

▶▶ VIEW POINT

▶▶ AGRICULTURE

▶▶ ANALYSIS

Rs 15/-, Page-40

# Swadeshi

## PATRIKA

MARCH 2020



**Well Done MODI**



## Swadeshi Activities

### Prant Sammelan, Gujarat

#### Pictorial Glimpses



### Swadeshi Sankalp Privar Sammelan, Jamshedpur (Jharkhand)



Vichar Valay, Jodhpur (Rajasthan)





Vol-25, No. 3  
Phalgun-Chaitra 2076-77 March 2020

EDITOR  
**Ajeay Bharti**

ASSOCIATE-EDITOR  
**Dr. Phool Chand**

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

COVER & PAGE DESIGNING  
**Sudama Dixit**

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

E-MAIL : [swadeshipatrika@rediffmail.com](mailto:swadeshipatrika@rediffmail.com)  
WEBSITE : [www.swadeshionline.in](http://www.swadeshionline.in)

**LETTERS** 3

**NEWS** 35-38



## CONTENTS

### COVER STORY

6

## Well Done Modi

Dr. Ashwani Mahajan



1 Cover Page

2. Cover Inside Page

### 08 POLITICS & NATION

View: Stop whining, Mr President

Sanjaya Baru

### 10 ANALYSIS

More the spat more Indo-US trade grows

Shivaji Sarkar

### 12 DISCUSSION

Highways of Growth

Anilesh S. Mahajan

### 14 FARMING

Steps to Double Farmer's Income

Dr. Bharat Jhunjunwala

### 16 FOCUS

Rewilding food, rewilding farming

Vandana Shiva

### 18 PERSPECTIVE

Who will seed organic India?

Indra Shekhar Singh

### 20 DEBATE

Gandhi's successor?

Swadeshi Samwad

### 22 AGRICULTURE

Pesticides Management Bill 2020 is an opportunity to clean up India's food and farming systems!

Kavitha Kuruganti

### 24 ISSUE

Pseudo-Caliphate and India

Sandhya Jain

### 26 FARMING

The hazards of pesticides

Devinder Sharma

### 28 VIEW POINT

Impact of e-Commerce on Government Income

Alok Singh

### 30 CURRENT ISSUE

China's Corona Challenge and Lessons Learnt

Abhishek Pratap Singh

### 32 HISTORY

Water Resources and Forests in Southern Rajasthan: An Inscriptional Study (Part-II)

Prof. Nandini Sinha Kapur

39 Back Inside Cover

40 Back Cover



## Cascading effect of "30 squats" Innovation by Indian Railway

*The Indian railway at the Anand Vihar railway Station is offering free railway platform tickets to those who perform 30 squats in 180 seconds. The initiative reflects many dimensions.*

*The first is that an innovation can take birth anywhere, and by anyone. At first instance, the objective of the initiative seems to be matching with the government's goal to promote the FIT India movement. The cascading effect of FIT India will be beautiful. It will reduce the burden of budget allocation for the Ayushman Bharat scheme which is the biggest health insurance scheme ever implemented in the world- covering half a billion population of India.*

*Moreover, the success of FIT India will empanel the middle class in the scheme sooner rather than later. Many such innovations and initiatives are needed by every organization whether it be the public sector or private sector to promote the FIT India program. The installation of an open gym in colony parks or gym in offices is not an innovation; it's about budget and financials. Innovation in this context is something that aims to motivate to participate in the FIT India program or to participate and contribute actively to Swachh Bharat Mission. It's not about resources- rather it's about behavioral change. The increased resource does not assure that a mission will be accomplished. Mission accomplishment needs active participation.*

*More such innovations are needed. Everyone welcome- what are you going to innovate for FIT India or Swachh Bharat- without asking for additional resources.*

– Kumar Gaurav, Delhi

### EDITORIAL OFFICE

#### SWADESHI PATRIKA

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

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

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

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

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

IFSC: BKID 0006025 (Ramakrishnapuram)

Annual Subscription : 150/-

Life Membership : 1500/-

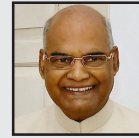
Kindly write your full name and address in capital letters.

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

#### Disclaimer

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

## Quote-Unquote



**Let us remember that the fruits of scientific research will make the best impact only when they reach our less-privileged institutions, our youth, our women and our socio-economically weaker segments.**

Ram Nath Kovind  
President, Bharat



**India's biodiversity is a 'unique treasure' for entire humankind.**

Narendra Modi  
Prime Minister, India



**Everybody loves him (Modi) but I will tell you this, he is very tough. You are not just the pride of Gujarat, you are living proof that with hard work, Indians can accomplish anything they want.**

Donald Trump  
President, USA

**It's important to note that while the US is pressing India to protect the interests of its companies, India's first priority is to protect its public health, employment in small businesses and industries"**

Swadeshi Jagran Manch

## Disrupting the Saving Culture

Finance Minister Mrs. Nirmala Sitaraman in her budget proposals 2020-21 has proposed a new optional tax regime, whereby the lower tax rates have been proposed in the new optional regime, with the condition that the deductions and rebates, which were so far available, will cease to be available to the personal income tax payers, opting for new regime, henceforth. The proposed rates of personal income tax would be 5 percent between incomes of 2.5 lakhs to 5 lakhs, 10 percent on incomes between 5 lakhs and 7.5 lakh, 15 percent on incomes between 7.5 lakhs and 10 lakhs, 20 percent on incomes between 10 lakhs and 12.5 lakhs and 25 percent on incomes between 12.5 lakh to 15 lakh and all income above 15 lakhs at 30 percent. The tax so calculated will continue to attract cess as applicable. Prior to this, the only tax regime, which was earlier applicable was such that income between 2.5 lakh and 5 lakh had income tax of 5 percent while income between 5 lakh and 10 lakh had tax rate of 20 percent and 10 lakh and above had income tax rate of 30 percent, along with applicable cess. The rates have been so designed that the tax payers who are generally saving 1.5 lakh annually and availing a standard deduction of rupees 50 thousand and are not availing any other rebate or concession would be paying lower tax than what he/she would have paid even after availing the tax rebate on savings. For instance an income tax payers having an income of rupees 15 lakhs, would be paying a tax of only rupees 3,37,500 under the new regime, while he would be paying rupees 3,45,000 as tax even after availing the tax benefit under 80C and 80D.

The government claims, and perhaps rightly, that with this new option 80 percent of the tax payers would opt for new regime. They are seemingly correct because it is beneficial for them to not avail tax benefit under 80C, 80D and standard deduction. This may be painted as a relief to the tax payers offered in the new tax regime. However, the new proposal has implications on the saving culture, overall saving in the economy and also on the growth in the economy.

It is well known that people in India believe in culture of saving. Generally people save for securing their future, purchase of real estate and gold and also for the future needs such as marriage and settlement of their offspring. For the past so many decades the government has been encouraging savings in specific formats, such as LIC premium, Public Provident fund (PPF) and some other, by giving tax concessions. For the last few years in addition to these saving the government has also been giving rebate on contribution in National Pension Scheme up to rupees 50 thousand annually. These measures have helped the government to make use of these resources to finance its fiscal deficit, and building infrastructure and capital investment. This action of the government is likely to discourage the savings in the country. Though people may continue to save even after the withdrawal of concessions, however, this act of the government is likely to impact the saving culture in the country.

It is notable that the rate of capital formation in the country has been increasing over time and it reached 39.6 percent by the year 2011-12. This capital formation has been largely financed by domestic savings and up to 2007-08 the foreign savings has never crossed 2 percent of the GDP. Recently, foreign saving as a source of capital formation has increased, however, it never exceeded 4 to 5 percent of the GDP.

Since 2011-12 we find that rate of capital formation has come down to merely 30.9 percent in 2017-18. The major reason for decline in capital formation seems to be decline in saving of the household sector declining from 23.6 percent of the GDP in 2011-12 to merely 17.2 percent of GDP in 2017-18. We understand that for capital formation plays an important role to lift GDP growth upward. Therefore, declining trend in household saving should be a matter of great worry. Changes in the income tax rates under new optional scheme, which incentivise people to save less in specified securities under section 80C and 80D and also saving under National Pension Scheme is likely to reduce the household saving further. Under such circumstances our capital formation as a percentage of GDP may further go down. Urge towards increasing capital formation, with lesser resources available domestically, may increase our dependence on foreign capital. In the past, though the contribution of foreign capital has been increasing over time, however, if we take the average in the past one decade, average foreign capital as a percentage of GDP has been nearly 2 percent of GDP only. Therefore, one can conclude that foreign capital can play only a limited role in our capital formation.

Further, it may be noted that the fiscal deficit is financed by borrowing from financial institutions and funds (insurance companies, provident funds, pension funds etc.), finances of which would be hit by disincentives to saving. As a result the sources of financing fiscal deficit would shrink and government will have to raise funds from other sources including monetising the deficit (by printing more currency notes).



# Well Done Modi



President Donald Trump has returned after completing his 36-hour visit to India. There was too much hype about Donald Trump's visit to India for the last almost a month. In today's world, diplomatic, strategic and economic relations with different countries have a special significance. In such a situation, the visit of the President of the world's most powerful country is considered to be an important event. The significance of this visit grew even more as Indian Parliament recently passed an important resolution and abolished Article 370, the root of a major dispute, going on since independence. Pakistan has been making incessant efforts of encouraging sepa-

ratism and terrorism in Kashmir and elsewhere, raising boggy of Kashmir dispute. With the abolition of Article 370 and thereby special status to Kashmir, the path of peace has become clear in Kashmir. However, to give rest to all controversies, it was necessary to create an atmosphere in favour of stability in Kashmir, at the international level too. By saying that whatever India does for Kashmir, will be good, all controversies have been put on rest by President Donald Trump.

Donald Trump also repeatedly cited his friendship with Prime Minister Narendra Modi before and during his visit to India. It is understandable that this kind of harmony between the heads of government of the two great nations is a good sign. Trade wars between US, China and India have been going on for a long time. President Trump has a consistent complaint with China that it is destroying employment opportunities for Americans by dumping its cheap goods in the US. So he is determined to take every step to save his country's employment and economy. At the same time, the United States has grudges with India too, that India sells all kinds of goods to America without tariff hindrances; however, very high import duties are imposed. For a long time, the US has been continuously raising import duties on goods coming from China and India. A few months ago, the US removed GSP, a provision granting trade concessions to India, affecting exports of nearly \$ 5.6 billion from India. Just a few days before Trump's visit to India, the US removed India from the category of developing countries and placed it in the category of developed countries. The effect will be that the trade concessions India receives from US, as a developing country will end.

The United States also complains that India has banned the import of milk products from America. At the same time, US companies have been complaining that India has imposed price controls on health devices, including cardiac stunts, knee implants etc., due to which their business interests are hurt. On the



*Increasing proximity of America with India is not only a success of India's foreign policy, it is also a good sign for peace and harmony in this region.*

**Dr. Ashwani Mahajan**

other hand, India has imposed various types of curbs on American e-commerce companies for some time. The US also complains that India's patent law is contrary to the interests of their companies.

India has clearly explained to the US that we cannot accept their demands because as far as dairy is concerned, the US milk supplies come from non-vegetarian cows, which cannot be allowed due to religious and cultural reasons. Moreover, dairy provides livelihood to nearly 10 crore subsistence farmers. On the other hand due to the discounting of e-commerce by American e-commerce companies, small shopkeepers in India are fast losing their employment, so it is necessary to impose curbs on these companies. As far as our intellectual property law including patents is concerned, it is very important for our public health, and the protection of farmers; and therefore it cannot be changed under any circumstances. Not only this, control over the prices of essential medical devices is absolutely necessary to provide affordable medical facilities to the poor in the country.

Amidst the plethora of grievances, the US has always been under the impression that they can get any agreement inked in their favour, by way of arm twisting and threats of sanctions, they have been practising in the past. There is no dearth of experts who would legitimise any agreement with US in the name of diplomacy. However, experience during Modi's regime has been different. This time too, a few days before Trump's visit, it became clear that even a limited trade agreement between India and the United States would not become a reality. Before coming to India,

Trump had also announced that India was not agreeing on trade deal and it would not be possible. He said, despite that he would come to India because he likes Modi. At the end of Trump's visit, though India and the United States have diplomatically spoken about mega trade agreement; it is equally clear that India will not compromise its interests under any circumstances. At the end of Trump's visit, New York Times headline is: "As Trump Visits India, a Trade Deal Remains Elusive. President Trump and Prime Minister Modi have plenty in common, but that doesn't include a desire to quickly lower trade barriers between the two countries"

America should not forget that India is also an important market for it. India's ever-growing civil aviation sector has proved to be a boon for the United States and in the next few years India is going to buy 300 Boeing aircraft worth \$ 40 billion from USA. Today America has become a very important oil exporting country to India. In such a situation, the trade deficit that America is complaining about is going to end soon.

