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# Swadeshi

## PATRIKA

APRIL 2021



**Fraudulent Reports**  
**on Threat to Democracy**



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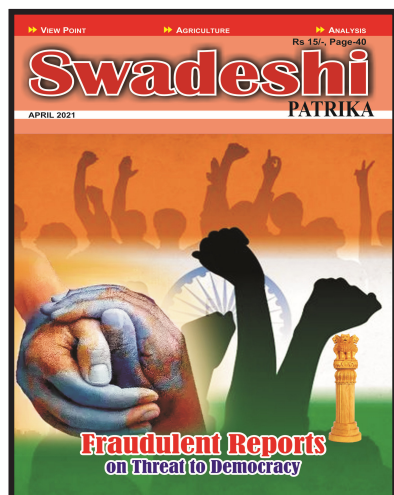
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**Swadeshi Patrika wishes its readers,  
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**HAPPY**  
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## Regional Language in Business Sector

*The promotion of regional language in the education sector is going to change the way Bharat learns. It's a continuous value-adding channel. The children can learn the knowledge and not stress by memorizing the translation. The regional language provides an opportunity for the student to engage with the local knowledge and the knowledge can come from illiterates. Literacy, education, and knowledge are not the same. Knowledge is everywhere, the language is the medium, and regional knowledge is the best tool for knowledge transfer.*

*The trustee and secretary of Samskrit Promotion foundation, Padamshree Awardee Chamu Krishna Shastri has proposed that regional language be made mandatory to be engaged in mentioning details on the packages of the products. Some incentives by the government can be announced to promote such efforts. The incentives can be in terms of a tax rebate or any other format which acts as a catalyst to do printing details in regional language on all those products which are sold in a retail shop.*

*It might also, help the government and the regulators to monitor the movement of the products and suppress the grey market. Mentioning details on packages in regional language seems to be a win-win situation for all the stakeholders. Anyway, the manufacturers do audio and video advertisements in regional languages, so it's a tested conclusion that regional language communications help in sales promotion. The politicians use the regional language to connect with the voters. The written communication in a regional language is missing because the regional language has not been promoted too much in school education. The business can use the Sanskrit language in mentioning details on packages across the country. The next generation youth will have different tastes for the languages and the businesses will also have to recognize it.*

— Kumar Gaurav, Samastipur, Bihar

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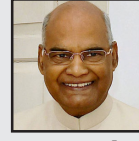
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## Quote-Unquote



**India is not only becoming self-sufficient in the manufacture of vaccines, but we are now providing vaccines to other countries free of cost or at very low prices. This world-wide effort is carrying forward our tradition of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'.**

Ram Nath Kovind

President, Bharat



**It is a matter of pride that the world's largest vaccination drive is being carried out in India.**

Narendra Modi

Prime Minister, India



**There have been thorny trade related issues with the US and we must not undermine those. We welcome the Quad co-operation but we need to wait and watch before we get into the economic and trade co-operation at this juncture.**

Dr. Ashwani Mahajan

National Co-convenor, SJM

## **Imperative to Create Employment with New Technology**

In the last 30 years, the blind race for globalization has caused a major damage to employment generation. During this period, unemployment has increased in almost every country of the world except China. While the unemployment rate in America is 6.2 percent, in England it is 5.1 percent, in Germany and France it is 5.9 and 9 percent respectively. Worst sufferer of this phenomenon has been the youth. Along with the quality of employment has also deteriorated as the youth (not fit for high tech jobs) is forced to work in low paid jobs. According to a report of OECD, in India, there were 30 percent of the youth (between age of 15 and 29 years) who were neither in education, nor in employment or in training (NEET), which means they were unemployed. In many countries of Europe, youth unemployment has reached more than 50 percent. That is to say, both developed countries and developing countries, have been struggling with lack of employment opportunities in the last 3 decades.

Every year about 20 million people are added to the population of India. Today, a large proportion of the population is young due to the pattern of population growth in the last 30–40 years. Today, two-third of the country's population is below 35 years of age. And more than 36 percent of it is in the age group of 15 to 35 years. From this point of view, the India is most youthful country in the world; and that is why India is now called 'Youngistan'. Such a situation is also defined as 'demographic dividend', because large size of youth population makes it possible for the country to grow rapidly by using capacities of the youth. This has always been a concern of the policy-makers about how to take advantage of this benefit.

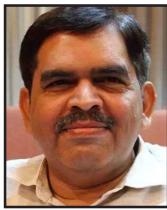
In the last 20 years, the country has been lagging behind in the manufacturing sector due to heavy imports from China. This has also affected the employment generation, as scope of employment in manufacturing is much more than other sectors. New technology has been fueling the problem of unemployment. In the past also employment was impacted due to mechanization. This problem was gradually resolved by creating alternative employment opportunities subsequently. While employment in manufacturing declined, some of it was compensated by the service sector. In today's era, new technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, Block Chains, etc. remain a threat to employment opportunities. Whereas, till recently employment was being created through call centers, now due to Artificial Intelligence in the call centers that work is carried out by machines. Due to this, employment has started declining and in the coming time it is likely to decrease further. At the same time, factories, offices, homes have started robotizing the work done by humans. Goods are also being transported from one place to another through drones.

The challenge facing India today is not only to compensate for its unsatisfactory performance in the second and third industrial revolutions, but also to actively participate in the fourth industrial revolution. It is true that robotics, artificial intelligence, drones etc will hurt employment generation, but we this is equally true that new technology also reduces costs. For example, companies that use Artificial Intelligence, robots, drones, etc., are able to reduce costs. As the cost decreases, the industry becomes more competitive in the market. But the loss of indiscriminate employment in the name of new technology also cannot be justified. In such a situation, policy makers will have to show sensitivity and seriousness in terms of choice of technology.

The issue of appropriate technology is of utmost importance. In today's era, this choice is influenced by the market. Since costs are reduced due to robotics and artificial intelligence, its use is tried to be justified. However, it should not be forgotten that loss of employment also has its own social cost. When people are out of employment, their capacities and skills are not utilized. To compensate for their income, the government has to spend in some form or the other. That is, on the one hand, the cost of company's decreases, but its injury falls on the rest of society through the government.

Be it artificial intelligence, robotics, block chains or drones, they are also becoming symbols of development in today's era. New innovations are taking place in this area. Their demand is also increasing around the world. Due to the superior skills of our youth in software development, science and technology and the same have been constantly improving in the last few decades, today a large number of our youth are also making new discoveries in these fields and they also have a big stake in this revolution. India's startups are moving ahead in the field of drone production. Robots have also been developed rapidly in many areas. In any case, it will not be beneficial for the country to stop this development. Today, there is a need to start a debate in the country on how to use these new technologies, so that on one hand the country may emerge a leader in this field in the world; on the other hand, by choosing appropriate technology, we create sufficient job opportunities for our youth skilled or unskilled.

# Fraudulent Reports on Threat to Democracy



*Understanding that in our country for more than 70 years elections were held in a smooth manner and leaving aside a brief period of emergency (imposed by their Prime Minister Indira Gandhi), democracy is getting mature day by day, there is a question mark on the understanding of Sweden's agency which compares India with a country like Pakistan.*

**Dr. Ashwani Mahajan**

Reports of the so-called decline of democracy in India have been coming through some 'special' international agencies for some time now. Recently, a Swedish agency V-DAM (Variety of Democracy) Institute published a report that India is no longer world's largest democracy, and has become electoral autocracy. The Institute has based its report on ill treatment with the media and excessive use of the treason and defamation laws.

Significantly, a week earlier, Freedom House, a US agency, had reduced India's position to 'Partly Free'. The agency believes that India's score in the year 2013 was the highest at 0.75, which came down to 0.34 by the end of 2020. The report also said that all this decline in rankings started with the advent of Narendra Modi's BJP government since 2014. It has even been said that the Indian government has tried to silence its critics by crackdown on expressions of dissent by the media, academics, civil society groups, and protesters.

The interesting part of the report is that India has been put at par with Pakistan; and Bangladesh and Nepal have been placed above India. The report says that now only 32 countries remain free democracy. This number was 41 a decade ago. Globally, the level of democracy has reached the level of as low as of 1990 by 2020. Interestingly, this report concedes that the electorate autocrats remain popular ruler. The report says that autocracy has spread in 25 countries where one third of the world's population i.e. 260 million people live. These countries include Brazil, India, Turkey and USA.

The important thing is that the report, which considers the Modi government as electoral autocracy, is itself accepting that Modi is very popular. This confirmation is also proved through repeated opinion surveys. This means that most of the people in the country believe that the policies of this government are in the right direction. Whereas, the action on critics of the government under the laws of treason and defamation has led these agencies to regard this government as autocratic, it would be necessary to understand whether this is indeed true in the present circumstances of India or not.

The report mentions that government took action against those who opposed the Citizenship Amendment Act. If we see carefully, the clear intention behind the Citizenship Amendment Act can not be considered against any creed of India. The intent behind the introduction of the Citizenship Amendment Act is that non-Muslim (Hindus, Christians, Bodh, Sikhs) citizens living in undivided India, persecuted due to religious bigotry, xenophobia and terror in Pakistan and Bangladesh, and who have taken refuge in India due to this reason, they should be given citizenship of India. In such a situation, the statement of the opponents that the Muslims of Pakistan and Bangladesh should also have equal right to seek asylum in India cannot be justified under any circumstances, because they form majority community in those countries and there is no reason or example of their persecution. In such a situation, the movement which was done to incite the Muslims of India has also been forced on people of our country for months (Sha-

heen Bagh) and the government also did not forcibly cracked down the sit on (dharna).

