Authority and Israel's government. In 1995, the/ Oslo II/ Accords expanded on the first agreement, adding provisions that mandated the complete withdrawal of Israel from 6 cities and 450 towns in the West Bank.

10. In 2000, sparked in part by Palestinian grievances over Israel's control over the West Bank, a stagnating peace process, and former Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's/ visit/ to the al-Aqsa mosque—the third holiest site in Islam—in September 2000, Palestinians/ launched/ the second in-

tifada, which would last until 2005. In response, the Israeli government approved the/ construction of a barrier wall/ around the West Bank in 2002, despite/ opposition/ from the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court.

The series of remaining incidents of genesis of war between Israel and Hamas will be taken up in the next issue.

The Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed shock at what he called “terrorist attacks” and conveyed “solidarity with Israel”. “Deeply shocked by the news of terrorist attacks in Israel. Our thoughts and prayers are with the innocent victims and their families. We stand in solidarity with Israel at this difficult hour,” the Prime Minister said via a social media post on X. But Bharat navigates a complicated neighbourhood in west Asia, where it has friends on both, or rather many sides of the aisle — Saudi Arabia, Iran, Israel and the UAE to name the four major powers in the region. According to the details on the website of the our Embassy, there are about 18,000 Bharatiya nationals in Israel. Bharat has launched ‘Operation Ajay’ to carry out a phased evacuation of its citizens from Israel and brought back 212 and 235 Bhartiya nationals in two special flights. Special charter flights and necessary arrangements have been made for this operation. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has established a 24/7 control room in Delhi to oversee the operation. Separate emergency help lines in Tel Aviv and Ramallah are operational to monitor the situation in Israel and Palestine. □□

Vinod Johri: Retd. Addl. Commissioner of Income Tax, Delhi

Mewar as Focus of Guhila State (Part-XVI)

Bardic traditions such as Suryavamsavali, Sri Rānāji ri bāt, Rājāve Bahi and Badvādevīdān Khyat refer to three Hādā queens of the Guhi kings of the period, two for Rānā Khetā and one for Rānā Kumbha (Rao Bagji's daughter). Possibly, Rana Kheta's Hādā queens came from the Hādā families of eastern Mewar, for social links with the Hād were politically far more important for the Guhilas to ensure contra over strategic fortresses located east and north-east of Chittaurgarh.

The Solamkis (Balnotes) of Mandalgarh

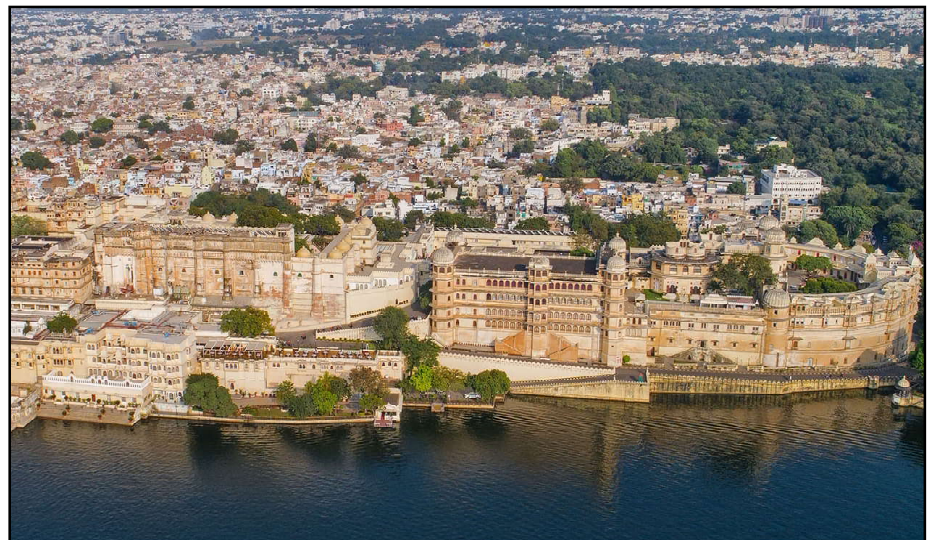
The annals of Mewar make it amply clear that Mandalgarh, a fort tract with mining potential, had been predominated by the Bālnotes branch of the Caulukyas or Solamkis, in the fifteenth century. The local legends attribute the building of Mandalgarh to the Bal notes a trace their ancestry to the Caulukyas of Anhilwārā. Their association with Mandalgarh is so long that this tract is also popularly known Balnote.