America has to understand that good relations between India and America are absolutely necessary to create international balance. That is, why it is becoming clear in the Indo-US joint press release that the two countries will work together in the field of defense. Increasing strategic co-operation between India and the United States will improve the balance of power in the continent; and China, which is constantly increasing its strategic presence in the region, will also get appropriate response. It is worth noting that for some time,

under the 'Belt Road Project', China has been pushing the developing countries into a debt trap in the name of infrastructure. Through this, it is becoming a threat to the peace of the region by capturing assets of strategic importance in those countries. A strategic partnership between India and the United States can be considered an appropriate response to China.

### **Strongly rejecting**

The unfair trade and economic demands of the US and not signing trade agreements without causing any rift in Indo-US relations Modi has written a new chapter in Indo-US relation, based on equality and mutual benefit and not on coercion and arm twisting. India has been successful in pushing the US to favour India's action on Kashmir, making strategic agreements with India etc, and not allowing them to meddle in our internal affairs. Narendra Modi government's foreign policy can be considered to be a great success in this regard. Trump has also repeatedly said that Prime Minister Modi is a good friend, but an equally 'tough negotiator'.

America should not forget that India is an emerging power of the world, whose strength is also very important for global strategic balance. It should respect the sentiments of India while abandoning its petty economic interests. America supportive stance towards Pakistan has now become a history, for which too, Modi deserves a big credit. In such a situation, the increasing proximity of America with India is not only a success of India's foreign policy, it is also a good sign for peace and harmony in this region. □□

## View: Stop whining, Mr President

'They've been hitting us very hard for many, many years,' complained US President Donald Trump, speaking about India at a 'Keep America Great' rally in Colorado last week. 'They give us tariffs, one of the highest in the world is India.'

A week before that, the Trump administration declared India a 'developed economy', snuffing out any hope of any early reversal of its decision to terminate trade preferences to a developing India. For Indian millennials, the US President's trade tantrums may sound jarring. But this circus has been in town before.

There was once a lady called Carla Hills, a predecessor of United States Trade Representative (USTR) Robert Lighthizer. Hills threatened India with 'Super 301' and 'Special 301', US legislation that imposes trade sanctions in response to what it regards as unfair trade practices. That was Ronald Reagan's United States.

There was a senator called Lloyd Bentsen, who campaigned to become vice-president in the 1988 US elections. He, too, held forth against not just the likes of India, but also Japan and Germany. 'Foreigners can sell in an open American market, but we are not being able to sell them but a pittance. I don't think those things are fair and I don't think we need to roll over and play dead,' said Bentsen, then chairman of the US Senate Finance Committee.

The US did not play dead. The Soviet Union did. The US enjoyed a unipolar moment, and created new rules for global trade through the creation of the World Trade Organisation (WTO). India resisted the attempt, but fell in line, cut its tariffs steeply, accepted rules pertaining to intellectual property rights (IPR), and so on.

That was supposed to be about free trade being fair. But that was not before the US threatened the likes of Japan with 'voluntary export restraints' (VERs) and



*For Indian millennials, the US President's trade tantrums may sound jarring. But this circus has been in town before.*  
**Sanjaya Baru**





Super and Special 301. The Europeans huddled together and created a single market. China was smarter. It stooped to conquer, and became the manufacturing workshop of the world.

A US that began to lose its competitive edge voted to power a bluff and bluster politician, who has promised to 'make it great again'. The rhetoric of the late 1980s is back. It's actually an even older strain in the political polemics of the US. The distinguished trade economist Jagdish Bhagwati called it 'reciprocitarianism' in his and D Irwin's 1987 essay, 'The Return of the Reciprocitarians: US Trade Policy Today', published in *The World Economy*. A consequence, he said, of the 'diminished giant syndrome' afflicting the US in the 1980s. That syndrome, too, is back.

Everything President Trump says about tariffs and fair trade now, President Reagan did before -- and after him did Carla A Hills, the USTR of President George Bush Sr. But, as Bhagwati points out, the British conjured up the ideology of free trade and switched to pleading for fair trade when it suited them.

Trump is only echoing what the defender of the British empire, Joseph Chamberlain, had said in the last days of the Victorian era, 'We are losing our foreign markets, because whenever we begin to do a trade, the door is slammed in our faces with a whacking tariff... [A]s if that were not enough, these same foreigners who shut us out, invade our markets and take the work out of the hands of our working people and leave us doubly injured.' This was, and Bhagwati and Irwin quotes Chamberlain saying, 'unfair and one-sided'!



***Indian brain power is fuelling the US economy. Someone ought to calculate its value.***

There is no need for India to get too flustered with Trump's trade tantrums. India has been buying defence equipment, civilian aircraft and energy (oil and gas) and energy equipment (nuclear) from the US. The trade debate between US and India has missed the wood for the trees.

It is not about dairy products, cashew nuts, motorcycles or stents. The history of USTR bullying on trade has been a history of pocketing a concession and seeking another, of shifting focus and talking tough. The US now seeks to damn with praise, calling India 'developed'. That's no way to treat a friend.

The criticism at home and overseas of the tariff policy pursued by the Narendra Modi government has some merit. But the WTO-compliant tariff hikes are not aimed at the US. Indian industry's major concern remains Chi-

na, with whom India has a trade deficit that is far bigger than the trade surplus it enjoys with the US.

A bigger economy must work to offer a smaller economy more favourable terms of trade. By that yardstick, China must reduce its trade deficit with India, and the US should stop complaining about its deficit with India.

India, for its part, must seek to reduce the trade surplus it enjoys with many of its smaller neighbours, despite following a policy of asymmetric trade liberalisation in their favour.

Rather than engage the US on its terms, India should point to how it is helping 'Make America Great Again'. Four million Indians are working hard -- in schools, colleges, offices and laboratories to 'Make America Great Again'. Indian brain power is fuelling the US economy. Someone ought to calculate its value.

Surely, India would then be seen to be running a huge trade deficit with the US. Stop complaining, Mr Trump. □□

The writer is distinguished fellow, Institute for Defence Studies & Analysis, United Service Institution of India, New Delhi  
<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/view-stop-whining-mr-president/articleshow/74270975.cms>

## More the spat more Indo-US trade grows

A President needs massive support home ahead of his reelection. He visits for massive Indian support to boost his economy and his own image. Yes, US President Donald Trump visits India for a massive makeover at home. India is being project bigger than it is. Trump shows to his people that a tie with India would increase jobs and the favouring trade deals may open up doors to an El Dorado. That is a good branding for India. The largest economy projects a rising one larger than life. It helps India in its international dealing and march to a \$ 5 trillion economy. That, however, is not the aim of Trump. He wants to secure his position in the domestic politics.

Trump visits with the aim to “further strengthen the US-India strategic partnership”. It is at a time when the Chinese economy is on a downward trajectory. The Sino-US trade deal, after a virtual trade war, is a non-starter. The US needs a massive economic raise and Trump expects India to give him an advantage. His subtle projection to his countrymen is of a macho that gives less and takes more. His imagery in different Indian cities is expected to create popularity for a vote-catching mission. That is a gain for India and Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s diplomacy.

Trump overall has done quite a lot for his farmers, industry and revenue collection with deals with India since 2018. He has projected India as a developed country and has been slicing out more benefits for the US economy. A sagging US economy hit by trade wars launched by it needs a bit of tonic.

Somehow the US domestic industry wanted more concessions from India and Trump has been able to show that he has been able to have it. Indian steel and aluminium that is of high quality and acceptable by the US manufacturers in many sectors was gifted with additional duties. It helps the US gain higher revenues and



*Trump looks for gains, India wins brand image.*  
**Shivaji Sarkar**





a semblance of ruse that he is not liberal with his friend Modi.

In 2017, India imported record 7.8 million 40-pound boxes Washington state apple. However, India had imported far fewer boxes of the 2018 crop. The Washington state had shipped about 2.6 million boxes to India. India has quietly raised duties.

Similar is with US almonds. Trump administration announced mid 2019 removal of India from eligibility for key trade privileges under the US generalized system of preference (GSP). It imposes cost on India for benefit to the US growers and traders. India behaved the same way and imposed tariffs on 28 US products, including US shelled almonds in June 2019 by 20 percent and non-shelled almonds by 17 percent.

The new duties in some cases are as high as 70 percent to offset US tax rises on steel and aluminium. The US-India bilateral trade increased sevenfold since 2001 in 2018 to \$ 142 billion, as per US figures. In 1995, total two-way trade was \$ 11 billion. It remains a massive trade that has increased 14 times since 1995.

India's trade with China, not to the liking of the US, also has increased from a few hundred million dollars in 1995 to nearly \$ 90 billion in 2019. The perception that Trump is projecting India per se is not wrong. India is growing but still definitely does not match the per capita income of a developed country. So the US considering India as an equal developed country may suit its domestic narrative not the reality.

Imposing costs on Indian exports may be real home politics but is away from reality. It has hit

***The US-India bilateral trade increased sevenfold since 2001 in 2018 to \$142 billion. It remains a massive trade that has increased 14 times since 1995.***

a segment of Indian low cost exports, worth around \$ 5.6 billion.

So Trump comes seeking more sops. He could demand doing away with duty on US information and communication technology goods, market access to dairy products, duty cuts on Harley Davidson mobikes, apples and almonds. It is critical for his industry and farmer friends. He has to make up for the losses he has with China. Who else could he depend than a friend like India?

Trade is a long contentious issue between the two countries. Since 1980s, the US has been demanding greater market access and intellectual property protection. The access to Pepsico and Coca Cola to Indian market was its result by the Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi governments much to a political hullabaloo in India.

Interestingly, with each such spat trade has increased between the US and India.

Trump has significantly increased that pressure. According to US Trade Representative (USTR), India is a member of G-20 with more than 0.5 percent of the world's trade share. The World Bank classifies countries above this threshold as developed and as "high income" economies. This

puts India in the category of a developed country. India may not like it as it has to struggle through a difficult phase. But the US has the power to ignore such concerns. It is restructuring trade relations with key economic partners. Trump has renegotiated NAFTA with Canada and Mexico. He has compelled China to cut massive trade deficit with the US. China has had trouble negotiating \$ 200 billion worth trade with the US.

Before his visit to India, he has developed relations with Taliban, US officials are asking India to change tacks with Pakistan and the sanctions on Iran are a cost on India's petroleum imports. He wants to have more.

India has recently walked away from RCEP. European Union is remains a reluctant negotiator. Australia and New Zealand are in a wait and watch mode. India tried to have an advantage of the US-China trade war. It talked but gains are limited. Many companies are moving out China but very few are keen to come to India.

India has to have re-look at trade ties. Trump has come with offers. The US strategic presence is needed in the subcontinent. Major proposed trade deals in defence likely worth \$ 10 billion and more would be good for both the countries despite some rise in Indian protectionism like the RCEP, which even the opposition Congress hailed.

While India needs to review its trade policy, the friendly arms extended by Trump are likely to be a new beginning at the growing relations. Spats in international trade continue and so do the intensity in business. Despite conceding gains for Trump, India would carve out a niche for itself. □□

# Highways of Growth

The Union Budget has sought to give a major impetus to infrastructure on the back of “accelerated development of highways”, with the road transport & highways ministry being allocated Rs 91,823.2 crore, as against Rs 83,016 crore in the previous fiscal. The allocation is the biggest among all infrastructure verticals.

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said in her budget speech that the 1,250 km Delhi-Mumbai Expressway, a critical component of the Bharatmala Pariyojana, will be completed by the end of 2023. She announced five other cross-country expressways as well. Most experts, though, believe this will be difficult to achieve without private investment, which could partly be determined by the pace of ongoing projects. Several projects in the Bharatmala Pariyojana are witnessing delays owing to cost overruns of up to 55 per cent.

In railways, private investors have been offered 150 routes to ply trains under the PPP (public-private partnership) model. While railways will handle maintenance, operations and safety, the private operators can take rakes on lease and provide attractive on-board services. Humsafar Express (Indore-Varanasi) will be the third rail service to go private. Over a dozen companies, including MNCs Alstom Transport, Bombardier, Siemens AG and Macquarie, have shown interest, but railways minister Piyush Goyal is treading cautiously, given the potential opposition from labour and trade unions.