However, in the guise of those protests, when some miscreants belonging to some political parties incited violence, in order to ensure the safety of life and property of the citizens, legal steps taken by the government against such people involved in the violence, has perhaps made Swedish agency to term India as electoral autocracy, it cannot be justified under any circumstances. Here the example of France is notable, when a citizen was slaughtered by a person of a particular religion due to piety, the French government imposed several restrictions against that particular religious group. But the matter of surprise is that this agency of Sweden did not even mention that case of France.

If we take a closer look, legal action has definitely been taken against some journalists and other persons. But this legal proceeding was not done without reason. Action was taken against a journalist (who had to lose his job as well) because he broadcasted the fake news that a farmer died due to police firing during the Farmers Agitation. Violence could have been caused due to this. Whereas the truth was that the driver of a tractor himself had accidentally died due to his own mistake. Similarly, legal action was taken against some so-called 'social workers' because they either indulged in violence themselves or were promoting violent activities.

There are millions of NGOs working in our country. Many of them receive foreign funding with the permission of the Ministry of Home Affairs. Governmental or

non-governmental organizations have been receiving foreign aid for the development of the country and the upliftment of the poor. But for some time, it has been felt that some NGOs are advancing the agenda of foreign forces with foreign funding. In many places, they are involved in many objectionable tasks including stopping development projects, promoting religious conversions and instigating anti-national movements. After scrutiny of foreign funding of such institutions, the license for foreign funding of about 15,000 NGOs has been cancelled. Many foreign agencies that spread lies globally are also influencing the reports of organizations such as Sweden's V-Dam Institute and America's Freedom House.

It is the responsibility of the government to maintain law and order in any country. In case there is any threat to public order, it's duty of the state to take appropriate steps to ensure peace. But for some time, some unwanted elements have not only been misleading the people of the country in general, but are even becoming a hindrance to the internal security and law and order of the country. Apart from causing inconvenience to the general public, they are also joining hands with anti national forces. Protests and movements are both integral parts of the democratic system. But both of these should be within the purview of law, without endangering law and order and without causing inconvenience to the people. In any civilized society, no one can justify disturbance to social fabric and violence on the basis of religion and caste. In such a situation, legal proceedings against some people cannot be held undemocratic even

if they are journalists or political activists. During the Delhi violence, some political parties first attempted to create a political atmosphere against the actions taken against the public representatives of a political party. The government's action against such violent elements is not a threat to democracy, but the silence of that political party is indeed dangerous for democracy. Many such examples are found in the past.

We should understand that after every six months, there is a major election involving two or more bigger states, democracy is actually getting matured in the country, as there is always a peaceful transfer of power in centre and states. Influence of army in politics is not even heard of. Many countries send their teams to learn democratic system of India. Political parties should analyze the policies of the government properly, rather than indulging in sectarian politics based on religion and caste. There should be a national debate on the effects of new laws, policies for public welfare. Political parties should support the government for good policies and criticise them for wrong policies. This is the path to strengthening of democracy. Violence and threat to law and order cannot be justified in the name of democracy. Understanding that in our country for more than 70 years elections were held in a smooth manner and leaving aside a brief period of emergency (imposed by their Prime Minister Indira Gandhi), democracy is getting mature day by day, there is a question mark on the understanding of Sweden's agency which compares India with a country like Pakistan. □□



# Self-Reliance and Chinese Challenge

## Dream of Self Reliant Five Trillion Dollar Economy

The twin declarations of making Bharat Aatm-Nirbhar and turning into a \$5 trillion economy has coincided with the pronouncement of National Education Policy 2020, aimed at making India a knowledge super power. Self-reliance is key to prosperity and sustained economic growth. But, self-reliance should not be interpreted in a narrower sense of isolating from the global economy. Self-reliance must ensure macroeconomic sustainability by enabling India to meet its import bill from own exports without leaving any trade deficit and the country should be able to mobilize fiscal resources or revenue enough to meet the targets of major heads of expenditure on education, health, R&D, defense, welfare and social security, along with mobilizing domestic resources investment needed for industry, commerce and infrastructure development.



*Self-reliance must ensure macroeconomic sustainability by enabling India to meet its import bill from own exports without leaving any trade deficit and the country should be able to mobilize fiscal resources or revenue enough to meet the targets of major heads of expenditure.*

**Prof. Bhagwati Prakash Sharma,  
Miss Kriti,  
Dr. Jaya**

## Fastest Growth Projection

Bharat is slated to grow fastest at a pace of 11% in 2021-22, even overtaking China as well. India has already left 6 countries behind in last 7 years on the basis of the nominal GDP and has acquired 5<sup>th</sup> rank worldwide. India has pipped Russia, Italy, Brazil, France and UK. The production linked incentive scheme announced recently is going to add \$500 billion in the manufacturing value with some degree of technological self-sufficiency as well.

## Getting Rid of Dependence on China

India is endowed with largest arable area, 150% of China, largest number of micro, small and medium scale enterprises (MSME) and largest share of 20% in the world's youth. Our over-dependence upon a single country, the China for meeting most of the needs of components needed for domestic manufacturing of majority of products has to be remedied. Today, China alone is the key source





of inputs for most of our domestic manufacturing, as we are over-dependent to source most of the components needed for manufacturing of the majority of products from mobile phones to the personal computers.

We are solely dependent on this single country for several finished products too, portraying enmity towards India. For almost 85% of our crucial mobile phone components, 70% of active pharmaceutical ingredients, 100% of 57 important product categories, 80% supplies of 375 products categories, most crucial for our manufacturing activities we are badly dependent upon China. Almost 30% plus contents for pharma, electronics, automobile and several other industries are coming from China. India has now been offering Production Linked Incentives for a variety of sectors, as on an average we import 90% of solar panels and allied equipments at a cost of approx Rs 25,000 crores per annum, which helps China to generate an employment for 2 lac persons, engaged in manufacturing these solar equipments and components for India. Same is true in case of several other products, including the Li-ion batteries. The import of Li-ion batteries has grown 3-fold from 17 crore in 2016 to 47 crore batteries in 2019, of which mostly from China. The cost of Li-ion battery imports has gone up from Rs 2600 crore to Rs 6500 crore per annum. China dominates over the Li-ion battery market. Around three-fourths (75%) of Li-ion battery cell manufacturing capacity is in China. Chinese companies, under active State support from Chinese government has developed unparalleled

control on the global supply of raw materials and processing facilities. India has been making rapid strides to resolve even the issue of raw materials for Li-ion batteries, as we do not have Lithium and Cobalt reserves.

### **Need to Add Downstream Value Chain in Manufacturing**

Country has well laid assembly lines for most of the products ranging from mobile phones to metro-trains and from refrigerators and TV sets to pass-book printers being assembled out of the imported components or completely knocked down kits. Efforts need to be made to add the downstream value chain of original equipment manufacturing through technological self-sufficiency. As on date in spite of having 17.6% share in world population Bharat has mere 3% share in world. Whereas, China has 28.4% share in world manufacturing and 30 times more high-technology exports than India. Japan has just 1.6% share in world population, but 10% share in world manufacturing.

The policy of local content requirement for public procurement would soon boost domestic manufacturing. The public procurement order of September 18, 2020 shall remedy it and boost domestic value addition.

### **Local Content requirement to Boost Manufacturing**

India has allowed higher 'local content requirement' (LCR) for public procurement to the tune of 50% or more in the government order of September 18, 2020. This order seeks to promote manufacturing and production of goods and services indigenously by allowing ministries and departments to

mandate local content requirements to minimum 50% and 20% or even more for two categories of suppliers viz Class I and Class II local suppliers. The OECD countries, China and the ASEAN countries like Malaysia and several other countries have been pursuing these LCR policies since long back to move in an era of deglobalisation.

### **Chinese Citadel Bound to Fall**

China aspires to be the largest economy of the world by 2035 by doubling its GDP to become a \$30 trillion economy by 2035 at 2020 price level with self-sufficiency in all kind of technologies. According to Homi Kharas, the deputy director for the global economy and development program at the Brookings Institution, China is on the course to surpass US as the biggest economy in 2028. China has now even proclaimed to be self-sufficient in high technology to eliminate its dependence upon foreign technology in most of the sectors, including semiconductors, robotics, new energy vehicles, aerospace and so on. So, India too needs to make rapid strides after attaining the scale of \$5 trillion economy by 2025, as already declared by the government. At least India has to quadruple if to \$20 trillion by 2035. China would fail to attain the goal of \$30 trillion economy with the exiting of foreign supply chains.

### **Declaration of Aatm-Nirbhar Bharat: A Moment of Pride**

It is for the first time after 72 years of Independence that the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has declared the intent of making Bharat, Aatm-Nirbhar or self-reliant. Otherwise, ever since the In-

dependence, India has focused at borrowings from abroad or inviting the FDI to bridge the trade deficit without matching the FDI without-bound direct investment (ODI). These twin banes had been responsible for our economic decline. It would be enough to give a brief mention of the three devaluations of the Rupee done for major borrowings by the Nehru, Indira and Narsimha Rao governments in 1949, 1966 and 1991 respectively from the World Bank (in 1949 and 1966) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF in 1991). On these three occasions, one of the conditionalities for grant of the loan was devaluation of rupee.

In 1949 the Rupee value was brought down to Rs 4.76 per dollar from Rs 3.50, in 1966 from Rs 4.76 to Rs 7.50 and from Rs 17.50 to Rs 24.58 in 1991. There are several other occasions of devaluing and depreciating currency. India had to pay mere Rs 350 for every import of goods worth USD 100, for which today we pay mere Rs 7500, merely because of devaluations and depreciations done to borrow from abroad.