Their association with Mandalgarh is also suggested by the fact many other important social groups of Mewar and adjacent region particularly some of the Jain mercantile families, trace their desk from the Bālnotes or Solamkis of Mandalgarh. However, more imp aptly, two inscriptions (unpublished) containing the genealogy the local Solamkis tracing ancestry from the Anhilwara Cauluk have been discovered at Kachaura, Mandalgarh." These inscriptional records certainly substantiate the Solamki claim over the Mandalgarh tract.

Actual political integration of the Solamkis (Balnotes) of Mandalgarh seems to have materialized only in Rānā Kumbha's reign (in the latter half of the fifteenth century), for the Kumbhagarh Prasasti refers to Kumbha's conquest of Mandalgarh twice and the Ranakpur" Prasasti mentions it in the list of Kumbha's



The Guhila royal family negotiated with all the local non-Guhila Rajput families at political, military and social levels and accomplished political integration under the Guhila leadership.
Prof. Nandini Kapur Sinha



conquests. However, the Solamkis of Mandalgarh seem to have been confined to a small tract, for unlike the reference to the Hādās, the Guhila inscriptions never mention the Solamkis or the Balnotes in the context of Mandalgarh. Mandalgarh was perhaps better controlled by the Guhilas than the Hādā forts. Although it is difficult to prove the social linkages of the Guhilas with the Solamkis of Mandalgarh, it is significant that Badvadevidān Khyat lists two Solamki queens of the Guhila kings of the fifteenth century. One married to Mokal and the other to Raimalla.” Given the strategic importance of Mandalgarh, the Guhilas might have made matrimonial alliances with the Solamkis of Mandalgarh in the fifteenth century.

The Paramaras of Bhainsrorgarh

Being strategically situated on the banks of the Chambal and on the trade route to central India,” the fortress of Bhainsrorgarh (defended by a cliff with a sharp descent to the river) could act both as a second line of defence and a line of supplies and provisions to Mewar. The trading importance of Bhainsrorgarh is evident from local popular tales that associate the town with itinerant traders called banjaras.”

A thirteenth-century inscription discovered by Tod at Bhainsrorgarh points towards Paramara occupation of the locality, for the land charter is executed in the Paramāra style of Malwa (Sasan Udayaditya).” The predominance of the Paramaras in the Bhainsrorgarh locality in the fourteenth century is further corroborated by royal and private inscriptions in neighbouring Sontra (Sutrawān-

durga). A private record dated AD 1390 records that in the castle of Sontra the Paramāra Uda, Kull, Bhoona sold their existence (indicating slavery?) along with the cattle, wives, brahmanas, and putra Coda.” A royal record of AD 1314 registers some construction work by a scion of the ruling Paramāras of Sutrawāndurga tracing his ancestry from Dhār, Malwa.” But significantly, the Paramara records from Bhainsrorgarh do not date to the period beyond the late fourteenth century (AD 1390).” It is also important to note that unlike Mandalgarh, the fortress of Bhainsrorgarh is not even mentioned in fifteenth-century Guhila records. As it was situated close to Chittaurgarh, Guhila silence over its conquest perhaps suggests its effective incorporation and hence, the integration of the Paramāra chiefs of Bhainsrorgarh into the political structure of the Guhila state by the early fifteenth century.

As far as Guhila matrimonial alliances with the Paramaras are concerned, there is once again no reference to them in contemporary official records. Bardic traditions refer to only one such alliance. Suryavamsavali, Rajavali Bahl and Badvadevidān Khyat mention a Sānkhli (a branch of the Paramāras) queen for Mahārānā Mokal.”