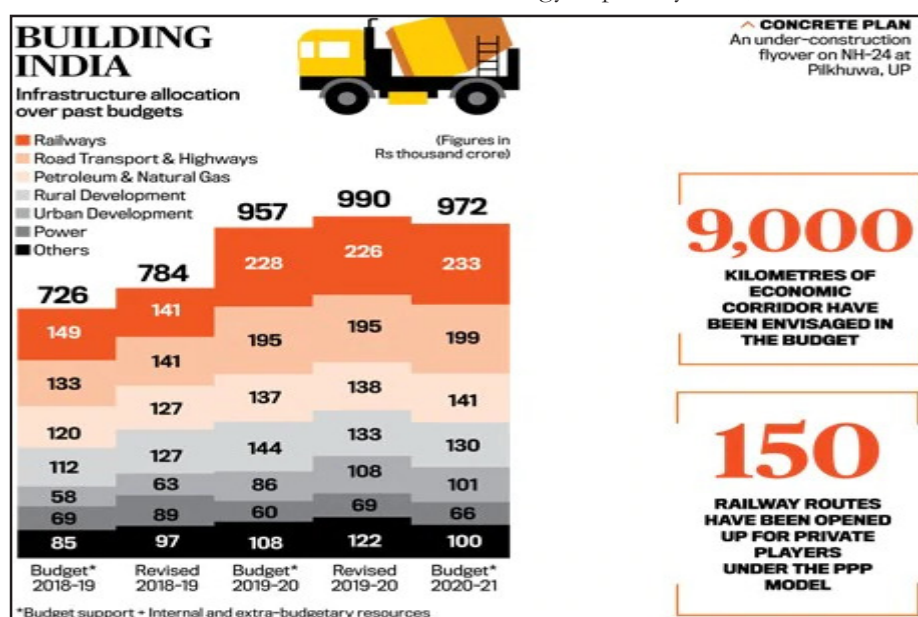
The railways will have a capital outlay of Rs 2,33,008 crore, of which Rs 72,216 crore will be budgetary support. The biggest expenditure will be the electrification of 27,000 km of tracks.

The budgetary allocation for water resources has been increased from Rs 7,518 crore to Rs 8,960 crore. Renewable energy, especially solar, is another sec-



*A 15,500 km highway-building plan forms the centrepiece of the infra push in the budget, but its success hinges on private investment.*

**Anilesh S. Mahajan**





tor where the government wants more private investment. India added 7,592 MW of renewable energy in April-December 2019; another 34,160 MW is in the pipeline. The budget proposes building solar power capacity alongside railway tracks as well.

Infrastructure has been allocated Rs 9,71,694 crore, of which Rs 4,32,424 crore is in the form of budgetary support. "This is insufficient," says Vijay Chhibber, former secretary, road transport & highways. The National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) outlines projects worth Rs 102 lakh crore over the next five years. According to the Economic Survey, highways will need investments to the tune of Rs 19.63 lakh crore by 2024-25. NIP projects will be Centre- and state-funded (39 per cent each). The remaining 22 per cent is expected from private investment, with a

target to increase this to 30 per cent in the next five years.

As road transport minister Nitin Gadkari looks to scale up highway construction, he will need to take along opposition-ruled states to get quicker land and environmental clearances. The finance ministry expects him to develop 2,500 km of access control highways, 9,000 km of economic corridors, 2,000 km of coastal and land port roads and 2,000 km of strategic highways.

In 2015, Gadkari's ministry mooted the hybrid annuity model, wherein projects were guaranteed 40 per cent payments from the National Highways Authority of India on annuity basis on completion of milestones. The concessionaires were expected to arrange the remaining funds through credit. But the non-performing assets-laden banks refused to back the

projects. "The contracts are too skewed towards the project proponents (NHAI)," feels Jagannarayan Padmanabhan, director, transport and logistics, Crisil Infrastructure Advisory. Adds Chhibber: "Growth cannot be accelerated through budget allocations. Private capital needs to flow in."

On January 12, Gadkari had met RBI governor Shaktikanta Das to seek policy tweaks to allow banks to fund infrastructure projects for 30 years, instead of the current 20. In the budget, Sitharaman stayed away from seed funding of development finance institutions (DFIs), but gave sovereign wealth funds full tax exemption on interest, dividend and capital gains income from investments in infrastructure. It remains to be seen if such funds can provide cheaper and long-term credit for infrastructure projects. □□

# SWADESHI PATRIKA

## *Voice of Real Economy*

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

**SUBSCRIBE AND/OR RENEW YOUR SUBSCRIPTION**

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

**Name .....**

**Address.....**

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

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

**YEARLY Rs. 150/-**

**LIFE Rs. 1500/-**

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

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

## Steps to Double Farmer's Income

The Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy has assessed that the incomes of our farmers have increased by 7 percent per year between 2013 and 2019. In this backdrop we have to assess the steps required to attain the Government's commitment to double the income of the farmers by 2023. It will be necessary for the farmer's income to increase by about 30 percent per year to attain this target. The strategy outlined by the Finance Minister in the Budget is to help the farmers increase the quantity of production. For example, use of balanced fertilizers and solar pump sets has been encouraged. This step appears to be in the right direction. More production normally means higher sale value and more income. However, the connection between increased quantity of production and increased income is not only tenuous—it can even be negative because it is intermediated by the price of the produce. The farmers of Palanpur had dumped their large harvest of potatoes on the roads because they could not get a remunerative price for their produce. Farmers of Rajasthan faced a similar fate when their crops of guar gum could not be sold at remunerative prices. Often the farmers could not even retrieve their cost of harvesting the crops let alone getting paid for the seeds, sowing, irrigation and fertilizers.

The decline in prices of agricultural goods is taking place continuously since the last few decades. New technologies have led to an increase in production. These include bore wells, tissue culture and chemical fertilizers. Now geo-mapping is making it possible for the farmers to know the exact area in their fields that are deficient in particular fertilizers. Drones are being used to track disease. Such technologies are being developed every day. Accordingly the supply of agricultural goods is increasing. This, however, is not accompanied with a parallel



*Use of Balanced fertilizers and solar pump sets would help farmers increase production and quality of production leading to subsequent increase in this income.*

**Dr. Bharat Jhunjunwala**





increase in the demand in the market because the global population is not increasing in the same proportion. The ever-increasing supply coupled with relatively stagnant demand is leading to a long term decline in the prices of agricultural commodities. The development of biofuels is providing some relief. Farmers can produce sugar cane for the production of diesel. However, the price of diesel too has been declining in the last few years. The increase in the quantity of agricultural production achieved from the valiant efforts of the Finance Minister need not lead to an increase in incomes of the farmer. On the contrary, it can accentuate farmers' distress of not being able to recover his cost of production.

A better strategy would be to improve the quality of the agricultural produce. The Finance Minister has taken a small but laudable step in this direction. She has said that a particular crop will be identified for each district of the country and a horticultural mission around that crop will be put in place. This step is in the right direction and must be implemented with all seriousness.

India has an unparalleled diversity of climate. We have cold areas in the Himalayas and other mountain ranges during the summer; and warm areas in Kerala and Tamil Nadu during the winters. Thus, we can grow winter horticultural crops like roses in our mountains during the summer and in the south during the winter and supply to the global market throughout the year without an interruption. A small country like Netherlands supplies Tulip flowers to the entire world and earns about 2,500 crore rupees every year. This

is about 8 percent of our total agricultural produce of Rs 30,000 crores. The arable land in Netherlands is 10 lakh hectare against 1600 hectare in India or 0.6 percent. In other words, Netherlands is producing about 12 times the value per hectare than us—that too with no diversity in climate. We can certainly do much better. Similarly, a small country like Tunisia earns huge amounts from the exports of olives and France from the export of grape wines.

The development of district-wise specific agricultural crops will require deep research. Our Universities and laboratories of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) are way behind. Their situation is highlighted by the experience of a farmer. He was advised by a Professor of Department of Horticulture of a famed University to plant trees of Kino fruit. The poor man planted an acre of Kino. Five years later the fruit were of very small size.

The farmer went and complained to the Professor of Horticulture. The Professor replied, "Yes, indeed. My trees also gave small fruit." That admission did not recover the loss incurred by the farmer. There is a need, therefore, to set up an IIT- or IIM-type horticulture institute in each district or a cluster of districts that can actually provide the correct guidance. This will then have to be supported with warehousing, cold chain and export infrastructures. This will require effort but can be done.

The second step to increase the incomes of the farmers proposed in the Budget is to enable them to establish solar power plants on their barren fields. The challenges here are same as those

faced by commercial solar power producers. Anecdotal information suggests that large solar farms are not finding buyers for their electricity at a price as low as Rs 2.50 per unit. The cost of production of a small solar power farms located in a far flung areas will be much more. The problems of grid connectivity will also be very difficult. The rural feeders for the supply of electricity are often down. How will the solar power be transported during such times? Then there are issues of metering and synchronization of the electric supply. It may yet be possible to enable farmers to establish solar farms. Some states already have policies that enable house owners to supply extra rooftop solar power supply to the grid. But this has not taken off as of now. Roof top systems face lesser problems of connectivity because urban power supply is more regular; shorter lines are required to connect with the grid and technical assistance is easily accessible in the cities. It will take a huge effort to persuade the bureaucracies of the State Electricity Boards to enable this effort. That said, it is a possibility that holds potential.

The promise in the Budget to double the incomes of the farmers by 2023 is almost certainly going to fail. This target can only be achieved if we first identify the crops especially suited to a district, then set the standards for quality control, make the infrastructure for exports etc. Concrete steps are needed in this direction. Mere increase in production of regular agricultural crops—as planned in the Budget—will only add to the problem. □□

Formerly Professor of Economics at IIM Bengaluru

# Rewilding food, rewilding farming

George Monbiot's recent column, "Lab-grown food will soon destroy farming – and save the planet", strikes me as a dystopian vision of the future, with no people working the land and humans eating 'fake' food produced in giant industrial factories from microbes.

Monbiot concludes in his article: "Farmfree food will allow us to hand back vast areas of land and sea to nature, permitting rewilding and carbon drawdown on a massive scale. Farmfree food offers hope where hope was missing. We will soon be able to feed the world without devouring it."

Einstein's famous quote immediately comes to mind – he warned: "We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them".

## Ecological being

The notion that high-tech "farm free" lab food will save the planet is simply a continuation of the same mechanistic mindset which has brought us to where we are today – the idea that we are separate from and outside of nature. This paradigm evolved with the fossil fuel age of industrial production; it is the basis of industrial agriculture which has destroyed the planet, farmers livelihoods and our health.

Unfortunately, it is also the basis of the author's vision of the future of food and farming – the total industrialisation of our food and of our lives, which is, as the aphorism 'we are what we eat' tells us, the ultimate industrialisation of humans – the final step in ending our earth-centeredness and ecological being.

Turning "water into food" is an echo from the times of the second world war, when it was claimed that fossil-fuel-based chemical fertilisers would produce "Bread from Air". Instead we have dead zones in the ocean, greenhouse



**Dr Vandana Shiva**  
*argues that  
 agroecology holds  
 the key to solving  
 the climate and  
 ecological crisis in  
 a just and  
 equitable way.*





gases – including nitrous oxide which is 300 times more damaging to the environment than CO<sub>2</sub> – and desertified soils and land.

We are part of nature, not separate from and outside of nature. Food is what connects us to the earth, its diverse beings, including the forests around us — through the trillions of micro organisms that are in our gut microbiome and which keep our bodies healthy, both inside and out.

### Cultural heritage

Eating is an ecological act, not an industrial, mechanical act.

The web of life is a food web. We cannot separate food from life. Likewise, we cannot separate ourselves from the earth.

The problem is not farming, but industrial agriculture. This commodity-based, fossil fuel intensive and chemical intensive industrial food system has contributed 50 percent of the greenhouse gas emissions that are causing climate havoc and threatening agriculture.

It has caused 75 percent of the destruction of soils, 75 percent of the destruction of water resources, and the pollution of our lakes, rivers and oceans; 93 percent of crop diversity has been pushed to extinction through industrial agriculture.

And 75 percent of the chronic diseases that are killing us have their roots in industrial food.

Assuming that this particular, distorted and violent method of farming – which has been imposed on the world over less than a century – is the only way humans have farmed and can farm, reveals a blindness to the diverse cultures and diverse practices of farming, and threatens the cultural heritage

of every country in the world.

This passionate promotion of fake food also threatens our connection with the earth and the joy and satisfaction of eating food produced with care and intelligence by fellow beings.

It threatens our wellbeing, our health and the health of the planet by removing small farmers who care for the land and regenerate the earth. Making Lab Food the basis of what we eat brings us closer to a robotic, non-participatory, non-creative and high-tech-based existence which denies the creativity of intelligent life.

### Agroecology

The English word “agriculture” comes from a combination of the Latin words *agrum* (form “ager”, meaning “field, farm, land, estate”) and *cultura* (“care”, “growing”, “cultivation”), which became ‘*agricultura*’ (agriculture, farming and, etymologically, care for the land).

Real farming is farming with nature, in nature’s ways, which are the laws of ecology. Real food is a by-product of the economy of care for the land. It protects the life of all beings on earth and also nourishes our health and wellbeing.