### Three Pillars of Self-Reliance

Self-reliance should not be interpreted in a narrower sense of isolationist self-sufficiency of the Indian economy. Foreign trade account for 48.8% of country's GDP. Export kitty of 7500 commodities destined for 190 countries of the world and an imports list of 6000 commodities, originating from 140 countries. This broad base of our trade relations is going to be more broad-based for self-reliance. But, macroeconomic sustainability with respect to exter-

nal sector as well as fiscal sustainability on the domestic front is key to self-sufficiency to meet the targets of expenditure outlays. Technological self-sufficiency is also key to be able to run our assembly lines with more than 50% domestic share in the manufacture of original equipments of downstream value chain for our assembly lines. Country should also think of one step ahead of developing the sunrise technologies for the ensuing decade instead of merely focusing upon providing skilled manpower to foreign assembly lines. So, for attaining self-reliance trade and investment balances, fiscal sustainability and technological self-sufficiency needs to be given paramount importance.

**(i) Macroeconomic Sustainability in the External sector:** As already stated here above that India must be able to meet its import bill from its export earnings. The trade deficit of \$165 billion in the pre-Covid year is the major stumbling block, which has ballooned hundred-fold from \$1.62 in 1991-92. This ballooning trade deficit has compelled the governments over the years to meet this deficit from foreign direct investments and portfolio investments, leading to take over of most of manufacturing by foreign MNCs. It has led to foreign control and ownership of industry and commerce. Excess of FDI leads to precarious deficit in the investment income as well. Our outbound direct investments (ODI) are very low when compared to the ballooning FDI. So, more and more profits and royalties are repatriated out of country, vis a vis the profits received from the ODI. So, along with a

trade deficit of approx \$160 billion, India has an investment income deficit of around \$30-40 billion. This has led to the depreciation of Indian rupee value against the American dollar from Rs 18 in 1991 to Rs 76 per dollar today. Most of the inflation in the country has resulted solely from the more than four-fold fall of Indian rupee in the post reforms period. So, Bharat needs to balance its trade and current account deficits along with investment income deficit.

**(ii) Fiscal Sustainability:** Adequate fiscal resources are key to meet various expenditure targets. India has since last more than five decades been trying hard to raise government expenditures on education to 6%, health to 4%, R&D at 2%, defence at 4%, welfare at 6%, social security at 6% of the GDP. Besides, the government has to spend 8% of GDP on salaries. The composite expenditure stands at 34% of GDP. At present the Tax-GDP ratio for the centre is 9.76% and 16.92% or say 17% for the centre and states together. So, unless the tax-GDP ratio rises, the country cannot conduct itself as a truly sovereign nation. The tax-GDP ratio can grow only if GST revenues rise. But, unless we raise our manufacturing, it won't be feasible with mere assembly lines, being run by foreign MNCs or few domestic players from the imported original equipments. It would be feasible only with technological self-sufficiency in the manufacture of the original equipments of downstream value chain.

[The third pillar, Technological self-sufficiency shall be discussed in the next article].

[To be concluded]

# The future of the New Development Finance Bank

Recently, one more financial institution has come up. This institution has been named as 'National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NB-FID)' and is the new development financial institution (DFIs) for infrastructure financing. The central government will own 100% shares of the institution initially and may go down to 26% in the future. The new DFI is expected to provide long-term finance for such segments of the economy where the risks involved are beyond the risk appetite of commercial banks and other financial institutions. This bank is expected to not accept deposits from public but source funds from the market, government, as well as multi-lateral institutions. The government will also provide guarantee at a concessional rate for borrowing from multilateral institutions. It is however, to be remembered that this new DFI is not the first one in India and there is a long history of many such institutions. It is, therefore, desirable to understand the background and history of DFIs and hypothesize the future of this new DFI.

## Defining DFI

The idea behind the DFIs is that in a developing country, financial sectors are incomplete as the markets – particularly in relation to risk capital, projects requiring long gestation periods and those that work with emerging technologies. The challenge principally lies in meeting financial needs of such capital guzzling projects. The DFI is expected to meet long-term financial needs of such projects. A DFI is defined as “an institution promoted or assisted by Government mainly to provide development finance to one or more sectors or sub-sectors of the economy. The basic emphasis of a DFI is on long-term finance and on assistance for activities or sectors of the economy where the risks may be higher than that the ordinary financial system is willing to bear.



*Government needs to understand that basic infrastructure is the responsibility of government and efforts should be made to build it through budgetary resources as far as possible. For that, the need will be to reduce subsidies and revenue deficits.*

**Anil Javalekar**





### So many DFIs took shape in India

India established many DFIs since independence. RBI can be said as the first development institution of India as is entrusted with the job of developing an appropriate financial architecture through institution building. DFIs established later can be broadly categorized as all-India or state/regional level institutions depending on their geographical coverage of operation. Functionally, all-India institutions can be classified as (i) term-lending institutions (IFCI Ltd., IDBI, IDFC Ltd., IIBI Ltd.) extending long-term finance to different industrial sectors, (ii) refinancing institutions (NABARD, SIDBI, NHB) extending refinance to banking as well as non-banking intermediaries for finance to agriculture, SSIs and housing sectors, (iii) sector-specific/specialized institutions (EXIM Bank, TFCI Ltd., REC Ltd., HUDCO Ltd., IREDA Ltd., PFC Ltd., IRFC Ltd.), and (iv) investment institutions (LIC, UTI, GIC, IFCI Venture Capital Funds Ltd., ICICI Venture Funds Management Co Ltd.). State/regional level institutions are a distinct group and comprise various SFCs, SIDCs and NEDFi Ltd.

### What happened to all these DFIs?

Some got converted to full-fledged and commercially operated banks (ICICI, IDBI). As of now, only three categories of institutions remain in the list of DFIs. The first category is the DFIs established by statute viz., NHB, SIDBI, NABARD and EXIM Bank. The second is the state level institutions set up by statute viz., SFCs. The third is the DFIs that have been constituted as compa-

nies under the Companies Act, 1956 and hence are, by definition, NBFCs. These are IIBI Ltd., TFCI Ltd., PFC Ltd., REC Ltd., IRFC Ltd., IREDA Ltd., NEDFi Ltd., IDFC Ltd., and SIDCs.

### DFIs lost relevance

DFIs have lost relevance in current economic environment – may be because the financed projects were unviable, or allocation and rotation of capital was inefficient. As is known, the Indian financial system has improved over the years. The capital markets (equity and debt) are enabling high capital exchange and for long tenures. The banking system is well diversified with public, private and foreign banks of varying sizes operating efficiently and has acquired the skills of managing risks involved in extending finance to different sectors of the economy including long term finance. Markets are now diversified; the banks are also encouraged to extend high risk project finance and larger global funds participating in infrastructure space. And due to such developments, the DFIs are unable to withstand the competition from banks and other FIs. DFIs were also burdened with large NPAs due to exposure to certain sectors, which have not performed well due to downturn in the business cycle, further adding to their cost of doing business. Further, their portfolio was almost entirely composed of long-term high risk project finance.

### RBI's working Group on DFIs (2004)

RBI's working Group on DFIs (2004) categorically said that the need for DFIs as the exclusive providers of development finance has diminished as the banking sys-

tem acquired the skills of managing risks in extending finance to different sectors of the economy including long term finance and the capital market, (both equity and debt taken together) providing significantly larger resources to the corporate sector. The WG has also said that the business model of any DFI which raises long term resources from the market at rates governed by the market forces and extends only very long-term credit to fund capital formation of long gestation is unlikely to succeed on account of threat to its spreads from high cost of funds and high propensity to accumulate NPAs owing to exposures to very high credit risks. The WG opined that DFIs are crucially dependent for their existence on Government commitment for continued support.

### New DFI may not survive

The idea of DFI has a background and all earlier DFIs either took different route of converting into banks or have changed their operations. The desirable approach is to see that existing DFIs are strengthened and supported appropriately, particularly NABARD and SIDBI, instead of going for new. The future of new DFI will be uncertain if not taken proper care. Government needs to understand that basic infrastructure is the responsibility of government and efforts should be made to build it through budgetary resources as far as possible. For that, the need will be to reduce subsidies and revenue deficits. Establishing new institutions may not help much. More than that, if government must help them survive, it is better government itself invest in such projects. □

Reference: RBI'S REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON DEVELOPMENT FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS' (2004). <https://rbiidocs.rbi.org.in/rdoc/PublicationReport/Pdfs/53674.pdf>

# Continuing threats to the Economy

The challenge today is to restart the cycle of fast economic growth and employment generation that has been hit by demonetization, GST and lockdowns. These actions have hit the small industries in particular. These same small industries were creating most of the employment. Thus, employment generation is no longer taking place, employment in our manufacturing sector is declining, less wages are being paid to the workers, there is less demand in the market, and businesses are less inclined to invest. We should not be misled by the booming Sensex. The big companies and e-commerce companies are doing well. But the economic growth is down because there is little purchasing power in the ground economy.

The Government has tried to restart this fortuitous cycle by making increased investments in infrastructure. This would have been in the right direction if it would have led to the generation of employment. However, the investments in highways, airports and rail freight corridors is mostly being made by capital-intensive machines. Take the highways for example. The land will be dug by an excavator. Cement will be purchased from the cement factory. The cement factory will use machines to dig the limestone. The cement will be transported in large trucks to the highways. The highway will be made by laying the cement by automatic machines. I reckon that only 15 percent of the government expenditure goes into the hands of the workers in the entire expenditure chain. The remaining 85 percent money keeps rotating on the top as if 85 percent oil is floating on 15 percent water. This money does not connect with the ground. For this reason the growth rate of the economy is down and is not likely to revive from these investments. Making a shopping mall in the middle of a slum does not lead to an increase in the income of the slum-dwellers.