Rathours in Mewar

Perhaps the most significant aspect of the political structure of Mewar in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries was the growing strength of the Rāthours in the Guhila court. Sources for the study of the early period of their rise include medieval texts and bardic traditions such as Muhanot Nainsi

ri Khyat, Jodhpur Rajya ki Khyat, Tod’s Annals, etc. Rāo Siha was the founder of the ruling house of the Rathours of Marwar.

According to tradition, one of the early Rathours of Marwar, Rāo Ranamal, brought the Rathours into Mewar. Accounts seem to indicate that kinship pressures may have forced Rāo Ranamal to settle outside his paternal state in the early fifteenth century. Rānā Lakha is known to have welcomed him and to have granted him an estate. Rāo Ranamal is stated to have reciprocated by leading Rand’s army and bringing Ajmer under Mewar. Besides, the Rathours probably functioned as an effective check against locally entrenched non-Guhila Rajput families such as the Hādās of eastern Mewar. These politico-military factors seem to have greatly helped the Rathours in quickly gaining control and in acquiring a progressively higher status in the royal court of Mewar in the early fifteenth century.

The Rāthaur-Guhila alliance is likely to have been politically significant, for bardic traditions narrate at length the matrimonial alliance sought by the Rathours with the Guhilas in the early fifteenth century.” Rana Lakha is known to have married a Rathaur Princess Hansābi, Ranamal’s sister. The marriage took place under the understanding that a son by the Rathaur princess was to succeed to the throne of Mewar, superseding the elder prince. Thus, the Guhila-Rathaur marriage alliance led to the famous abdication of the throne of Mewar by its heir, Prince Cunda (Rānā Lākha’s eldest son), and the influx of many more Rāthours into Mewar.

(to be continued...)

Global Hunger Index is erroneous, shows 'malafide intent': SJM

Days after the government said that the Global Hunger Index continues to be “an erroneous measure of hunger with serious methodological issues and shows a malafide intent”, Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM) also expressed its “deep anguish” at the report and said it is natural to raise questions on it.

Terming it “another mischievous report”, SJM said like previous years, a German organization Welt Hungerhilfe, has published its ‘Hunger Index’ and the hunger ranking of the countries of the world based on the same. It said India has been placed at a very low at 111 position in the ranking among 125 countries.

“Last year in 2022, Bharat was ranked 107th in the list of 121 countries and in 2021, India was ranked 101st in the ranking of 116 countries,” SJM said in a release. “If we believe the report, the performance of countries like Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka etc., who themselves are dependent on food supplies from Bharat, is much better than India. In such a situation, it is natural to raise questions on this report. If we consider production and availability of food, India ranks 35th in the world in the latest global ranking (2020) of 188 countries,” said the release issued by SJM.

“The continuously increasing per capita production of food grains, milk, eggs, fruits, vegetables, fish etc. confirms that Bharat is today producing sufficient, or even surplus food, compared to demand,” SJM added. The release said that according to the data published by the Sample Registration System of India, the child mortality rate had decreased from 35 per thousand in 2019 to 32 per thousand in the year 2020.

“If this rate of decline in child mortality is considered, then it was expected to reach 24.4 by the year 2023. In such a situation, there is no reason why the outdated child mortality rate in India should be taken at 31 per thousand, to estimate the hunger index of 2023 in Bharat,” it said.

“About malnutrition, Welt Hungerhilfe does not have any factual and credible data, as the household consumption survey by the concerned official agency has not been conducted since 2011. But unfortunately, Welt Hungerhilfe puts the figure of malnutrition at 16.6 per cent, it added.

The SJM, which is an RSS affiliate, said that Poshan Tracker, a Government of India initiative, has published data based on real-time figures obtained

from more than seven crore children covered under the scheme. “Poshan Tracker data puts malnutrition in children to be 7.7 in February. Notably malnutrition in the population can’t be in much variance with malnutrition in children,” it said and added that stunting cannot be a suitable criterion to measure hunger in the country as there are variable geographical and other factors. Referring to the Global Hunger Report, SJM urged people not to believe “such reports with malafide intentions”.

“We call upon the Government of Bharat to take this issue at the diplomatic level and curb the publication of such reports. The issue must also be taken up with Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and other UN agencies to expedite correction in their respective data sets, based on official data provided by the Government of Bharat,” it said.