“Sensible farm policies” not only exist but are today being practiced around the globe. Agroecology, which encompasses common ecological principles – organic farming, permaculture, biodynamic farming, natural farming regenerative agriculture, among many others – has been recognized as the most effective sustainable and equitable method of farming which also addresses the challenges of feeding the world in an era of climate crises.

Agro-business interests and monopolies along with Government apathy have prevented agro-ecological farming from becoming the mainstream sustainable system for producing food.

At Navdanya we grow healthy food by conserving biodiversity through abundant pollinators and thriving soil organic matter which draws down carbon and nitrogen. By taking care of the earth we heal the broken carbon and nitrogen cycles that are driving climate change.

### Corporate control

We stand at a precipice of a planetary emergency, a health emergency, and a crisis of farmers’ livelihoods.

‘Fake food’ will accelerate the rush to collapse by promoting the industrial model of food and life and the illusion that we live outside nature’s ecological processes. It will further destroy food democracy and increase corporate control over food and health.

Real food gives us a chance to rejuvenate the earth, our health, our food economies, our food freedom and food cultures through real farming that cares for the Earth and people.

Through real food we can decolonise our food cultures and our consciousness. We can remember that food is living and gives us life. Food is the currency of life.

Hope lies not in pursuing the skewed and lifeless industrialized and high-tech system of eating lab-produced fake food, but in returning to Earth Citizenship and becoming part of the Earth’s living cycles, and yes, re-wilding the land, our food and our bodies. □□

<https://navdanyainternational.org/rewilding-food-rewilding-farming/>

## Who will seed organic India?

The Union Budget 2020 on agriculture sends one very clear message: The Modi Government is committed to sustainable agriculture. Through poetry, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman spelled out a plan to increase the area under organic farming to four lakh hectares by 2020-21. Under the Green revolution budget, the Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (CSS) has been allotted Rs 500 crore for increased coverage of the area under organic certification and additionally has got 0.51 lakh hectares (Ha) for organic certification.

In total, the Government has given Rs 687.5 crore through three schemes to promote agro-ecological farming in the country. Not only would this increase the production of more organic food for local consumption and exports but it would also ensure that India strides towards sustainability and climate mitigation.

On the export front, the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) approximated Indian organic exports at Rs 5,151 crore in 2018-19, a 49 per cent jump from 2017-19.

Other commendable steps announced by the Finance Minister to ensure that agro-ecological practices return to Indian farms were the creation of an online portal on *jaivik kheti* to bolster the organic market and the village storage scheme to empower *Dhaanya Lakshmi*. All these steps are consistent with Piyush Goyal's Budget Speech of 2019, which made organic food production the eighth dimension of the Modi Government's vision for 2030.

The current Budget is also in line with the BJP's manifesto promise and comes as a relief to millions of sentient environmentally-conscious consumers and *swadeshi* supporters alike.



*Indian food exports to the EU and the USA are rejected due to toxic residues found even in certified organic produce. This can only be corrected once the whole organic supply chain, seed to produce, is developed and there are no gaps in between.*

**Indra Shekhar Singh**



Meanwhile the APEDA projects organic export to increase to \$50 billion by 2025. However, many veterans of the organic and grain sector wonder who will seed organic India? Do we even have enough certified organic seeds? Exports of this magnitude can't rely on landraces or traditional varieties of grain alone. We need more efficient mechanisms for breeding organic seeds to support this growth. Indian farmers need superior quality even in organic grain to sustain this boom.

Four lakh hectares are a humongous area. To put things in perspective, one hectare is roughly the size of two football fields. So imagine about 7,50,000 football fields, spread across India. Many of these areas are in the remote parts of the country and inaccessible to the formal seed sector.

While most people in India, including farmers, confuse untreated seeds (pre-soaked in fungicide or chemicals) as organic, the fact remains that they are misinformed.

A seed can only be called organic if it is grown in organic soils with agro-ecological practices and an organic certificate. And truth be told, the options of buying high performing organic grain are very limited as the organic seed industry is still very primitive when compared to the competitive and research and development-based industry of the USA or Germany.

With the emergence of greater demand for organic food, regulations and standards will only become stricter. The consensus between all organic certification mechanisms is that all seeds used to grow organic foods need to be certified too.

The current level of the tech-

***A seed can only be called organic if it is grown in organic soils with agro-ecological practices and an organic certificate.***

nology enables organic certifying agencies to trace residues in the seed. And further, this may be a critical point in the future of organic trade, especially to the EU and the US.

Even today Indian food exported to the EU and the USA are rejected at respective ports, due to toxic residues found even in certified organic produce. This can only be corrected once seed to the final produce, in fact the whole organic supply chain, is developed and there are no gaps anywhere in between.

As per reports, the global organic seed market will be worth \$5.4 billion by 2024. Hence, India needs to swerve towards not just more organic food yields but also become an organic seed production hub.

The Government and plant breeders should create a policy for organic seed production in consultation with global certifying agencies and so on. This may be followed by a push to create organic seed production clusters in Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Himachal and the North-eastern States. Sikkim, an organic State, can be most suitable for this endeavour. The Union Budget needs to have a special concession for tax breaks and easier

land leasing terms in organic zones to have a discernible effect on the incomes of farmers and plant breeders.

India, especially in the biodiversity-rich zones, is a treasure trove for seed production. By harmoniously working with nature, farmers can produce greater yields and resistance in their seeds, while also conserving water and their habitats. The National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR), through a novel programme and perhaps some funding from the Government, can encourage organic seed entrepreneurs in these zones.

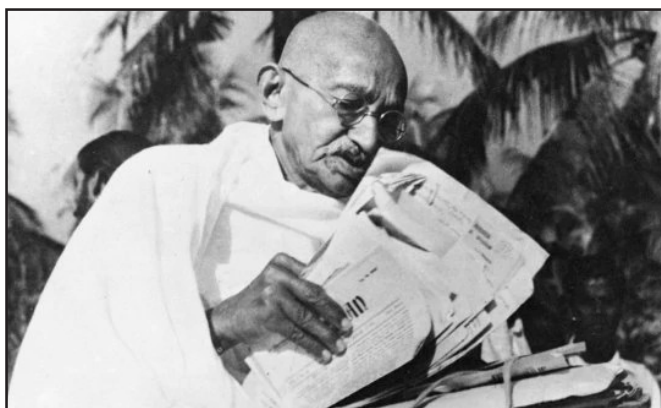
Other organisations such as Biodiversity International, ICAR and State agricultural universities can strengthen this drive. New modules need to be created for advanced levels of evolutionary participatory breeding (EPB) that are available to plant breeders and farmers in regional languages. This programme should be implemented with the assistance of the Government. Food Production Organisations can play an important role, too, in this.

To sum up, the Modi Government must prepare to remove any impediments to make India the largest exporter of organic food. Organic seeds are not only vital for this vision but if pursued with determination, may fulfil the Government's aim of increasing seed exports to 10 per cent and enrich Indian farmers four times over. The question only remains, will India make hay when the sun shines on Indian organic produce or nip the budding organic seed sector? □□

(The writer is Director, policy and outreach, National Seed Association of India)  
<https://www.dailyprioneer.com/2020/columnists/wbo-will-seed-organic-india.html>



# Gandhi's successor?



On 17 February 2020, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's Sar Sanghchalak Shri Mohan Bhagwat released a book 'Mahatma Gandhi ko samajhne ka yahi samay'. Before the release program, the media said that the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh wants to start a debate on the recourse of Mahatma Gandhi's ideas in the 21st century. The media also said that the Sangh always believed that it was the rightful heir to Gandhi's ideology. In such a situation, the book release and the speech by Sar Sanghchalak at Gandhi Smriti Bhawan on 30 January Marg has a special contemporary importance.

## Gandhian Institutions

After the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi in 1948, many organizations took birth in the country in the name of Mahatma Gandhi, who meant that they would not only take Gandhi's personality, works and literature, ie Gandhi's ideology to masses, but also become instrumental in molding the country's policies in tune with Gandhi's ideas. But all these institutions turned to be purely government institutions, which did not have any significant impact in society; however, these institutions, funded by the government budget, became Gandhiji memorials of gandhiji's literature and other objects. The task of adapting the policies of the government according to Gandhi's ideas became a distant dream. But in these institutions, discussions and seminars on Gandhiji's ideas have been going on occasionally.

*The question and very rightly being asked today is whether Congress can really claim to be the successor of Gandhi, only for the reason that it is Gandhi's Congress, dissolution of which was recommended by none other than Gandhi himself.*

**Swadeshi  
Samwad**

## After all, who is the successor of Gandhi's ideology?

Gandhiji made his views clear in the book named 'Hind Swaraj' in the year 1909 in the context of how economy should operate. Significant is the fact that he said this at the very beginning of his public life, and continued to stand on that view, till last. According to this book, if India wants to achieve true independence, then it is possible only by making people reside in villages. Truth and non-violence can be achieved only by the simplicity of the villages. Charkha which was symbol of cottage industries, can only bring true development to the nation, based on the principle of truth and non-violence. In his letter to Jawaharlal Nehru on 5 October 1945, he reiterated this and said that he admires modern science, but that is no obstacle in his goal of improving lives in rural India, rather modern science needs to be re clothed and refashioned (to suit our requirement). He narrated in that letter written to Jawahar Lal Nehru that he envisaged a rural life that would be free from disease, illiteracy, filth and darkness, where no one would be immersed in luxuries. Railways, post office offices and all other means of modern development can go along with the same.

The irony is that Jawaharlal Nehru, who has exactly opposite views than those of Mahatma, was made the Prime Minister of the country according to the

wishes Gandhi ji, despite overwhelming majority in Congress Party wanted Sarfar Patel to be the Prime Minister. The contradictions between economic philosophy of Jawahar and Mahatma are very much clear from the correspondence between Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru. In response to the above letter from Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru writes that Bapu, (Mahatma Gandhi ji) I did not agree with your views even before and still do not agree. While expressing complete disagreement with Mahatma Gandhi's views about the importance of the villages, Nehru wrote, "A village, normally speaking, is backward intellectually and culturally and no progress can be made from a backward environment. Narrow-minded people are much more likely to be untruthful and violent." There is no doubt that Jawaharlal Nehru did not agree with Gandhiji's views at all. Except for a short stint of Lal Bahadur Shastri, the functioning of the first 50 years of independent India, Gandhiji's ideas never mattered during the tenure of Jawahar Lal Nehru, his daughter Indira Gandhi and his grandson Rajiv Gandhi. No Prime Minister from that family gave any heed to what was the economic philosophy of the Mahatma, whom they considered to be 'father of the nation'.

The Industrial Policy and other economic policies framed during the Janata Party government formed after the end of emergency in 1977 spoke about small and cottage industries and village based economy. This government, which lasted for a very short period, had no special effect in the conduct of economic policies. After Atal Vi-

hari Vajpayee became the Prime Minister in 1998, the government's goal was clearly defined as 'Gandhian Socialism'. That was the first government of independent India, which clearly gave importance to Gandhi's economic ideology and philosophy. Under the changed circumstances, by freeing the country from of Congress rule of 50 years rule after Gandhi's death, Gandhi's dreams could be declared as the goals of the government (very first non Congress government, which lasted for more than 5 years).

Significantly, this did not happen suddenly. First, 'Jana Sangh' and later the 'Bharatiya Janata Party' clearly adopted Deendayal Upadhyay's Philosophy of Integral Humanism, as guiding principle for the political party. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya clearly believed that the well being of the people cannot be improved by capitalism or socialism and communism. From the point of view of conducting economic policies, Deendayal believed that there should be ample opportunities and encouragement for everyone to start and run enterprise. The goal of decentralisation can be achieved only through small scale, cottage and rural industries, which was one of the goals of his philosophy. Objective of employment and swadeshi can automatically achieve in this philosophy. Deendayal Upadhyaya's Integral Philosophy, is no separate doctrine, it is actually an expression and manifestation of India's Integral thinking that envisions a society devoid of exploitation of workers, nature and other living beings.

Deendayal Upadhyay was representing the thinking of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). If we look at the series of

writings of Deendayal Upadhyay, Dattopant Thengadi (founder of Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh, Bharatiya Kisan Sangh and Swadeshi Jagran Manch) and Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, we find reiteration of the economic philosophy again and again that both capitalism and socialism/communism don't suit our country and we need to focus on small and cottage industry, rural industries and rural development. RSS also always believed that we need technology which suits our conditions and huge labour force. Swadeshi and self reliance have always been slogan of RSS, which Congress has forgotten since long.

Congress has always advocated an economic policy different from Gandhi's ideas, first, adopting Communism-inspired socialism based on public sector and later aggressive capitalism (after 1991). While Gandhi repeatedly talked about education, employment, sanitation, health, rural industries through the development of villages, the economic policy of Congress always talked about urbanization and the exclusion of farmers from villages.