The present infrastructural investments will not help the economy for another reason. It is beneficial to make a highway if trucks are waiting to ply on them.



*The second wave of Corona Virus is further threatening the economy. There is need to review the Budget proposals in the light of this development.*

**Dr. Bharat Jhunjhunwala**



Our growth rate has been declining over the last six years. The demand for the infrastructure that is being created is less. The tollways may not be able to recover their investments in absence of trucks plying on them. Indeed Surface Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari has said that the toll collections in 2020-21 have been higher than in 2019-20. I think this is because more toll-free roads have been brought under toll. However, these investments will certainly prove beneficial in the long run. But, as famous economist John Maynard Keynes had said, "In the long run we are all dead." The need was to create demand in the economy immediately. Indeed demand for steel and cement in the making of highways will not jumpstart a fortuitous cycle because there will be less employment of workers, less generation of employment and less connection with the ground economy. I am not opposing increased investment in infrastructure. That is certainly needed. I am opposing the particular investments in big highways made with automatic machines. Need was to make small town roads with labour-intensive methods.

The need was to also to support small businesses that employ large numbers of workers. This could be done by increasing the import taxes on items like cloth and rubber chappals that are produced by small industries; and also increasing the rates of GST on large factories making these items. That would have enabled small industries to sell their goods in the market. We must accept that this would lead to an increase in the price of these goods in the market and force the consumer to buy

***The need was to also to support small businesses that employ large numbers of workers. This could be done by increasing the import taxes on items like cloth and rubber chappals that are produced by small industries; and also increasing the rates of GST on large factories making these items.***

expensive goods made by small industries. This additional burden on the consumer must be thought of like an "employment tax." The protection provided to small industries would have led to the generation of employment which, in turn, would have created demand in the market. Just as a person who has just overcome a sickness needs to be given tonic to revive his working capacity, similarly, the small industries that have just faced the triple problems of demonetization, GST and lockdown need to be given the tonic of protection to revive their working.

A positive step taken by the Government in the Budget is to monetize the infrastructure projects like highways, electricity transmission lines, rail tracks, ports, airports, etc. The Government plans to either privatize these completed projects or give them out on contracts and raise money. The money raised can be used to invest in other infrastructure projects that are limping due to financial crunch. It would be better though if these new investments were to be made in labour-intensive projects as mentioned above.

The Government has planned to privatize a number of Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) like Air India, Shipping Corporation of India, IDBI bank, Bharat Earth Movers Limited, Pawan Hans and

other companies. The Government has made a target of raising Rs 1.75 lakh crore in the current financial year which is nearly ten times the Rs 20,000 crores generated from this head in the present financial year. It is not impossible though it is difficult to raise this huge amount.

The Finance Minister has estimated in the Budget that the fiscal deficit in the present year 2020-21 will be 9.5 percent of our GDP. The Government has placed a target of fiscal deficit of 6.8 percent in the coming year 2020-21. This estimate is based on the assumption that the economy will rev up and Rs 1.75 lakh crore will be obtained from disinvestment. The second wave of Corona Pandemic despite the vaccination drive puts the attainment of these estimates in much doubt. The economy can face another crisis in that situation. The Government will have to borrow large amounts to cover this deficit. This borrowing can be made from the Reserve Bank of India or the market. The economy will face price rise if the Reserve Bank prints notes and lend the money to the Government. On the other hand, interest rate will increase if the Government borrows this money from the market. The economy will suffer in both cases. □□

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## Why The Time Has Come to Revive A Highly Promising Plan For Improving Rice Cultivation Prepared By A Great Scientist



In many parts of the world there is a yearning on the part of farmers to break free from the increasingly exploitative grip of big business interests trying to dominate farming and food systems. As a result, despite the very worrying reality of the increasing domination of big business in many countries led by the USA, there is also a highly welcome increase in activities for exploring alternatives and reviving forgotten ones.

In India also the farmers' movement has led to more exploration and thinking along these lines.

After all if we criticize what is wrong on the part of big business interests and governments colluding with them, we should also be able to present in clear terms the various alternative paths of development that exist.

Another reason why this debate is picking up is due to the growing seriousness of climate change and the search for ways and means of climate change mitigation and adaptation. We need farming methods and programs which can contribute to checking climate change and can also increase the capacity of farmers to cope in a better way with the fast emerging challenges of more weather extremes and more unpredictable weather. For these new reasons as well as earlier ones there is clear need for a more decentralized approach.

What is more it is increasingly realized that the efforts of climate change mitigation and adaption in agriculture and related sectors should be well-integrated with the welfare and protection of sustainable livelihoods of small and medium farmers in India as well as in other parts of the world. The solutions that come should of course be ecologically protective ones, but in addition the solutions should be low-cost solutions which also increase the self-reliance and resilience of rural communities instead of making them more dependent on outside forces and uncertainties .

In this larger context, 'A silent rice revolution - a specific plan of action for increase in productivity of rice' formulated by Dr. RH Richharia, one of the most eminent rice scientists, deserves special attention as it meets all these requirements. Its most important feature is that it is based in indigenous rice varieties. It promotes self-reliance and resilience of farmer communities, and is based on a very decentralized approach. It is ecologically very protective and very useful from the point of view of climate change adaptation and mitigation.

This specific plan of action was formulated by Dr. Richharia at the request of the Prime Minister's office in 1983-84. However following the tragic assassination of Mrs. Indira Gandhi in 1984 somehow the plan got neglected. Dr. Richharia who lived and worked independently in Bhopal at that time soon suffered



*Despite big businesses trying to dominate farming and food systems including in USA, there is an increasing exploration of alternatives and forgotten farming and food systems.*

**Bharat Dogra**

great health deterioration in the Carbide gas leak disaster and could not follow up the matter on his own. However when this writer met him well before his death he still had hopes that one day this document will prove very helpful for rice farmers and farming.

Dr. RH Richharia was for several years the Director of Central Rice Research Institute (CRRI-Indian's more important centre of rice research) from where he retired in 1967. He was first recalled to head a national task-force on rice breeding, then to set up a rice research institute in Raipur and then finally he was contacted by the Prime Minister's office to prepare a plan for improving rice yields.

In the rice-plan prepared by Dr. Richharia first he identifies the factors which have retarded the increase in rice productivity despite so much increase in investments in the form of fertilisers, pesticides, irrigation, research, extension etc. Then he presents his plan. Dr. Richharia's plan has four basic components -

1. rice development to be based on the rich diversity of indigenous rice varieties which should be saved on farmers' fields and a lot of priority and attention should be given to this aspect;
2. a highly decentralised extension approach;
3. large-scale adoption of clonal propagation technique to spread improved indigenous varieties and
4. very high levels of involvement of rice farmers with special emphasis on encouraging those farmers who have special skills and interest in protection and promotion of diverse indigenous varieties.

According to Dr. Richharia (all quotes from the plan) "The main constraint has been the hurried introduction of the undesirable new rice material, the HYVs (dwarfs) on which we based our strategy, forgetting at the same time unexpected drought situations, under which the HYVs lowered the yields. In addition, under heavy fertilization and irrigation the HYVs proved to be susceptible to diseases and pest which cannot be controlled easily thus again pointing towards reduction of yield. Further, unlike wheat and sugarcane, the concept of 'wider adaptability' in rice has a limited scope for application (not exceeding 10 per cent of the rice area). This has naturally led to local preferences of different types of rices and socio-economic adjustments, developed in course of time." So, Dr. Richharia concludes, when the base is itself weak (meaning the new rice material) a mansion, built on it must collapse.

At another place in the plan he writes "The most immediate and major cause can be attributed to frequent replacements of the adapted rice varieties in a locality, partly or fully. This is because the agro-ecological balance has been disturbed in the environment in respect of the existing germplasm which had been built up in course of time for centuries by the natural process of empirical breeding and selection establishing ecological balance in different environments, what in modern times can be interpreted as 'ecological breeding'."

Fortunately, indigenous high-yielding varieties adapted to local environment are available in the country. In a survey carried out in

Madhya Pradesh between 1971-74, 8 per cent of the indigenous rice types were observed to fall under the category of high yielding types, fixing the minimum limit of 3705 kg/Ha.

In view of this there is a need to redefine 'HYVs' which hitherto have been officially identified only with the exotic dwarf fertiliser-responsive varieties.

At a national symposium on increasing rice yields in Kharif (Monsoon season) held at the CRRI, Cuttack on Feb. 8-11, 78, the rice workers agreed that "the time is now ripe to redefine the term High Yielding Variety (HYV) as a high yielding variety for a particular environment possessing suitable plant-type characters for that condition which may not be suitable for other environments. "A (rice) variety irrespective of its plant and/stature giving significantly higher yield over the local or regional average yield under farmer's condition may be defined as a high yielding variety (HYV)."

To emphasise the point further, the Directorate of Rice Development, Govt. of India, had issued a paper entitled 'Need for a National Policy on Rice' (1972) and concluded, "The new varieties of rice should be as good as the (current varieties) older ones in local adaptability and some characteristics but not inferior in any character. It is our experience that when we try to recommend a variety which is a compromise between a high yield and some other character in which the local (older) varieties are superior that we run into trouble. We should not over-emphasise yield but should insist upon a minimum aroma and cooking quality as rice is the only cereal



***It will also be demonstrated that the healthy seeds, obtained by clonal propagation for a full crop of rice to follow, give nearly 20% higher production for any rice variety.***

which is directly consumed without much change in the form of its grain."