The govt had said on Sunday that the Global Hunger Index continues to be a flawed measure of ‘hunger’ and does not reflect India’s true position.

“The Global Hunger Report 2023 released by Concern Worldwide and Welt Hunger Hilfe, Non-Government Organisations from Ireland and Germany respectively, has ranked India at 111 among 125 countries. The index is an erroneous measure of hunger and suffers from serious methodological issues,” the Ministry of Women and Child Development said in a release. “Three out of the four indicators used for calculation of the index are related to the health of children and cannot be representative of the entire population. The fourth and most important indicator ‘Proportion of Undernourished (PoU) population’ is based on an opinion poll conducted on a very small sample size of 3000,” it added. The ministry said that the measurement of over seven crore children shows wasting at about one-third of that used in the Global Hunger Index. It said the government is committed to ensuring the food security of citizens.

<https://www.bignetwork.com/news/274003537/global-hunger-index-is-erroneous-shows-malafide-intent-swadeshi-jagran-manch>

‘Education shops extorting Indian students’

The SJM has raised concerns over the number of Indian students going abroad for higher studies. In a blog post, SJM said that the number has increased tenfold in the past 30 years.

“According to the central government, between 2016 and 2021, 26.44 lakh Indian students went to study abroad. The Associated Chambers of Commerce and

Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) estimates that in the year 2020, 4.5 lakh Indian students went abroad for education and they spent \$13.5 billion. In the year 2022, this expenditure was \$24 billion i.e; about Rs 2 lakh crore and according to the report of Redseer Strategy Consultants, this expenditure can reach \$80 billion or Rs 7 lakh crore by 2024, when an estimated 20 lakh Indian students will study abroad,” SJM said.

“Young students move to foreign countries expecting to land jobs there... But they do not understand that today, educational institutions in Canada, Australia and European countries are easily giving them admission for their own survival. Not only this, many education ‘shops’ are being opened to extort huge fees from interested students from India and other countries, which has nothing to do with real education,” SJM added.

SJM said it would be a dangerous situation for the country when, by 2024, the number of students going to study abroad reaches 20 lakh and the amount spent by them hits \$80 billion.

“In such a situation, the central and state governments need to make special efforts to make the youth aware of the reality so that they do not waste their parents’ hard-earned money by going abroad,” SJM added. Speaking of students, here in India, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) students’ wing, the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) said activities sympathetic to the Palestinian militant group Hamas at educational campuses are not acceptable.

In a press note, the ABVP said the silence by some political parties and groups on last week’s attack on Israel was indicative of “intellectual bankruptcy”.

“Various organisations of the country should express their views in accordance with the current foreign policy of the Government of India. There is a need to be alert to the organisations which are blindly singing their own tune on this extreme situation of violence due to religious fanaticism and prejudices. In some educational campuses in India, an attempt is being made to strike a different note on the terrorist attack by Hamas on Israel and this is like supporting the evil ideology of Hamas,” the press note said.

The Delhi Police’s raid on digital media house News Click and arrests of its founder and HR head and the diplomatic row between India and Canada were also among the issues the Hindu Right press covered and commented on this past week.

<https://theprint.in/read-right/education-shops-extorting-indian-students-hindu-right-press-wants-govt-to-discourage-studying-abroad/1803805/>

Bharat@2047: Roadmap for Development



Swadeshi Sodh Sansthan organized a one-day seminar on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Rashtra Rishi Dattopant Thengdi ji at Satyagraha Mandap, Gandhi Darshan and Gandhi Smriti, Rajghat, New Delhi. The program had multiple sessions apart from the inaugural and concluding sessions. The theme of the Sessions were (i) Demographic Trends Shaping Economic Growth; (ii) New Economic Paradigm for 2047: Deliberating Human Centric Development; (iii) Security Paradigm for New Bharat; and (iv) Deliberating Bharat’s Technology Paradigm - Challenging Monopolization, Bringing Equity & Accelerating Growth. The concluding session focused on (v) Strong and Self-Reliant Bharat as a VishwaGuru for designing a prosperous and peaceful World and was followed by valedictory session.