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh has always been supporter of rural development, rural industrialisation, strengthening village-based economy and integrated thinking of production, employment, environment, etc., with decentralization based on Gandhi's ideology. Therefore, the question and very rightly being asked today is whether Congress can really claim to be the successor of Gandhi, only for the reason that it is Gandhi's Congress, dissolution of which was recommended by none other than Gandhi himself. □□

# Pesticides Management Bill 2020 is an opportunity to clean up India's food and farming systems!



Reports indicate that a new Pesticides Management Bill 2020 is ready to be introduced into the Parliament in this session, with the earlier 2008 version proposed to be withdrawn by the government. The current state of regulation of pesticides in India, using the extant law called Insecticides Act 1968, has not caught up with post-modern pest management science nor has taken cognizance of a huge body of scientific evidence on the ill effects of synthetic pesticides. It is high time that new legislation is brought in – however, what is unclear is if the Pesticides Management Bill 2020 has

indeed overhauled its approach to regulation as needed.

India is the fourth-largest producer of pesticides in the world, with the market segmentation tilted mainly towards insecticides, with herbicides on the increase in the recent past. It is reported that eight states consume more than 70% of the pesticides used in India. Amongst the crops, paddy accounts for the maximum share of consumption (26-28%), followed by cotton (18-20%), notwithstanding all the hype around Bt technology. There are 292 pesticides registered in the country, and it is estimated that there are around 104 pesticides that are continued to be produced/ used in India that have been banned in two or more countries in the world. The industry has grown to be an INR 20,000 crores business in India, with the top 3 companies having a market share of 57%.

The acute pesticide poisoning deaths and hospitalisations that Indian farm-workers and farmers fall prey to are ignominious by now. It is not just human beings but wildlife and livestock that are poisoned routinely by toxic pesticides as numerous reports indicate.

Against this backdrop, any new Pesticides Management Bill (PMB) should be seen as an opportunity to set right many shortcomings of the existing regulatory regime around pesticides in India and to clean up our food and farming systems as much as we can. Information from the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare on its latest draft of the Bill shows some improvements compared to earlier versions. However, many more shortcomings have to be plugged before the statute can be enacted and this article is an effort to enumerate some much-needed amendments.



*The new Pesticides Management Bill (PMB) is a step in right direction which would address gaps in the present regulatory regime around pesticides and clean up our food and farming systems.*  
**Kavitha Kuruganti**



Firstly, the sole objective of the statute to be stated in the Preamble should be clearly limited to protecting human health and the environment from the risks posed by pesticides. Any ‘clearing house’ or facilitation objectives in regulatory legislation indicate a certain promotional approach that does not bode well. All the regulators would also be clearer about their responsibility with this sole objective of biosafety protection as the reason for the legislation. Promotion does not need regulatory legislation, and is usually done through programs and schemes. In this spirit, there should be no time limit specified for registration of pesticides from the time of receipt of an application. Why should speedy registrations of toxic materials take place at all, when farming can indeed be done without the use of synthetic pesticides and with the use of post-modern pest management science and agro-ecological practices?

Second, all statutory appointments to the Central Pesticides Board and the Registration Committee should clearly specify that members should be independent, completely devoid of any conflict of interest with the pesticide industry.

Third, registration-related provisions should clearly include a Need and Alternatives Assessment before a pesticide registration application is processed. The logic here is why should we have more and more chemicals registered and used when (safer) alternatives exist. This is one clear mechanism by which the objective of the Bill can be fulfilled.

Fourth, registration procedures should lay down some terms and conditions. The applicant has to specify whether a particular pes-

ticide has been banned or severely restricted in two or more countries. If yes, such a pesticide should not be registered in India. WHO Class I and II pesticides should not be registered and the same should apply to known carcinogens, endocrine disruptors, teratogens, etc., and those pesticides implicated in most cases of ingestion or inhalation poisonings in the country.

Fifth, every registered pesticide should automatically come up for a review every five years. Reviews can also be triggered by any data captured in new poisoning data systems to be instituted, or regulatory actions in other countries. A separate review committee should be set up under the Act, consisting only of biosafety experts, different from the Registration Committee.

Sixth, all registrations should be based on long term, independent and transparent biosafety assessment, without any conflict of interest. Such an assessment should be of the active ingredient but also of ‘inert substances’ that go into formulating a pesticide, and of breakdown products.

Seventh, state governments should be empowered with the power to prohibit the manufacture or use of a pesticide in their jurisdiction (and not just for one year, pending reviews). After all, India’s Constitution itself empowers the states to have this authority, and they are best suited to figure out which pesticides are to be used and which not, in their respective states.

Eighth, agricultural labourers, farmers and ordinary citizens should not be forced to take recourse to the Consumer Protection Act to seek compensation if “affected” (the PMB proposes this

right now). The effects can be on health, or it could be contamination of an organic crop, or the poisoning of livestock etc. Pesticide registrants and manufacturers (this is often outsourced to small units) should be made accountable and liable for any such impacts for compensation and remediation. The proposed Compensation Fund should be created by collecting a cess from the industry and cannot depend only on penalties collected for contraventions of the Act. All other players involved in the production and supply chain of pesticides can be asked to seek their redressal in the Consumer Protection Act.

Ninth, penalties for contraventions of the Act should be deterring enough. Today, even though aerial spraying of pesticides with the use of drones is illegal, it is being done by numerous entities.

Tenth, pesticides industry should be brought under a regulatory regime that makes it accountable for the entire product cycle including disposal. Regulation should also cover advertising and aggressive marketing – pesticides are after all toxic substances!

The fears around productivity dips without synthetic pesticides have been debunked by a large body of scientific evidence and experience of organic/natural farmers around the country.

The Prime Minister had put out a clarion call to farmers in his Independence Day speech in 2019, asking for a reduction in toxic chemicals in farming. This is quite possible, if the Pesticides Management Bill is passed with all the above elements incorporated. □□

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/blogs/voices/pesticides-management-bill-2020-is-an-opportunity-to-clean-up-indias-food-and-farming-systems/>

# Pseudo-Caliphate and India

Even if we overlook the facts about which nation is “occupying” Kashmir, by stating that there is “no difference between Gallipoli and occupied Kashmir”, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan unambiguously signalled his intention to emerge as the “imam” of the new (pseudo) Caliphate he hopes to lead by 2023, the centenary of the Turkish Republic. Addressing a joint session of Pakistan’s Parliament (February 14), he lauded sacrifices made by it in the war on terror and the “positive contributions” it made to the Afghanistan peace process and promised support during the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) meet in Paris (February 16-21, 2020). His denunciation of US President Donald Trump’s Mideast plan hints at an eventual challenge to Riyadh in the region.

Erdogan’s determination to restore the Caliphate has created a visible schism between the Arab States formally led by Saudi Arabia and the non-Arab States led by Turkey. A nascent axis is discernible between Turkey, Malaysia and Pakistan; Iran and Qatar complete the anti-Riyadh alignment. Erdogan declared in February 2018, “The Republic of Turkey is a continuation of the Ottoman Empire... the essence is the same, soul is the same...”

Unsurprisingly, Ankara has emerged as the new hub for anti-India activities by Pakistan’s Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI). Unknown to most people, Turkey has universal jurisdiction laws as part of its domestic laws. Article 13 of the Turkish Penal Code states, “Turkish law shall apply to” the crime of torture “committed in a foreign country whether or not committed by a citizen or non-citizen.”

Khalistanis tried to invoke these laws. Sikhs for Justice, a group working for a referendum (“Referendum 2020”) to create Khalistan, is believed to be funded by the ISI. In October 2018, its legal advisor, Gurbatwant Singh Panun, filed a case against Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh when he



*By throwing his weight behind Islamabad on the Kashmir issue, Erdogan unambiguously signalled his intention to emerge as the imam of the new Caliphate he hopes to lead.*  
**Sandhya Jain**



visited Turkey to pay homage at Gallipoli to soldiers from the First Patiala Infantry Regiment (now 15 Punjab), who lost their lives in World War I, on the centenary of the Great War.

Pannun went to Gallipoli to secure an arrest warrant and restrain the Punjab Chief Minister from leaving Turkey. As the Captain was on a non-official trip, he lacked diplomatic immunity as under the Vienna Protocol, only the Prime Minister and External Affairs Minister are “protected persons” when abroad in personal capacity. In Pakistan, Erdogan lauded a 1915 rally in Lahore, led by Allama Iqbal, where people from present-day Pakistan supported the Turkish people and blatantly ignored the sacrifices made by Indian soldiers at Gallipoli (Battle of Çanakkale), possibly because the bells tolled for the Ottoman Empire.

Turkey’s domestic laws explain why ex-IAS officer Shah Faesal was going to Turkey on August 14, 2019, soon after the Centre abrogated Article 370 and divided the State of Jammu & Kashmir into the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. It is possible that some foreign mentors asked Faesal to invoke these laws in Turkey. He was to file a case of human rights violations against Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, the then Chief of Army Staff Gen Bipin Rawat and others, on behalf of his political party, Jammu & Kashmir People’s Movement (JKPM).

Media reports stated that from Ankara, Faesal was likely to try to take the Kashmir issue to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) at The Hague, the Netherlands. But

this would not take off for want of jurisdiction; no individual can file a case in the ICJ, only States can. Of course, his arrival in the Netherlands would be embarrassing for India.

But if Faesal really wanted to go to The Hague, he could have taken a direct flight to Amsterdam. His plan was to exploit Turkey’s Article 13 universal jurisdiction law. Some human rights NGO would receive him at Ankara, where he would be lionised as a civil service topper (2010) and Harvard alumni who quit a Government job to protest against the activities of the Indian State in Kashmir. Actually Faesal resigned from the service in January 2019 in order to enter politics. However, the sudden split of Jammu & Kashmir and freeze on political activity nixed his unborn political career, leaving NGO activism his only alternative.

Had he reached Ankara, the international media would have splashed Kashmir on the front pages of all important newspapers and magazines and the Indian media would follow suit, thus making Faesal the global face of the anti-India Islamic movement. Once he managed to file a case in Turkey, Islamabad would almost certainly have followed up by filing a case against India at the ICJ, where it has suffered reverses in the Kulbhushan Jadhav case.

However, Faesal’s mentors could not anticipate the lookout notices for Kashmiris trying to leave the country; he was caught at the airport, sent back to Srinagar and placed in preventive custody. He has now been booked under the Public Safety Act (February 15).

This argument can be corroborated from Pakistan Prime Min-

ister Imran Khan’s tweet on August 15, 2019, where he invoked Srebrenica, site of the 1995 genocide of over 8,000 Bosnians by the Bosnian Serb Army led by Ratko Mladic. Khan tweeted: “Will the world silently witness another Srebrenica-type massacre and ethnic cleansing of Muslims in IOK? I want to warn the international community if it allows this to happen, it will have severe repercussions and reactions in the Muslim world setting off radicalisation and cycles of violence.” The talk of “massacre and ethnic cleansing” of Kashmiri Muslims is, of course, pure bunkum but the tweet suggests an ISI hand in the aborted Turkish escapade.

Meanwhile, Erdogan has been cultivating separatist, religious and business leaders and Islamic groups in Kashmir after the tweaking of Article 370; this goes deeper than his traditional support to Pakistan at the Organisation of Islamic Conference. Previously also, he supported Pakistan in the FATF. While addressing the UN General Assembly on September 25, 2019, he chided the international community for not paying proper attention to Kashmir over the past seven decades.

Interestingly, soon after the FATF and UNGA meetings, the Indian Overseas Congress headed by Rahul Gandhi loyalist Sam Pitroda opened an office in Istanbul in November 2019. Possibly the Congress hopes to recover its once-committed Muslim vote bank by cultivating the emerging Caliphate; the repercussions on India’s internal affairs will need careful observation. □□

(The author is a senior journalist. Views expressed are personal)

<https://www.dailypioneer.com/2020/columnists/pseudo-caliphate-and-india.html>



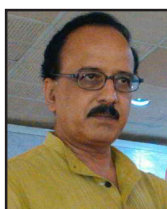
# The hazards of pesticides

**AMIDST** a hurricane of lawsuits that agrochemical multinational Bayer-Monsanto faces in the US and elsewhere over its herbicides Roundup and Dicamba's alleged link to cancer, a joint investigation by Unearthed, a journalists' research group founded by Swiss NGO Public Eye and Greenpeace UK, found that India tops the global chart with nearly 59 per cent of the sales being of 'highly hazardous pesticides'.

Japan follows with 52 per cent; Brazil, 49 per cent; US, 36 per cent; and the UK, only 11 per cent.