Dr. Richharia recommends strongly, "It is high time that the country's 1964-65 breeding programme which nearly stands suspended to exploit the rice indigenous rice germplasm, is also resumed in the light of the observations, recorded above, when about 445 improved varieties, bred for specific stress situations, showing environmental resistance to diseases and pests were available, and would be still available, in the country. It is not too late and the strategy formulated in this programme, mainly based on our rice genetic resources may be accepted which also contemplates that the indigenous germplasm in its hybridized form (hybrid rice) has also bright future to enhance rice productivity."

Selection work (genetic upgrading) with indigenous rice types was resumed by Dr. Richharia in 1968 after leaving Cuttack "About 1500 improved types (improved versions) and eleven composites were developed and made available by 1978 selected from about 7800 principal indigenous rice cultivars. As approach was to release this hidden production force which remains unnoticed, unrecognised and confined to certain localities with individual growers."

"For high yield potential ge-

netic upgrading of their adapted rice varieties (indigenous rice germplasm), with certain manipulation, such as the evolution of new hybrids and exploiting hybrid vigorous utilizing pure material of local types, is the only course left for speedy recovery of loss, to stabilise rice production at a higher level, instead of waiting to replace our rice by other rice material of doubtful nature which may or may not get adapted to stabilise yields in the environments under which rice grows in variable situations in India."

In the area of research as well as extension, Dr. Richharia recommends a highly decentralised approach. This, he emphasises, is inherent in the nature of the rice plant. To quote, "If we were to think of a single characteristic feature of the rice plant which yields food for millions, it cannot be anything else but its variability in the form of thousands of its cultivars, spread in India and in other rice growing belts of the world. This is because of the rice plants flexible genetic make-up and mutational power of adaptation." So he recommends the establishment of a wide network of "adaptive rice centres" in all rice growing areas.

"The adaptive rice centres will be the custodian of all local rice cultivars in respective localities, assembled immediately, supplement-

ed if necessary, by the already available materials of the locality at different research centres. They will be maintained under their natural habitat to safeguard the future. They will be known as local treasuries of rice germplasm, (a term suggested by Dr. Frankel of Australia)."

The function of the centres will be : -

- a. To maintain the evolved rice genetic material for future studies and use as it is practically impossible to retain it in its original form at a central place in India or abroad. It can only be maintained in its original condition at its natural habitat only seeking help of the rice growers themselves.
- b. To educate the young farmers to appreciate the value and importance of their own material adding new ones as their hobby.

On the basis of his wide experience Dr. Richharia says "Invariably I found in rice areas several rice growers taking keen interest in their local rice varieties as they are very much absorbed in them and they have all praise for them, so much so that they trace back the history of individual rice varieties to their ancestry with their utility and such selected and devoted rice farmers will be put in charge of the centres. I also observed that some of them identify their rice varieties in their own way (not in terms of the modern knowledge of Botany) which amount to thousands. This inherent and intuitional facility of selection and maintenance of thousand of rice cultivars gradually being accumulated and descended upon for unknown centuries, ever since the rice first originated must be preserved and exploited for the advantage of the



present generation and to ensure the safety of those still unborn.”

“On the practical side a beginning may be made in M.P. where upgrade material already exists in the form of about 1500 improved types made from growers’ own rice cultivars which can be distributed in different centres for work to be started immediately, to obtain advantage as early as possible and to prepare the hybrid material for the next season.” On the basis of his experience in Madhya Pradesh, Dr. Richaria stresses that women will prove to be the most important link in introducing this technology. At Adaptive Rice Research Centre in Baronda, Dr. Richaria noticed that women workers absorb new methods and ideas very quickly. Here he had specially promoted some women workers as supervisors for managing the germplasm of over 17000 rice cultivars in the field and the practice of clonal propagation.

For rapidly spreading improved upgraded varieties and for exploiting their hybrid vigour the clonal propagation technique can give very good results.

“It will also be demonstrated that the healthy seeds, obtained by clonal propagation for a full crop of rice to follow, give nearly 20% higher production for any rice variety.” Further hybrid clones for exploiting hybrid vigour can be obtained. Hybridization work will be carried out by the trained field workers of the adaptive centres.

“Whereas clonal propagation in rice as a mean of raising pure seeds to offer 20 per cent higher production and the extension of this technology to exploit hybrid vigour to obtain 50 per cent in-

creased yields, remain unexploited, a great discovery of immense value is left unheeded, in the form of 19 thousand rice cultivars coupled with their 1500 improved versions representing intense variability, assembled from the least understood rice areas of M.P. (Chattisgarh, Bastar, Abhujmal tracts etc. inhabited mostly by tribals.”

In a big part of the country the rice crop is ruined by drought conditions and in another significant part by flood conditions. In this context Dr. Richaria’s plan is all the more invaluable as it incorporates resistance to floods as well as drought conditions, not to mention disease and pest invasions.

Dr. Richaria’s documents of the days of his work at Raipur mention the several drought - resistant indigenous varieties discovered in the course of field - work in Chattisgarh region, and above all the immense diversity of the rice varieties grown. A special advantage of this in distress situations such as drought is that while some varieties suffer, some survive and so yield doesn’t go below a certain level. Regarding flood situation the clonal propagation method offers special advantages. It has been demonstrated that rice clones show resistance to submergence.

Dr. Richaria further expressed his support for organic farming and several local practices of farmers. He wrote that under this plan “the agronomic practices such as biasi, rotation of crops, mixed cropping will remain common and will not be disturbed, emphasis being on the use of organic manures, such as compost, green manure, neem cakes and oil cakes etc.”

Dr. Richaria attached 17 documents based on his earlier research

to support his plan while submitting it to the then Prime Minister. In addition he mentioned his Encyclopedia of Rice Cultivars on which he was still working. He also offered his services on an honorary basis for implementing this plan.

However the collections of improved rice varieties he mentioned (mostly arising from his own work and the work of his colleagues) may not be available to the same extent today compared to the time when this plan was prepared. Similarly the knowledge of indigenous varieties in villages may be comparatively less now. However this is all the more reason why the implementation of this plan should not be delayed any further as with the passage of time the neglect and loss of indigenous varieties may make such tasks and initiatives even more difficult.

In fact more delay there is implementing such programs the more difficult it will be to implement these programs as the most important base for such programs in the form of highly diverse indigenous varieties is being eroded all the time, or else being stolen in the garb of international cooperation programs, which often take the form of robbery in the name of aid and development. Therefore difficulties which have appeared now in the form of loss of indigenous farm varieties as well as reduction in traditional wisdom relating to them should not stand in the way of implementation of such programs or their basic approach. Rather this should impart a sense of urgency to the very important task of protecting and saving the diversity of indigenous varieties in field conditions.

The writer is a journalist and author. His latest books include Man over Machine and Protecting Earth For Children.

# Indian ‘atmanirbharta’ in space and pharmaceuticals is an exception. It must be the norm

The launch of Brazil’s Amazonia-1 satellite by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) comes weeks after India allowed the export of COVID-19 vaccine to Brazil, as part of its “vaccine maitri” diplomacy. Taken together, these two examples of technological and scientific cooperation draw attention to the diplomatic potential of India’s knowledge economy. India’s current global diplomacy in the fields of space and pharmaceuticals, engaging several countries around the world, is the fruit of 50 years of sustained state support for “atmanirbharta” in both fields.

Even though one of the satellites put into space was embossed with the name of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the credit for India’s space programme should in fact go to Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. It was Prime Minister Gandhi who authorised the creation of ISRO in 1972 and it was again her decision to enact the Indian Patents Act, 1970, that triggered the growth of the domestic pharmaceuticals sector. Subsequent governments have all contributed to the development of both industries. Thanks to these initiatives India is today able to place satellites of several countries into space at globally competitive rates and is able to supply drugs and vaccines at affordable prices to developing countries.

The credit for India’s competitive pricing of satellite launches and pharmaceuticals exports goes entirely to Indian engineering, scientific and technological talent that has pursued world-class standards at a fraction of the cost incurred in developed economies. The willingness of high-quality Indian scientists, engineers, biotechnologists, pharmacologists and such like to work in India at Indian rates of compensation, not tempted by better paying jobs abroad, has allowed organisations like ISRO and Serum Institute of India to do the work they now do.

India’s demonstrated potential to be a low-cost global provider of knowl-



*Once a knowledge economy role model for other developing nations, India lost its leading position due to flight of homegrown talent and stiff competition from China.*

**Sanjaya Baru**



edge-based products had prompted the developed West, especially the US, to deploy policies aimed at curbing the development of Indian capabilities. Unilateral sanctions were imposed to deny Indian industry access to technology and markets and a multilateral regime for intellectual property rights (IPRs) protection was created, under the auspices of the World Trade Organisation to thwart indigenous technology development. Indian capabilities in space and pharma grew in the face of such constraints.

India's more broad-based capability for knowledge-based diplomacy has, however, significantly decreased over the past quarter century rather than increased. Consider the fact that as early as in the 1950s, many developing countries looked to India to access development-oriented knowledge. Students from across Asia and Africa sought admission to Indian universities for post-graduate courses. Indian expertise was sought by global organisations such as the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) and International Rice Research Institute (IRRI). The government of South Korea even sent its economists to the Indian Planning Commission till the early 1960s to be trained in long-term planning. By the 1970s, Korea was beginning to overtake India as a modern industrial economy.