The speakers were the leading practitioners of their respective domains. It was addressed by national convener of SJM Sri. Sundaram ji, co-convener of SJM Dr. Ashwani Mahajan ji and Dr. Bhagwati Prakash Sharma ji, participation by Akhil Bhartiya Sampark Pramukh of SJM Sri Deepak Sharma Pradeep ji, and Akhil Bhartiya Sah-Sanghatak of SJM Sri. Satish Kumar ji; Swadeshi Shodh Sansthan was represented by Dr. Pradeep S Chauhan who works as professor at JNU, Chartered accountant Sri. Anil Sharma, Dr. Sarabjeet Kaur of Delhi University, Dr. Compesh Pannu, and Chartered accountant Sri. Vijay Goel ji, award-winning journalists Sri. Aditya Raj Kaul-Executive Editor TV9 Network; renowned defense policy experts Dr. Rajiv Nayan from Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defense Studies and Analyses, Dr. R K Tyagi ji – former chairperson of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, reputed representatives from the political leadership of the country were former union ministers Sri Suresh Prabhu ji and Sri Vijay Goel ji,

film historian and author Sri. Gautam Chintamani; founder of Zoho Corporation Padamshri Sri Shridhar Vembu; Sri. Shivshakti Bakshi, Dr. Sanjiv Joshi, Prof. Amita Devi, Prof. Sapna Poti, Dr. Naveen Balli, Sr. Vinay Goel ji, Sri. Shaurya Doval, Prof Shasi Wanjari VC of NIEPA, Prof Ram Singh from DSE, Chartered Accountant Sri. Rajiv Singh ji, Sri. Gagan Kumar, Sri. Vinay Ji from Punjab, Smt. Mythili from Chennai, and Smt. Shivalli Chauhan ji from ministry of defence contributed with their participation in the seminar.

The seminar discussed about the lens with which the world sees Bharat today, whether it be marching towards self-reliance in consumer products, vaccine maître, success of UPI, countering narrative building by reports like Hunger Index, defense preparations and relevance of soft power like- films, literature, narrative building, and propaganda in policy making, capability and harnessing demographic dividend, focus on promoting district centered planning and innovation at local level. The title of the seminar was Bharat@2047: Roadmap for Development.

This seminar emerged as great learning opportunity for the audience in general and for college students in particular, the delivery was from experienced and credible panelists.

Turmeric board comes as boon for farmers in Nizamabad district



Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement of setting up of the much-awaited National Turmeric Board (NTB) has come as good news for the farmers in the district. The board will come as a shot in the arm for turmeric growers as it helps in the promotion, processing, marketing and export of turmeric.

Nizamabad is one of the largest turmeric-producing districts in Telangana and the Nizamabad Agricultural Market Yard is one of the major turmeric markets in the State. Farmers launched a movement demanding the establishment of NTB before 2006

and Swadeshi Jagran Manch also gave its support to their demand. In the later years, main political parties and people's organisations joined the bandwagon.

Though officially turmeric is grown on more than 60,000 acres in the district, the area of its cultivation is much larger unofficially. A farmer spends more than Rs 1.10 lakh per acre for the cultivation of turmeric and on average gets a yield of 20 quintals. Ankapur in the district was once known for large-scale turmeric cultivation but lack of marketing, training and export facilities forced the farmers to gradually decrease the area of cultivation. According to sources, the farmers who cultivated turmeric in 1,823.23 hectares in 2020-2021 got a yield of 2,26,241.99 MTs. Out of this, the farmers in Nizamabad raised the crop in 13,942.16 hectares and got a yield of 8,6092.63 MTs. Bharathiya Kisan Sangh (BKS) national secretary K Sai Reddy hailing the PM's announcement expressed the hope that the Board will take care of all the farmers' issues from the cultivation stage to export.