As per a report in The Guardian, agrochemical companies have disputed this data. Bayer has specifically termed it 'misleading', but has still not countered it with its own data. Meanwhile, CropLife International, a powerful lobby group of the agro-chemical industry, claims only 15 per cent of its products are 'highly hazardous', 10 per cent that can be 'used safely and responsibly'. Nevertheless, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), highly hazardous pesticides (HHP) are defined as "pesticides that are acknowledged to present particularly high levels of acute or chronic hazards to health or the environment, according to internationally accepted classification systems."

This reminds me of a discussion I had with Nobel laureate Norman Borlaug in the mid-1980s. On what he had to say about Rachel Carlson's path-breaking book *Silent Spring*, considered to have spearheaded the environment movement, Borlaug said she was an 'evil force' and 'these are the kind of people who don't want hunger to go away'. He then explained that pesticides are like medi-



*Proposed Bill  
needs to make the  
industry pay for  
health damages.*  
**Devinder Sharma**



cines. Farmers have to use them carefully, taking all the precautions. What Borlaug said could be debated at length, but it certainly formed the basic strategy for the Green Revolution, wherein pesticides were used to save crops from pest damage. But over the years, as pesticides became more pervasive in environment, innumerable studies have shown the use and abuse of chemical pesticides leading to environmental damages, ecological imbalances, pest resistance and contamination of the entire food chain. More recently, the UN Human Rights Council has said that pesticides have “catastrophic impacts on the environment, human health and society as a whole.”

Hilal Elver, the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food, told *The Guardian*: “It’s a myth. Using more pesticides has nothing to do with getting rid of hunger. According to FAO, we are able to feed 7 billion people today. Production is definitely increasing, but the problem is poverty, inequality and distribution.” The report further said: “Chronic exposure to pesticides has been linked to cancer, Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s diseases, hormone disruption, developmental disorders and sterility.”

After the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) published a report linking Glyphosate (the active ingredient in RoundUp herbicide) to cancer in humans, a flurry of lawsuits in the US was unleashed against the use of the toxic pesticide. While Monsanto (which has since been bought over by Bayer) claimed that regulatory agencies worldwide, including European Commission and US Environment Protection Agency, do not point to a link between



***Pesticides have "catastrophic impacts on the environment, human health and society as a whole".***

Glyphosate and cancer, a large number of cancer victims nevertheless began filing legal cases. As per the latest count, an estimated 42,000 (and still counting) lawsuits have been filed so far. Several legal sources say that the number of plaintiffs may have already swelled to over one lakh by now.

The lawsuits now have also moved on to another herbicide, Dicamba. On February 15, a US federal court awarded a Missouri farmer \$265 million in damages for the destruction of his peach orchard. The farmer charged the two big agrochemical companies — Bayer and BASF — for wreaking havoc on his orchard from Dicamba herbicide sprays done by his neighbour that drifted to his field. The companies face another 140 more or less similar lawsuits against Dicamba.

In three trials against Glyphosate, the jury has awarded \$2.3 billion in damages to four plaintiffs. Although the damages were later reduced to \$190 million, the judgments mostly pertain to the failure of the company to adequately warn consumers of cancer risks posed by the herbicide.

In India, *Down to Earth* magazine says that on an average, 10,000 pesticide poisoning cases are reported every year. The National Crime Records Bureau

(NCRB) had recorded 7,060 deaths from accidental pesticide poisoning in 2015. The fact that the nearly Rs 20,000-crore pesticide industry is expected to grow at a rate of 8.1 per cent till 2024, clearly shows how crucial it is to fix the regulatory holes. The proposed Pesticide Management Bill 2020, expected to be placed in Parliament, will perhaps not only tighten the regulations and make the industry pay for the health damages it causes, but also look beyond, keeping in mind the tens of thousands of lawsuits.

If only the world had listened to forewarning that Prof David Pimental of the University of Cornell had issued in the mid-1970s, perhaps much of the damage could have been averted. His scientific paper was titled: ‘99.9% pesticides go into environment. Only 0.1% hits the target pest.’ Knowing that pesticides are poison, and with less than one per cent of chemicals effective against pests, the world could have certainly evolved safer alternatives. Who will take the blame?

But equally important, if 90 per cent of all food eaten in the city of Copenhagen is organic, there is no reason why city dwellers cannot opt for healthy, pesticide-free food. That’s a true smart city. □

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/the-bazards-of-pesticides-45295>

# Impact of e-Commerce on Government Income

E-commerce and E-business have seen worldwide applications in different forms. The e-commerce and e-business are the words which are interchangeably used. But both these terms have different meanings. The e-commerce is mostly restricted to the transaction between buyer and seller in an online platform while e-business is about doing all the business activities in an online platform. The expanding internet penetration is escalating these new avatars of doing things and has repercussions everywhere. When the role of these new arrivals was small the repercussions were small - small enough to be ignored; and now these repercussions have become extreme- extreme enough to look for countering its impact to the highest authority in the system i.e. the government, i.e. the government's source of income, i.e.- the tax collection.

In physical store, the buyer and the seller meet with each other, choose the product, pays for the product, receives the product and the invoice, and knows the physical location of the store which has a specific registered address. But the world of e-business or e-commerce is quite different. There are various formats of e-business. In business to business format i.e. B2B, the transaction happens between two companies or two business entities. The end-user customer is missing in this chain. In business to consumer format i.e. B2C, the transaction happens between the company or the business unit and the end-user customer. In consumer to consumer format, i.e. C2C, the transaction happens between consumers to the consumer. The other format C2B is the consumer to business format and it is a kind of business model where the consumers create products which are used by companies for their business processes. This could be possible only because of the arrival of the internet. Business to administration i.e. B2A is the format where the transaction happens between business and the government using the



*Now is the time to think about how to assure the government's income in the new civilization of e-commerce and e-companies.*  
**Alok Singh**





online mode. The consumer to Administration i.e. C2A is the format where the transaction happens between the consumer and the government on the online platform. The concerned area in the context of bypassing the government's stake is B2C, followed by B2B, and C2C; but not restricted to these only.

The e-commerce has eliminated the intermediaries such as the colony retailer and the city wholesaler who could be relied upon to identify taxpayers. The companies are offered a lot of tax incentives—it's sometimes customized, sometimes are in favor of domestic companies over foreign companies, and sometimes are in favor of foreign companies over domestic companies. There is a lack of clarity to tax authorities and hence an opportunity for e-commerce entities to evade tax.

Initially, the e-commerce targeted the last mile connectivity to the end-users i.e. the retailers, then wholesalers felt burnt, followed by domestic companies and finally the government's own income i.e. tax on the income of e-commerce companies. Or it can be put in another way - that- initially the small retailers suffered, they were too weak to resist and the government assumed that the end-user customers are happy at the cost of retailers, so signals were ignored; then the heat came to the wholesalers, followed by manufacturers and now it's the turn of the government to feel the heat. The government can be accused of not preparing well in advance, to safeguard the stakes of retailers, the government also missed the time to safeguard the interest of the manufacturers and wholesalers. The end-

user is least bothered who is their supplier or manufacturer. But the magnitude has become so high and it is rising at an exponential rate in tier two cities and beyond that to towns and might reach villages. We have seen in past how Coco-cola and Pepsi has penetrated the village markets, so it won't be surprising if the government don't do anything and the village-level retail shops are in trouble and villages are dominated by their dependency on e-commerce companies.

The new civilization is welcome and the tax regime and the tax process need to be changed to meet the new challenge. The tax system and the tax process need to be compatible in a way that the scope of tax arbitrage or tax evasion is checked.

The governments across the world are struggling to come up with ways to tax the business which has migrated from physical format to electronic format. The scope of monitoring has become more challenging, as companies are registered in one country but are doing business in other countries. There is the interaction among various tax laws and various trade laws, spread across various countries. The e-commerce companies are exploiting this complexity to the full- to their advantage at the cost of many nations. Someone in country "A" is losing the job, someone in country "B" is losing revenue because somewhere in-country "C" there is a registered e-commerce company and the promoters living in the country "D" are printing money. The stakeholders of "A", "B", "C", "...", are waiting for a standard worldwide tax system which is strong enough, compatible appropriately, interpreted uni-

formly, addresses the concern of e-business and e-commerce related issues for all the tax authorities and motivates or forces e-commerce companies to play fairly in the business of trade and logistics.

So, it is suggested that the countries should come together and develop a common framework to tax the e-commerce and e-business entities. There is a need for an international level organization to make sure that the tax stakes of all the nations of the world in the context of tax collection from e-commerce and e-business are assured. The international body should provide uniformity in interpretation of tax rules so that the e-commerce companies and e-business companies do not have any arbitrage opportunity to evade tax. The uniformity should not be mistaken as that all the countries should have same tax rate. The tax rates are an internal matter. It's not about the international trade agreement only, it has moved one step in different direction. The e-commerce companies are duping one country after other.

Now is the time to think about how to assure the government's income in the new civilization of e-commerce and e-companies. The rules and regulations need to be dynamic and whenever any other disruptive technology or disruptive financial system creates troubles for any stakeholder in the domestic supply chain, it is the duty of the government to act proactively and the parameters should not be how much impact it is making now, the parameters should be how much impact it will have in the future. The lack of preparedness in the context of e-commerce is a learning. □□

# China's Corona Challenge and Lessons Learnt

This Year Spring festival celebration of New Year 2020 in China, marked as Rat Year in mandarin calendar, has led to much discontent and mourning given the unexpected outbreak of Corona virus causing number of deaths in China.

As reported by China's National Health Commission (CNHC) there was a total of 74,185 confirmed cases as of Feb. 18, and 2,004 people have died so far due to deadly virus infection. The situation has turned out to be worse in the last months, bringing the daily life and routine at halt in the beautiful and picturesque city of Wuhan. Moreover, the gradual spread of infectious Coronavirus within China has posed 'severe health risks' for the people living in other regions as well. Given the belated acknowledgment of the outbreak, early efforts to cover up the crisis and lack of preparedness of health infrastructure in Wuhan to contain the epidemic, both the Chinese government and its people are caught up in a very frightening situation.

As per the World health Organisation (WHO) guidelines, Coronaviruses make up a large family of viruses that can infect birds and mammals, including humans. In earlier too, these viruses have been linked to the outbreak of the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) pandemic of 2003 and the Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) outbreak in South Korea 2015 having triggered the global health concerns. Globally, there were 1,739 new confirmed cases during the 24-hour reporting period between Saturday and Sunday. The outbreak remains challenge for Chinese state, having both economic and social implications. The impact of the market shutdown and empty public spaces is also been felt beyond China's borders.

To say, even after reporting the first incident of coronavirus infection in Wuhan and the subsequent death on Jan 26, the slow response of the state health



*After Hong Kong crisis, the corona outbreak brings another challenge for Chinese state.*

**Abhishek Pratap Singh**



machinery has caused the epidemic outbreak in the region. Having learned from SARS outbreak in 2003 and Wenchuan earthquake 2008, China's national emergency response system must have shown its ability to concentrate efforts and resources to contain the epidemic outbreak.

Moreover, top-level health emergency efforts were activated very late by the end of January 2020. Notably, 'transparency of measures' is key to any outbreak control but in case of China the doctors who reported the crisis initially were subject to spreading rumours. The death of Dr. Li Wenliang on February 7, after he was infected with the deadly coronavirus unleashed a wave of public outrage on Chinese social media. It also suffers due to limitations of China's development model and demands improving the cross regional and more decentralised emergency response mechanism within China, not always subjected to top-down model of control and governance. In addition, the reputation of China's health care system has come in question given the spread of virus outbreak.

The coronavirus outbreak will also have certain socio-political implications for China's model of political governance. In 2017, China pushed for the effectiveness of one party state model for the countries that want to speed up their development process and growth. However, the present crisis does raise some questions on the effectiveness of one party state model to face up short-term crisis and long-term challenges. The coronavirus epidemic has revealed the rotten core of Chinese governance," quotes a law professor in



***The coronavirus outbreak will also have certain socio-political implications for China's model of political governance.***

Beijing, Xu Zhangrun in his online essay. Sympathy for the dead doctor who sounded the early alarm over coronavirus is mixed with anger at the government and leadership.

The newly affluent savvy Chinese middle class has remained often critical of China's top down model of political control, which disallows any expression of dissatisfaction with the ruling state. For the common Chinese citizen the much noise of government propaganda and state power around the corona crisis management does make a sense for its mishandling of a health emergency. It demanded a more open and quick response from the state, rather another example of the regime's ineptitude.

On the economic front, for a country with 14.55 trillion USD \$ economy and with a global share of 19 % in global market and also highly integrated with global economic system, the corona outbreak has also come with huge economic cost to China. Economic activity in many Chinese cities have sharply declined. At the time, when Chinese are facing the economic downturn given the 'new normal' and challenges on the trade front due to US policies, the outbreak has come at no good time for Chinese economy.