There were many other fields in which Indian expertise was sought in the past and where India lags behind today. Railways is one. Rail India Technical and Economic Services (RITES), which incidentally was also established by Indira

Gandhi in 1974, had acquired a global profile with business in Africa and Asia. The development of India's dairy and livestock economy also attracted global interest. Indian science and technology had something to offer the developing world that the developed economies of the West were either unwilling to provide or did so at much higher cost.

India lost this leadership in the knowledge economy, barring sectors like space, pharma and information-technology, for two reasons. First, a flight of Indian talent that began in the 1970s and has since accelerated. This has sharply increased in recent years. I have written about this before in these columns ('Secession of the Successful', IE, December 30, 2020). Second, China has emerged as a major competitor offering equally good, if not better quality, S&T products and services at lower cost. While India has maintained its lead in IT software, China has developed competitive capabilities in space, pharma, railways and several other knowledge-based industries.

Indeed, given the competition from China, the ability of Indian space and pharma to offer much-needed products to other developing countries goes to the credit of the people who serve in these industries. The Indian familiarity with the English language and the still good quality of teaching in mathematics and statistics has enabled Indian firms to remain competitive in data processing, business process outsourcing and software services. Here too, the competitive edge is beginning to blunt.

The biggest setback in the global appeal of India's knowledge

economy has been in higher education. Overseas students were drawn to Indian universities and institutions because they offered good quality education at a fraction of the cost of developed country institutions. The appeal of education in India for overseas students has waned. Even South Asian students, from countries like Nepal, Bhutan and Sri Lanka, who preferred to come to India in the 1960s and 1970s no longer do so. Indian institutions attract fewer foreign students not just because the quality of education offered in most institutions is below par, but that the creature comforts provided and the social environment offered here is no longer as cosmopolitan as it used to be. The growing assertion of narrow-minded ideologies only makes Indian campuses even less attractive to overseas students and scholars.

Space and pharma are at the apex of a narrow pyramid of the knowledge economy. If ISRO's global competitiveness is a tribute to public policy and government support, the global success of the pharma sector is a tribute to private enterprise and middle-class talent in pharmacology and biotechnology. Their global success points to the diplomatic potential of the knowledge industry and to India's "soft power". However, the fact that they are the exception rather than the rule points to the lack of political and intellectual support to the development of India's knowledge base and an inadequate commitment to excellence. □□

*This article first appeared in the print edition on March 3, 2021 under the title 'Knowledge and diplomacy'. The writer is Distinguished Fellow, Manohar Parikar Institute of Defence Studies & Analysis, United Services Institution of India.*

<https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/india-atmanirbharta-space-pharmaceuticals-isro-brazil-satellite-launch-covid-vaccine-export-211595/>



# Self-Reliance in Defence Products

The invincible capability is the root of sustainability. The foundations of welfare for all are based on strong military capability. Only 'Power' can defend the truth. We are powerful enough to preserve ourselves despite repeated attacks by aggressors. Otherwise, weak leads the path to narrative building and such narratives are against the interest of the weak party. History is full of examples that whenever non-violence has been prioritising with respect to defending the truth, the empires has fallen. The fall of Nalanda University is the illustration that prioritising something else (for example Knowledge versus strength) over the defence capability provides an opportunity to the opponents to attack, destroy and push back the whole civilization.

A weak nation has never been or will ever be able to secure a fair share in the universal game of politics. The ultimate objective of a peaceful civilization is many years far away. It's simply not possible without having access and capability to the best defence products and continuous up-gradation every moment. The technology is making the defence products outdated same way and at least at the same speed as it is making outdated other products like mobile phones. The role of artificial intelligence, the internet of things, semiconductor chips, and other newer materials are increasing day by day in consumer appliances and the same is true for defence products. The defence products include socks for the soldiers to submarines for nuclear weapons. We never know how early even nuclear weapons might become outdated.

The same is true for an individual. Swami Vivekananda advocated the physical strength of an individual above knowledge acquisition by an individual. Earlier the Doklam valley operations raised the credibility of dependence on non-



*The self-reliance in defence products is opening business opportunities for small, medium as well as large scale enterprises. The indigenisation of defence products is an opportunity for start-ups to explore newer sectors.*

**Alok Singh**



indigenous communication system devices. The Galwan Valley clash with the Chinese troops is the latest provoking event for marching fast towards the goal of self-reliance in defence manufacturing.

The most important and permanently important factors for defending the nation are its people. The people need to be alert all the time to defend the motherland. They need to defend it in psychological warfare, educational warfare, civilization warfare, trade warfare and the newer avatars of all those warfare that emerge on a frequent basis.

The modern war is not about a battlefield having men, tanks and fire. It's more about electronics uses than mechanical uses in the war machines. It's more about precision than strength. Whichever machine has engaged electronics more in their functioning is getting outdated at a very fast speed. When the machines were more operating on the principles of mechanics the shelf life was relatively higher. The mechanic's changes are relatively time taking to implement in comparison to electronics changes. Making changes in software is even lesser time taking.

The self-reliance in defence products is opening business opportunities for small, medium as well as large scale enterprises. The indigenisation of defence products is an opportunity for start-ups to explore newer sectors.

During the real-life constraint situation, the suppliers of defence products become unworthy of trust. Particularly, the defence products are such that it forces the buyer to acquire them from anywhere in the world at any price. The Kargil war of 1999 created such a

***We even can't rely  
on philosophies  
of boycott and  
say that we won't  
use foreign  
defence products.***

situation for the government of India when they paid heavily to procure coffins from the international market. The intent was to get the defence product from anywhere in the world at any price but the perception of corruption in the procurement of coffins was an easy tool of politics within and outside the country. The then prime minister had to explain that during situations of emergency the price is not considered rather the product is considered. Coffins are not an assault rifle or not such a high-end product or spare parts but the country had to bear the cost. The logistics and lead time along with the necessity of the product forced the government to do such purchases. So, coffins are also a defence product. The list of defence product can be so lengthy that we have to figure out even the smallest and most simple products and be self-reliant in terms of manufacturing, continuous improvement as well as logistics and supply chain-related factors.

When everything fails the traditional way is the best. We have seen during the initial phase lockdown of covid-19 that when e-commerce companies couldn't maintain their supply chain for essentials like vegetables, the people in big cities had to rely on the local

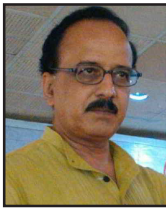
vegetable vendors and many more such events happened. The technology-based system failed but the traditional system survived. Self-reliance in the defence system should start from childhood. Everyone should be capable of defending themselves. An individual needs to own physical strength to defend them. The self-defence training based on games like Taekwondo and Karat are ages old and are taught by various agencies everywhere, whether it be school or police forces. Right from the defence of an individual to the defence of the nation the preparations had to be such that it matches the latest threat and work in progress has to be in continuous monitoring with an objective to match the future threat.

There are nations whose economy thrives by selling defence products. The race of producing better and better defence products is the food for the survival of such economies. India needs to participate in this race. We have to engage our population and resources to make an individual capable to defend themselves and the nation capable to defend the world. Our philosophy is that the world is a family and we can't disown the responsibility.

Everything can wait but not the defence capability. We even can't rely on philosophies of boycott and say that we won't use foreign defence products. The non first use treatise is itself questionable. The only alternative we have is to be self-reliant in defence systems, whether it is mind, machine or body. □□

(Alok Singh is fellow of Indian Institute of Management Indore and currently is faculty of general management at NICMAR, Delhi-NCR Campus.)

# Markets have failed to prop up farm incomes



*The economic argument in support of market reforms, claiming that farm incomes go up when the number of farmers recedes, has turned out to be untrue. America has lost more than 5 million farms in less than 100 years, and Australia 25 per cent of its farms between 1980 and 2002. The speed at which farmers across the globe have got out of agriculture hasn't increased farm incomes, but has only worsened the agrarian crisis.*  
**Devinder Sharma**

It's difficult to imagine. At a time when free markets are generally believed to provide farmers with a higher price, thereby enhancing farm incomes, the farm gate price for wheat in Canada happens to be much lower in 2017 than what it was 150 years back in 1867. This is not only true for Canada. Even in the US, as per media reports, farmers say the price they receive for wheat is much lower than what was prevalent at the time the four-year American Civil War ended in 1865.

So what happened to markets? After all, wheat is a staple food and its demand, considering the population boom the world has witnessed in the past 150 years, has grown exponentially over the centuries. According to the UN Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), wheat production forecast is pegged at 780 million tonnes in 2020-21, an increase of 7.5 million tonnes this year. Given the food insecurity the world is faced with, FAO considers the cereal production estimates (including that for wheat) to be positive.

Now, before you wonder how this could be possible, given the fact that economic curriculum in colleges and universities teaches us that markets provide the rightful price, take a look at an analysis by the US National Farmer Unions (NFU) which explains how the continuously declining peanut prices since 1965 had pushed three out of four peanut farmers out of business in America, and that too, at a time when peanut consumption was on the rise. Defying the supply demand logic, the peanut prices slumped from \$1 per pound in 1965 to less than \$0.25 per pound in 2020, a drop of more than 75 per cent. And if you are still thinking it probably happened because of surplus production, a Washington Post report tells us how just three companies, controlling the entire peanut market, had actually fixed the purchase price. After a lawsuit filed by



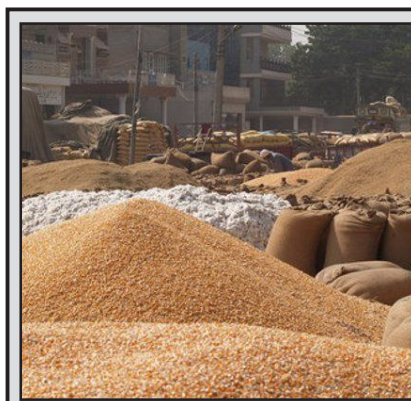


12,000 peanut growers, these companies finally agreed to pay \$103 million in compensation for deliberately keeping the prices low.