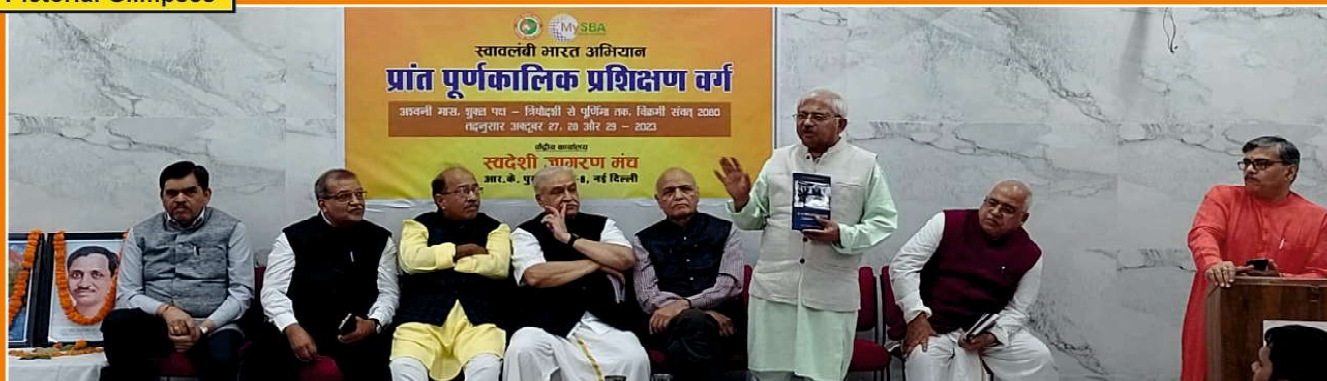
According to him, the Board can be expected to implement a market intervention scheme with the help of Central and State governments to provide profitable prices for the farmers' produce. Sai Reddy is hopeful that the NTB will start functioning before the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. A turmeric farmer, J Madhusudhan Reddy of Aluru village, said that the NTB was a long pending aspiration of the farmers. Once the Board comes into being, the farmers will get assistance from experts for improving the turmeric yield, he said. Research, marketing and export facilities that would accrue from the Board would bring immense benefits for the farmers, he added.

Fluctuating prices of turmeric produce is one of the major issues. Farmers mostly do not wait for an increase in price to sell their produce due to the lack of storage facilities. Only a few who can afford to wait for the right time get a higher price. According to Madhusudhan Reddy, it's very rare for farmers to get more than Rs 5,000 per quintal of turmeric in the Nizamabad market yard. He hopes that all these disadvantages will be a thing of the past once the NTB is set up. Speaking to TNIE, Turmeric Buyers' Association Secretary Kamal Innani said that after the establishment of the NTB, turmeric will get special identification in the global market. According to him, the Board will mainly concentrate on increasing marketing facilities at the global level. □□

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/telangana/2023/oct/02/turmeric-board-comes-as-boon-for-farmers-in-nizamabad-district-2620082.html>

Swadeshi Activities
Swavlambi Bharat Abhiyan
Prant Purnkalik Prashikshan Varg
Delhi - October 27-29, 2023

Pictorial Glimpses



Swadeshi Mela - Delhi



Swadeshi Activities

Swavlambi Bharat Abhiyan

Entrepreneurship Encouragement Conferences

(उद्यमिता प्रोत्साहन सम्मेलन)

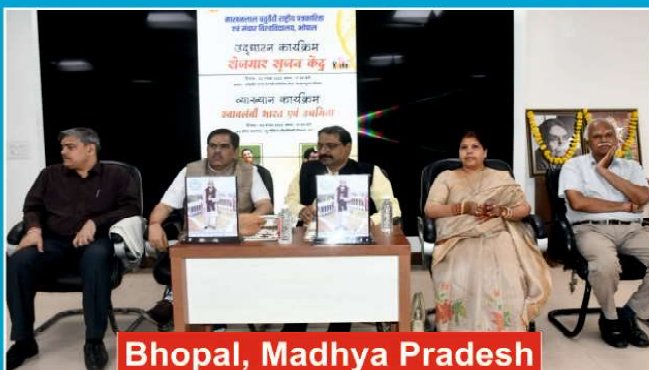
Pictorial Glimpses



Shimla, Himachal Pradesh



Bulandshehar, Uttar Pradesh



Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh



CTU, Ludhiana, Punjab



Simdega, Jharkhand