Even though late the state apparatus has been fully activated to contain the outbreak. Several committees and response teams at different levels have been formed to check the health safeguards for citizens. In addition, the crisis like this necessitates a more open and wider global health cooperation from countries. In times of crisis, the WHO — a U.N. agency based in Geneva — must work with member countries to get more information and coordinate an emergency response system in place for countries. The colonial experience of Team of Doctors from India led by Dr. Kotnis to China could be one such good example.

One has to understand that managing the outbreak of a new infection is never an easy task. The collective efforts to develop a vaccine for the virus could be breakthrough in these times and contain its spread in future. But more importantly, public information and awareness about such kind of health emergency must be strengthened globally, to better cope up to this kind of epidemic management. This will surely help out global health safety standards to the protection of human life and peace. □□

\*Holds PhD in China Studies from Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi and teaches at Deshbandhu College, University of Delhi.



# Water Resources and Forests in Southern Rajasthan: An Inscriptional Study (Part-II)

Southern Rajasthan witnessed a process of local state formation and agrarian expansion in the early medieval period. It is significant that irrigational works, both individual and royal enterprises, figure in the records in the context of land grants and rural settlements. In the kingdom of the Kishkindha Guhilas, a number of irrigation projects were owned by notable members of the rural society. The Dungarpur plates of Babhata refer to a reservoir and a tank owned by Rongaraka and Pahaka, respectively. This record also refers to a well named Kaccho as one of the boundaries of a donated field.

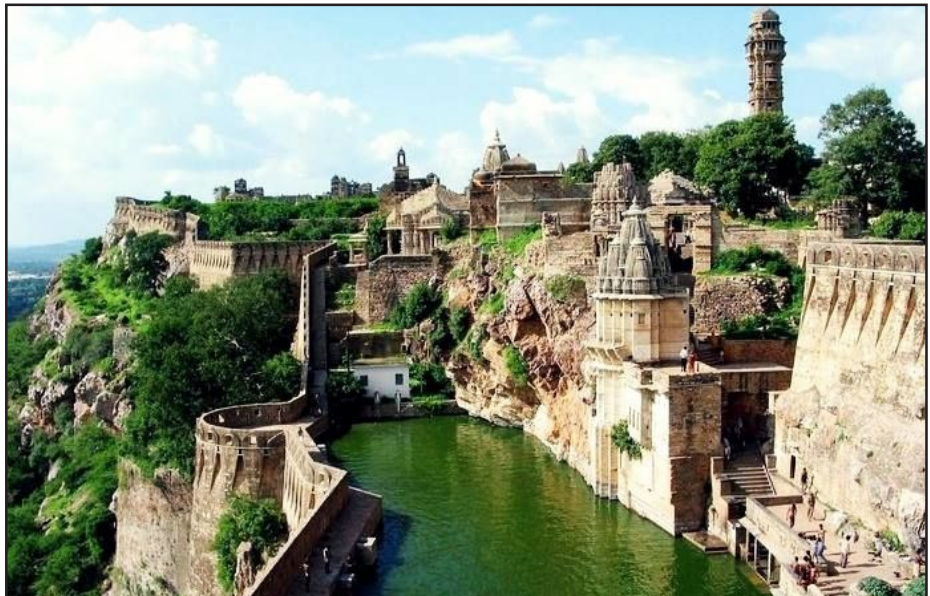
The fact that these irrigational works contributed to agricultural production in the village of Mitrapallikā is evident from the mention of specific quantities of yields from the donated fields. For instance, the field named Pahakapabhaka yielded five units of grains.” Similar instances come from the district of Bhilwara the village of Dhavagarta (modern Dhor, in Jahazpurtahsil) was a flourishing agricultural settlement in the seventh century. The Dabok inscription of the reign of the Mori king Dhavalappadeva (AD 641) refers to sāradyagrai°maka fields (fields that can be tilled in autumn and summer), indicating double-cropping.” This record also refers to grai°makaksetrâdi (fields yielding crops in summer) and sāradyak°etrâdi (fields yielding crops in autumn).”

Different irrigational works in this village were owned by individuals and royalty. Two boundaries of donated fields are mentioned as vāhiyalinamaraghattak°etram (field that was irrigated by an araghatta named vāhiyali) and Rājakiya-araghattakulya (an araghatta owned by the royal house). This



*Inscriptional records from early medieval Mewar (Southern Rajasthan) clearly indicate both private and state ownership of means of artificial irrigation as well as a variety of seasonal crops.*

**Prof. Nandini Sinha Kapur**



record also mentions another field irrigated by an araghatta (tarhakakatadacagrata-araghattakshetram and a water reservoir on the south of one of the granted fields. The fact that the Dabok inscription refers to a large number of fields owned by different individuals indicates sufficient agricultural production. The above irrigation projects and agricultural production undoubtedly contributed to the revenue base of the local Guhila state, and indicate a stratified rural society.

Udaipur district witnessed the emergence of new settlements in the forests during this period. The Samoli inscription of AD 646 records the opening up of an âkara (a mine) at Aranyakûpagiri and the building of a temple of goddess Aranyani by a migrating community from Vatanagar (Sirohi district). The term 'Aranyakûpagiri' indicates forest and a hilly terrain. The name Aranyavâsini (she who dwells in the forest) indicates that the temple was dedicated to the goddess of a local tribal population. Hence, we can deduce that the mine was opened up in the Bhil domain of Udaipur district. The mine can be tentatively located either in the zinc-lead-silver mines of Zawar (40 km south of Udaipur), or in the copper belt around Udaipur.

It is important to note that the Zawar mines came into operation in the seventh century—precisely the period of the beginning of the process of local state formation in Mewar. The record points to two successive stages in the development of the settlement called Aranyakûpagiri. This small settlement in a hilly, forested area of the tribals already had a well (kûpa),

or wells, as a means of irrigation. This technology is likely to have been introduced by a migrating community in a semi-arid, hilly, tribal locality with a pre-agricultural settlement. Wells seem to have provided the best possible means of artificial irrigation in the boulder strewn hills. Similar instances of opening up of settlements with kûpas in the country of the Abhiras come from the Jodhpur area in the ninth century.

Hence, wells seem to have played a significant role in sustaining and expanding agriculture within these settlements with the arrival of mahâjanas at Aranyakûpagiri. Moreover, the area witnessed deforestation along with increasing agricultural production. Besides the need for agricultural land, supply of raw materials from the surrounding forests to the nearest nodes in the Guhila kingdom, Nagda and Ahâda, might have necessitated some degree of deforestation. Some degree of limited peasantization of Bhils seems to have begun at this point.

Finally, Aranyakûpagiri as a centre of mining and the presence of the temple of Aranyavâsini meant the emergence of a workshop-cum-exchange centre at this settlement (the temple of Aranyavâsini is stated to have been visited by bards from far and near, indicating occasional festivities necessitating weekly or occasional fairs). Therefore, routes connecting Aranyakûpagiri with Nagda and Had would have resulted in some amount of deforestation. The phenomenon of deforestation assumes significance in view of the emergence of new settlements in post-ninth century. Inscriptional records list several commercial,

religious and politically important centres between the tenth and thirteenth centuries in Mewar. The emergence of temple centres such as Eklingji to Nagda (north of Udaipur) and Kankroli near the copper mines at Dariba, is likely to have caused some degree of deforestation, as clearances were needed for agricultural activities to sustain temples and mathas. The fact that the Eklingji temple emerged as a royal temple complex in the tenth century must have necessitated mobilization of additional agricultural resources. It is important to remember that the Eklingji temple inscription recording the construction of this temple in AD 971 does not mention any village as a land grant to the temple.

It is significant that the term vanamagan (forest route which figured in a land grant of the seventh century from the Guhila kingdom of Kishkindha, is absent in the post-seventh-century land grant charters from Mewar, such as the Pratapgarh grant of the Guhila king Bharat Bhatta in the Chhappan area, dated AD 942.

The Pratapgarh inscription recording the grant of a field named Vavulika by Bhartbhata to God Indrâjaditya in the village of Palâḍakûpikâ near Dasapura (modern Mandasaur), does not mention forests or forest routes" as boundaries of the village. On the other hand, rural settlements dotted this landscape, as they figure in the grants made by others to the same temple complex. It is significant that royal grants were usually situated near sources of water. They were thus assured of sustained agricultural production.

□□

## SJM writes to Minister on BT cotton



At a time when the Modi government has tried to project a pro-farmer image through the recent Union Budget, the Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM) has given a war cry against BT crop giant Monsanto. SJM shot off a letter to Minister of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare Narendra Tomar, arguing the "trait value" charged from farmers for Bollgard-II, a variety of cotton plants, should be written off completely considering the patent for the plant in question has expired. Trait value is something similar to a royalty charged from farmers. SJM which had started the debate against government signing a proposed trade deal called RCEP which was finally put into the back burner, argued that the BT crop giant Monsanto has already charged Rs 7000 crore from farmers.

"Monsanto company (now Bayer) had been charging exorbitant price of cotton seeds in the name of Bt 2 trait, exploiting our poor farmers and had collected more than Rs 7,000 crore from them, before Cotton Seeds Price (Control) Order 2015 came into being," letter says.

As per SJM the patent itself is questionable which was challenged at multiple forums, even that patent has allegedly expired and, most importantly, the premium is charged from farmers with the claim that worms or insects cannot trouble this cotton's plantation has also been found to be false.

"As IN214436 patent which is the underlying patent for BG-II version of Bt Cotton hybrid seeds has expired, the trait value for BG-II version of Bt Cotton hybrid seeds should also be considered as zero, like in the case of BG-I version, while fixing the sale price for BG-II version", says letter.

Earlier, the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare in its Cotton Seeds Price (Control) Order, 2015, abolished the controversial trait value of BG-I version of Bt Cotton hybrids.

Moreover, such patents have now expired, are deemed illegal in India. Speaking to IANS, Mahajan who is often credited for stalling the RCEP, said, "In India, we don't allow patenting seeds. Yet they claim a patent here." This is not the first time SJM wrote to the Ministry about it.

Last year on March 1, SJM wrote to the Ministry arguing against the trait value as illegal. But this time he claims, even that questionable patent has expired on November 4, 2019. So all the premium charged since has been unduly usurped, the Swadeshi Jagran Manch claims. Another key argument is the claim over the crops' contamination. "It has repeatedly conceded by the Ministry that Bt 2 trait has not been working for Pink Bollworm and there was no justification for charging trait value of any amount, against the interests of the farmers," SJM wrote. While Monsanto is a global corporate giant and wields massive influence, the argument of bringing farmers' interest may prove to be tricky for the Centre.

The Modi government has gone out of its way to project a pro-farmer image in this Union Budget where apart from goodies, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman also announced Kisan Rail and Kisan Udan -- the train and flight services dedicated for farmers.

With SJM making a strong case for farmers, the Centre is faced with a tricky situation.

<https://www.outlookindia.com/newstroll/rss-wing-writes-to-minister-on-bt-cotton/1746800>

## Coronavirus outbreak in China an opportunity for India to reduce reliance on China: SJM

The crippling effects of the deadly coronavirus outbreak in China presents an opportunity for India to narrow its massive fiscal deficit with China, pointed out by Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM) in New Delhi. Its high time that we realise that too much dependence on other countries for business is not a very



**SWADESH PATRIKA**  
MARCH 2020



wise thing to do. The country must ensure that we become self-reliant in crucial matters such as food security, healthcare. When it comes to China, we can't really rely on them economically since they have threatened India's national security, Mahajan told India TV on the sidelines of an event on coronavirus, organised by Russian news agency Sputnik.

The remarks by SJM come as the fallout of the COVID-19 outbreak in China threatens the global supply chains. Indian companies, which had been sourcing raw material from China, have expressed concern over disruption in supplies.

"We are appealing to the government to check the nation's economic dependence on China," he said, referring to India's ballooning trade deficit with the world's second-largest economy. According to a government statistic, India imports goods worth \$70 billion from China, while exporting only goods worth \$17 billion in comparison.

Citing the situation in India's thriving pharmaceutical industry, SJM said the Centre must work towards reversing the trend of importing raw material from China. "Today, we are importing 90 per cent of the raw materials, including Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) from China. But there was a time when we used to source most of the raw material for the industry domestically. There is no reason to believe that we can't go back on being self-reliant," SJM said.

"Our organisation is in touch with private players. Many of them are also of the opinion that our industry must rise up to the occasion and produce APIs at home," revealed SJM. When asked about the recent demand by Indian medical manufacturers to remove the ban on exporting face masks to China, the economist replied that if there were a surplus, then the government should relax the export controls. The ban was ordered in the wake of spurt in demand for masks in China after the surfacing of the new coronavirus in China in December last year. While the Director-General of Foreign Trade revoked the export restrictions on gloves and surgical masks on Feb 8, the ban on the export of N95 respirator masks remain in place.