Peanut is no exception. This kind of match-fixing has been going on for decades. Whether in America, Europe or India, what the farmers need to understand is that the match is already fixed. It is not without any reason that market prices, when adjusted for inflation, have remained frozen or have been on a decline over the years.

Coming back to the issue of wheat prices, a Canadian author and critic, Darrin Qualman, has in an insightful series of blog posts, explained how the prices have been on a steep decline since 1867. Adjusted for inflation, the price of wheat per bushel (27 kg) was close to \$30 in 1867. Like on a ski slope, the average price had continuously been on the downward slide ever since. With global emphasis shifting to agricultural exports in the mid-1980s, the prices began to slump further. In 2017, the wheat price collapsed to a little over \$5 per bushel. The price a Canadian wheat farmer sold his wheat for in 2017 was less by \$25 per bushel than what his great-grandfather sold it for 150 years back.

No wonder, while small farmers abandoned agriculture in large numbers, the average size of a Canadian farm has grown to 3,000 acres with the big farms several times larger. While the number of farmers declined drastically, the economic argument in support of market reforms claiming that farm incomes go up when the number of farmers recedes too has turned out to be untrue. America has lost more than 5 million farms in less than 100 years, and



***Demanding no trading to be allowed below the MSP, protesting farmers are actually seeking a historic correction in economic policy and thinking.***

Australia has lost 25 per cent of its farms between 1980 and 2002. Economists will say this is a healthy development, and will make farming profitable. But surprisingly, the speed at which farmers across the globe have got out of agriculture hasn't increased farm incomes, but on the contrary, it has only worsened the agrarian crisis.

This is the same flawed argument that Niti Aayog too is promoting, saying that farm incomes will double when the number of people on the farm comes down. If this be true, I don't understand why in Canada, for instance, the farm debt should be exceeding \$102 billion, more than double than what it was in 2000. In the US, where hardly 1.5 per cent of the population remains in agriculture, farm debt has multiplied to a staggering \$425 billion in 2020. In France, with only 7 per cent workforce employed in agriculture, more than 44 per cent farmers carry a debt burden of 400,000 euros and 25 per cent farmers earn less than 350 euros per month, below the poverty line.

While farmers have been denied the rightful price, the consumer prices have been on the rise. In another blog post, Qualman explains that while the price of a bushel of wheat in Canada and US

has remained static since 1975, the retail price of 60 loaves of bread produced from each bushel in the US had increased by \$50 on an average, from \$25 in 1975 to a little over \$75 in 2015. The same holds true for other food products as well. How can efficiency be only measured in terms of reducing farm gate prices whereas the food processing and retail giants continue to increase prices, walking away with a larger share of the end consumer price? If the markets were efficient, why the food processing and retail giants continue to thrive in inefficiency?

There is nothing sacrosanct about markets. To believe that markets provide farmers with a higher price is an outdated economic thinking (and education). Markets have historically failed to prop up farm incomes anywhere in the world, a fact that economists failed to acknowledge. Demanding no trading to be allowed below the MSP, protesting farmers are actually seeking a historic correction in economic policy and thinking. This holds the future for a reverberating agriculture, and a new economic design that provides for Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas. □□

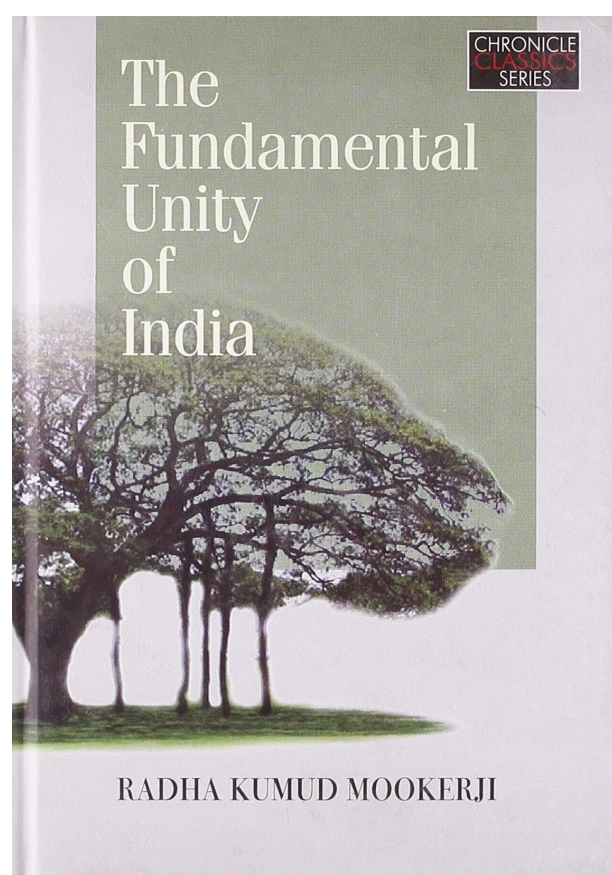
Food & Agriculture Specialist  
<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/comment/markets-have-failed-to-prop-up-farm-incomes-227289>

# Fundamental Unity of India

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*Dr. Radhakumud Mookerji wrote The Fundamental unity of India in 1914 and its introduction was written by Ramsay Macdonald who was MP and later on became Prime Minister of UK. Ramsay Macdonald's observations are reproduced here. – Saroj Mitra*

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Mr. Radhakumud Mookerji has honoured me by asking me to write an introduction to his interesting book. To those who follow the work of the band of Indian historical students who are struggling, with no great measure of encouragement, to found a school native to the soil and inspired by Indian tradition, Mr. Mookerji's books need no introduction, especially since he published his History of Indian Shipping. In this little book he attempts to lay the only foundation upon which an Indian Historical School can rest. If India is a mere geographical expression, a

mere collection of separate peoples, traditions, and tongues existing side by side but with no sense of nationhood in common, Indian history cannot be the record of an evolution of a civilization – it can be nothing more than an account of raids, conflicts, relations of conquerors and conquered. That this is the common view is only too true; that a superficial view of India lends all its weight to that view is only too apparent; that it is the view of many of the present governors is proclaimed without secrecy from Ceylon to Afghanistan.

Those who read this book will find that there is another view, and that the Hindu, at any rate, from his traditions and his religion, regards India not only as a political unit naturally the subject of one sovereignty—whoever holds that sovereignty, whether British, Mohammedan, or Hindu—but as the outward embodiment, as the temple—nay, even as the goddess mother—of his spiritual culture. India and Hinduism are organically related as body and soul. Nationality is at best a difficult thing to define, to test and establish. The barren controversies on the subject to which the demands of Ireland for Home Rule have led, prove that. But the Aryan settled it decisively so far as India and himself are concerned. He made India the symbol of his culture; he filled it with his soul. In his consciousness it was his greater self. How he did it Mr. Mookerji shows in his interesting chapters.

Mr. Mookerji writes only of history, but it is a history which we read with political thoughts in our mind. It is this history quickened into life which is giving us our Indian political problems. What share has the Mohammedan in it? Perhaps much greater than we think. The Pax Britannica does not merely shelter weak men; it is also a shade under which lib-

## About Book

eral political ideas take root and flourish. And nationalism cannot be dissociated from liberal political ideas. To amplify and discuss this would be out of place here, and Mr. Mookerji would not wish me to use the privileges of an introduction to widen until it passes into current political controversy the historical field of his study. But these thoughts have been in my mind as they will no doubt be in that of everyone who reads this book, and I have been anxious to indicate that in my opinion, at any rate, the unity of India will not remain exclusively a Hindu conception, although its origin may be in Hindu culture.

Many people imagine that this Indian nationhood is only a disturbing element in politics. But that is a mistake. It is a reviving influence on culture. Indeed, in some respects, its political expressions are its crudest and most ill-formed embodiments. We have it best—if, as yet, in no very great volume—in art and literature. In art, as in education, we have been proclaiming, in out vanity, that India had to learn the western tone and touch, with the result that Indian art has been debased and every spontaneous thought crushed out of it. But life returned through

the nationalist revival. Nothing has ever struck me with more force than the contrast between the ugly daubs which compose an art exhibition in India held under Western auspices and the product of Western “inspiration” on the one hand, and the beautiful harmonies of form and colour which the Indian Art Society brings together on the other. And it is interesting to note how in this art the spirit of India is not merely Hindu. Mr. Tagore’s great painting “The Death of Shah Jehan,” is as essentially Persian as his “Spirit of India” is Hindu. Moreover, in literature, are we not at present in the midst of a “Gitanjali” puja—all unconscious that it is the refined expression of Indian nationalism? Finally, there are the students of intellectual culture with whom Mr. Mookerji himself co-operates, gathering together the scattered records of Indian achievement so that they may be known and due homage paid to the people who accomplished them. Thus India awakes anew to a sense of independence and self-respect, and only by such an awakening can she contribute her share to the culture of the world.

— J. Ramsay Macdonald.