"We believe that this is a really good opportunity for domestic manufacturers of medical equipment to capitalise on the disruption and move towards indigenisation. The government should bolster the global standing of the industry," SJM said.

"Countries such as America want the price controls on stent devices to be removed so that their com-

panies could benefit. But we are seeing now that Indian stents are as good as the foreign ones," pointed out SJM. He complained that China had also "ruined" India's e-rickshaw and other industries by dumping products and materials in the country over recent years. One per cent of global GDP set to be affected by coronavirus. The total economic loss due to coronavirus will be to the tune of \$500 billion, roughly translating into one per cent of the global GDP, said Viktorya Perskaya, Director of the Centre for the Study of International Economic Relations, Financial University under the Government of Russian Federation.

Highlighting that China had emerged as a major competitor to the US in recent years, Sergei Louisianin said from Moscow that the Chinese economy had come under great strain due to the outbreak.

"As per an estimate, the Chinese GDP will decelerate to 4.9 per cent. The ongoing trade negotiations with the US, the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), as well as tech companies such as Huawei's business interests also stand to be affected," said Louisianin.

The Russia-based panel was joined by Dr Mahajan, Dr Ajai Sahai, the Director-General and CEO at Federation of Indian Exports Organisation and Anuradha Chenoy, the former dean at the School of International Studies at the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) in New Delhi.

"The fallout of the outbreak is no longer confined to China and will have an overall effect on global trade. While almost every country engaged in trade with China is bound to be hit, the south-east Asian economies are particularly vulnerable," said Sahai.

"As far as India is concerned, the impact on the supply chain is significant. China is a leading trade partner of India and we have all the reasons to be upset," SJM added. Anuradha Chenoy complained that China must abstain from suppressing information about the magnitude of the virus, amid reports that Beijing had been detaining whistle-blowers who have dared to question the government's claims over the last month or so.

<https://www.indiatvnews.com/business/news-coronavirus-outbreak-in-china-an-opportunity-for-india-to-reduce-reliance-on-china-ashwani-mahajan-swadeshi-jagran-manch-590800>

## Don't see any trade deal with the US in near future: SJM

Swadeshi Jagran Manch national co-convenor Ashwani Mahajan while calling the US President Donald Trump an important ally of India claimed that the much-anticipated trade deal with the US may

not see the light of the day even in near future.

Mahajan said there are so many unresolved issues with the US on the trade front that any trade agreement seems to be a remote possibility. While welcoming Trump to India, SJM co-convenor said, "We welcome Trump in our country. I don't think there is going to be any trade deal per se as has been talked about in the past."

"There are so many issues regarding dairy, agriculture, medical equipment and IPR. There are previous concerns as well. For the past so many years these issues are pending and I don't think in the near future there can be any trade deal with the US," he added. He stated that India had learnt to live without being beneficiary of the Generalised System of Preferences which is a unilateral and now reciprocal benefit scheme extended by the US to various countries.

"The US has got no legitimacy to discuss the GSP as it was a unilateral decision on concessions available to India and was withdrawn for India," stated Mahajan. Acknowledging that the US is vital to maintain a balance as China too is a strong player, Mahajan said that India is dictating terms from a strong position.

"We find that the US is saying that India is not falling in line with its line on the trade deals. There may be defence deals and the purchase of equipment is decided by the government on the basis of requirements. On trade deal part, from RCEP days to date, Indian govt is taking a tough stand," he added. While President Trump has made a commitment to fight Islamic terrorism, India too is hopeful of containing terrorism. "India and the US have been a victim of terrorism. Coming together of both countries is bad news for terrorists and good new for peace lovers," stated Mahajan. (ANI)

<https://www.davdiscourse.com/article/politics/887219-dont-see-any-trade-deal-with-the-us-in-near-future-says-rss-affiliate>

### In NUMBERS: Is a trade deal with the US in India's national interest?

As US President Donald Trump delivered his maiden address in India, in front of a massive crowd at Ahmedabad's Motera Stadium, a trade deal with India played big on the mind of the US President.

"Prime Minister Modi and I will be making some very big trade deal to boost our countries' economies. I am sure that we can reach a good trade, but PM Modi is a tough negotiator," the US President said during his speech in Ahmedabad.



However, opposition within India to any trade deal whatsoever has been rising in the lead-up to the President's visit, with opposition Congress' concerns being seconded by a farmers' organisations, RSS-affiliated think tank Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM) and other industry bodies.

"India has been reduced to a lowly buyer state from a strategic Partner. India has no role in Afghan Peace Process," former Union Minister Manish Tewari commented on Sunday, adding that only big defence manufacturers' such as Boeing's, Lockheed Martin's and General Atomics.

Swadeshi Jagran Manch has also cautioned the Centre against reducing tariffs on dairy products at the insistence of the US President, alleging that such a decision could spell doom for Indian poultry farmers. Significantly, the SJM was at the forefront of a campaign last year against the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), which had been endorsed by Centre but didn't see the light of the day due to concerns of domestic farmers and business.

Peak body Poultry Federation of India highlighted with concern that reaching any understanding with the US could affect a \$100 million domestic ecosystem which supports four crore jobs.

From the ruling party quarters, Bharatiya Janata Party MP Subramanian Swamy has also taken the pledge of an impending trade deal with a hint of salt. In significant remarks delivered at an event in Bhubaneswar on Sunday, Swamy highlighted that the US President was in India to boost the American economy and "not ours."

"He has come to boost his economy and not ours. So I do not see any benefit to our country," Swamy was quoted as saying in Press Trust of India (PTI). "There may be some defence agreements. That will also boost his country. Above all, we are paying for the defence equipments..." the Rajya Sabha MP reportedly said.

<https://www.indiatvnews.com/business/news-in-numbers-is-a-trade-deal-with-the-us-in-india-s-national-interest-donald-trump-visit-591990>

## 'FDI in education will bring down standards'



THE Government in its Union Budget had taken proper measures which will encourage fisheries, gardening and other non-agricultural sector to increase rural employment, said Dr Ashwini Mahajan, Professor at Delhi University and All India Joint Convenor of Swadeshi Jagran Manch. Dr Mahajan was speaking as a keynote speaker on the topic 'Present Economic Scenario' organised by Nag Vidarbha Chamber of Commerce (NVCC) recently.

Also present on the occasion were Ajay Patki, National Convenor of Swadeshi Jagran Manch, Ashwin Mehadia, President of NVCC, B C Bhartia, National President of CAIT, Gopal Agrawal, Chairman of Team CAIT Nagpur, Kishore Dharashivkar, President of Team CAIT, Nagpur, Arjundas Ahuja, Vice-President of NVCC, Sachin Punyani, Treasurer of NVCC, Swapnil Ahirkar, Joint Secretary of NVCC and others. Dr Mahajan said that the previous Government's policy of free trade, Import Duty was reduce on foreign goods and flood of foreign goods was noticed in the country.

"In last 20 years, our trade loss due to foreign goods had increased to 30 per cent," Dr Mahajan said. He also added that due to such policy small trade started decline and even the manufacturing also decreased. "In order to stop the inflow of foreign goods, the present Government has increased Import Duty, Anti-Dumping Duty which combinedly has improved electronic, chemical and other products. It is a welcome move by the Government," he said. At the same time, he opposed the Government move in bringing FDI in educational sector.

"FDI in education will bring down the education standards," he pointed out. B C Bhartia said that the aim of Swadeshi Jagran Manch was to promote indigenous trade and protect the Indian tradition. "The more we use Indian goods, we will have more eco-

nomic development and trade and industry will also flourish," he said. Ashwin Mehadia in his opening remarks said that NVCC is always giving priority to safeguard the interest of traders. "When we felt Government policies were against the interest of the traders, we have opposed it tooth and nail.

Increase in Import Duty in the Union Budget is a welcome move," Mehadia said. Also present on the occasion were advocate Sanjay Agrawal, Vice-President, Ramavtar Totla, Secretary, Raju Makhija, PRO, Narayan Toshniwal, Rajesh Aohari, Shankar Sughandh, advocate Nikhil Agrawal, Rajesh Lakhotiya, Sandesh Kanoje, Sanjay Nabira of NVCC. Sirish Tare, Pravin Mase, Dhananjay Bhende, Rajiv Kshirsagar, Anita Patki of Swadeshi Jagran Manch. Swarnima Sinha, Jyoti Awasti, Archana Rastogi from team CAIT and other members in large numbers.

<https://www.thehitarada.com/Encyc/2020/2/21/-FDI-in-education-will-bring-down-standards-.html>

## Swadeshi Sandesh Yatra organised at Guntur



Guntur: Swadeshi Jagran Manch activists took out a Swadeshi Sandesh Yatra here on Sunday to coincide with the twoday state-level conference on February 15 and 16. The procession which started at Sri Venkateshwara Vignana Mandiram passed through Naaz Centre, Kothapet, Zinna Centre and reached Sri Venkateswara Vignana Mandiram.

The activists took out rally to create awareness on need to use local products. Swadeshi Jagran Manch national convener R. Sundaram stressed on need to encourage the use of domestic products. He alleged that foreign companies are trying to do cultivation in our country to make a fast buck and urged the people to oppose it. He felt that there is need to develop the country with own investments instead of foreign investments. He recalled that Indian family system has a special recognition in the world countries. □□

<https://www.thehansindia.com/andhra-pradesh/swadeshi-sandesh-yatra-organised-at-guntur-605617>



## SJM Activities

The Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare  
Government of India,  
New Delhi.

**Subject: Non-applicability of trait value for Bollgard-II Cotton Plant varieties on account of Expiry of patent IN 214436 on 04th November 2019 under the Cotton Seeds Price (Control) Order, 2015 -regarding**

Respected NS Tomar Ji,

As you may be aware that Monsanto company (now Bayer) had been charging exorbitant price of cotton seeds in the name of Bt 2 trait, exploiting our poor farmers and had collected more than Rs. 7000 crores from them, before Cotton Seeds Price (Control) Order 2015 came into being.



In our earlier letter dated March1, 2019, to your office, we had represented to the Ministry that the trait value for Bt2 trait should be removed since it is not working any more for the Pink Bollworm. The Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR) reports and the Press reports have made it clear. It has repeatedly conceded by the Ministry that Bt 2 trait has not been working for Pink Bollworm and there was no justification for charging trait value of any amount, against the interests of the farmers. After our letter to your office, Ministry of Agriculture reduced the trait value for B2trait, from Rs 39 per packet of 450 grams to Rs. 20 per packet. The Monsanto has irresponsibly been collecting trait value based on the orders issued under the Cotton Seeds Price (Control) Order, 2015 since 2016 though the trait is not working.

The trait value for Bt Cotton hybrid seeds as per the Cotton Seeds Price (Control) Order, 2015, issued by Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare for BG-I version of Bt Cotton hybrids had been declared "zero", as the BG-I version of the trait did not have patent in India. The details on the same are mentioned in the minutes of Price Control Committee meeting held on 24-2-2016 under the chairmanship of JS (Seeds) and Controller. The minutes also mention BG-II version of Bt Cotton hybrids as BG-II technology is patented in India and therefore trait value is applicable for them.

In this context it is to bring to your kind notice that the Indian Patent IN 214436, (which had been challenged at several forums being illegal), under which MMBL had been claiming patent rights before various forums, including the courts and the Central and State Governments, over the BG-II version of Bt Cotton hybrid seeds, has expired on 4th November 2019. At this point we wish to state that as per Amended Indian Patent Act 1970, seeds, plants and lives cannot be patented, and the claimed patent is subject to judicial scrutiny.

As IN214436 patent which is the underlying patent for BG-II version of Bt Cotton hybrid seeds has expired, the trait value for BG-II version of Bt Cotton hybrid seeds should also be considered as zero, like in the case of BG-I version, while fixing the sale price for BG-II version as per due process.

Therefore the Price Control Order for 2020-21 to be issued under CSPCO 2015, may consider the same to declare trait value for BG-II also as NIL, while taking up fixation of the Bt Cotton hybrid seed prices for 2020.

Since the price fixation for 2019-20 is currently in motion, we are bringing this to your kind notice for appropriate action.

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely,  
**Dr. Ashwani Mahajan**  
*All India Co-convenor*

## Swadeshi Activities

# Dattopant Thengadi Janam Shatabdi Varsh (2019-20)

### Pictorial Glimpses



Kangra, Himachal Pradesh



Puri, Odisha



Baghpat, Uttar Pradesh



Bhilwara, Rajasthan



Chittorgarh, Rajasthan



Delhi



Swadeshi Activities

## Dattopant Thengadi Janam Shatabdi Varsh (2019-20)