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## Ending Macaulayism and Regaining Ancient Glory with New Education Policy-2020 (Part-3)



*The National Education Policy emphasizes on interdisciplinary studies and integrated curriculum in higher education for learning opportunities, aimed at providing value based holistic education, if we want our future generation to see a better planet and survive longer.*

**Dr. Rekha Bhatt**

With the National education policy-2020, India moves towards utilizing its vast human resources as a demographic dividend to become self-sufficient. Today India is the fastest growing economy in pace with the global development, with the vision of the new education policy, to establish new dimensions for the world. Giving wider linguistic choices, the new education policy paves the way for people of all regions, to interact and communicate with togetherness, creating more job opportunities. The path of self-sufficiency in all sectors incorporates the essential elements – Indian, International, Impactful, Interactive and inclusive economy. India is moving faster in pace with global development, to attain self-sustained economy through development of villages. The education system supported with native language is an important step for large rural masses of India to move ahead along with Programs like Stand-up India and Skill India. In this era of Artificial Intelligence and Quantum-Computing, our education policy is taking all aspects of modernity along with multidisciplinary and multilingual aspects.

The National Education Policy emphasizes on interdisciplinary studies and integrated curriculum in higher education for learning opportunities, aimed at providing value based holistic education, if we want our future generation to see a better planet and survive longer. For Sustainable Development, there is an urgent need to change our behavior towards our mother nature. Therefore, planting more trees and nurturing them regularly, using public transport, reducing the unnecessary usage of electricity, water and plastic would be a contribution towards a better future. This can be achieved by fostering collaboration between educational institutions and public and private industry as well as by designing innovative projects and pursuing the idea of reuse, reduce and recycle.



***The new National Education Policy lays substantial emphasis on holistic and multi-disciplinary education as well as additional educational activities such as sports and humanities Integrating with knowledge science research technology and innovation with human values.***

Developing scientific temperament needs critical thinking in mother tongue, effective not only with increase in social media posts but with practice to understand by evaluating and questioning the thought process for better decision making, concerning personal and professional life. Skill training to the youth of India will respond to the myriad challenges of the future. Basic skill training lessons can be part of any curriculum to teach survival techniques for day to day life and supportive skills such as repairing small appliances related to mechanical, electrical works, and electronic devices and gadgets for urgent needs. These skills will make the younger generation self-reliant and earn their livelihood while helping and supporting the senior citizens in doing their basic tasks. Research and investigations would be another necessary skill which would be relevant and much needed in professional life.

The main objective of this policy is to include technical education - from school education to higher education, concerning modern made by India technology. Machines are going to be more powerful source of communication being more advanced, to overcome human communication barriers, Amazon's Alexa is ready to communicate with human Lan-

guage, for the future generation who will be expert in using their fingers to type messages, but, would be unable to frame sentences to speak to their family and friends, in person, Communication tasks must be created, where students can communicate with each other in mother tongue to improve their communication skills through conducting interviews, focus group discussions and challenge-based team activities which will lead the students to communicate with each other with a healthy mindset.

The new National Education Policy lays substantial emphasis on holistic and multi-disciplinary education as well as additional educational activities such as sports and humanities Integrating with knowledge science research technology and innovation with human values. Moving towards high economic growth with increasing need of globalization caused a powerful impact over linguistic diversity of India. Many regional languages of India face a serious risk of extinction, the most vulnerable are languages spoken by small communities in distant areas. The legacy of linguistic imperialism meant the imagining of the elites, inextricably linked to the imperialist language, their faith that 'English fits on all counts' seems to reflect a belief that -English has served as

the dominant language in certain parts of globe, it merits global marketing, despite all the evidence globally that linguistic and cultural diversity is a source of richness and distinctiveness. The long term effects of colonization and assimilation, have ridden of their native tongues and, socio-economic circumstances today, have not made the task of resurrecting such languages any easier language.

In the world of globalization, small indigenous languages will die, wherever English appears in a foreign territory. The political independence of third world countries did not led to their linguistic liberation, with the view that former colonial languages like Hindi and Sanskrit are no more useful to bond up with international community but are simply a bridgehead to western interests, permitting contribution to global system of economic exploitation for the export of raw materials of colonial countries and import of technology techniques through linguistic dependence, they continued the use of languages of colonial countries. Such Linguistic imperialism took place where language interlocked with other dimensions like economic, political and cultural particularly in education, science and media. The imperialist rejected the linguistic legitimacy of a language used by their colonial countries, and this made us poorer by an unnecessary narrowing of our cultural and linguistic horizons.

Education is a vital site for linguistic reproduction, the inculcation of relevant knowledge, skills and attitudes. In India, the linguistic imperialism was operated as two languages-sanskrit and arabic were central to linguistic ecology

of our country, and the colonial language English was being used as a medium of education and interests of linguistic hierarchies were promoted by the specific language policy, linguisticism existed between speakers of a language Hindi, in process of resource allocation when one dialect was privileged as a standard and was preferred as the language of modernity and progress.

This sort of professional competence goes in foreign language education throughout the western world but is still regarded as superfluous due to imperial powers belief that their culture and language is universally relevant and the factor analyzed is that, the increased competence for English language is ethnocentricity of rulers. Teaching in English, as a foreign language continued, the colonial practices even in the post colonial world, while from 17th century onwards culminating in the 19th century, the medium of education was the dominant local language not only in primary but also in secondary education. There is a paradigm shift to radical rethinking for the language in education policies worldwide after analyzing the weaknesses of the past system and account for its failures.

Scholarly analyses of Education Policy-2020 is now formulating and articulating, multilingual strategies for education, communication and every sector of social life and more closely defining, that the real need for English is only in the specific contests. The importance of Hindi is increasing worldwide and fifty countries all over the world have included Hindi in their curriculum for the need to compete with the growing economy of India, even China came out

***The National Education policy-2020 will prove to be the path-maker in the determination to become India, the World leader in education.***

to the exposure of globalization where the only mandarin was used for learning, china has now adopted English and Hindi in their education system. Even developed countries England and America were mainly English speaking are now implementing trilingual education policy, with either Spanish, Hindi or Mandarin as second and third languages.

Making wider linguistic choices available, national education policy-2020 is able to retain the general concept that, English is not the only language for communication of knowledge, which has sources of science and literature and is not the only universally accepted language. Developing local languages for educational use are necessary and desirable societal goals for counteracting discriminatory practices in education, public services and media.

Process of learning in mother tongue may bring innovations according to the needs of our society, by our highly trained talented youth, instead of raising the economies of foreign countries. While only two percent of English educated youth working as highly paid workers on the highest posts of multinational compa-

nies, a common belief still perceives in our youth that English speaking Indians acquire international jobs while Chinese don't because Chinese lagged behind in English learning and are producing mono-linguistic mandarin speaking generations. China has made commendable efforts to induce academic rigor and quality to put its educational courses on a par with international standards. Over forty five of China's medical colleges are approved to impart medical education to foreign students. Countries like China and Germany are developing as their talents are contributing to become the fastest growing economies of the world.

The higher education sector in India remained inwardly oriented despite the fact that the country is home to the world's second place of preference in education. India can still capitalize in higher education and make India a global hub in education so that it can regain its ancient glory as the centre of knowledge, creation and dissemination. Especially as India moves towards utilizing its vast human resources as a demographic dividend, the vision of the new education policy will be to establish new dimensions and freedom to higher educational institutions and universities, to redefine their role towards creating a new India. With an end to linguistic imperialism of Macaulay's education system and uprising India with the development of youth led self-sustained economy and regaining the ancient glory of world leader India, the National Education policy-2020 will prove to be the path-maker in the determination to become India, the World leader in education. □□

The Author is Assoc. Prof. Chemistry, Govt. Meera Girls College, Udaipur



# Coastal Wealth

Swadeshi movement has largely shaped our economy towards making it self-reliant i.e. Atmanirbhar Bharat. For expanding horizon of swadeshi movement, I embarked upon idea of studying optimal utilization of coastal wealth. We genuinely need to know our oceans and coastal line for our economic growth. We have coastline of 7,516.6 km along mainland, Lakshadweep Islands and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

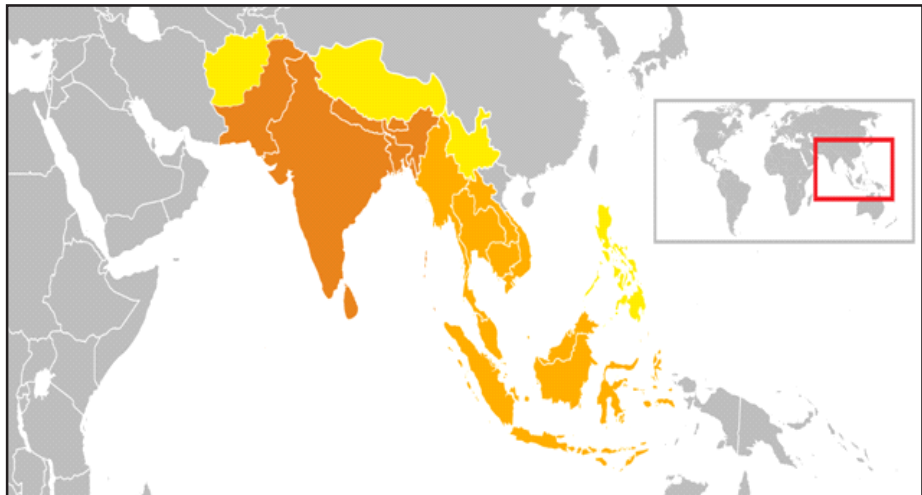
The sea-shore is the place where the land meets the sea. Coastal ecosystem includes estuaries and coastal waters and lands located at the lower end of drainage basins, where stream and river systems meet the sea and are mixed by tides. The coastal ecosystem includes saline, brackish (mixed saline and fresh) and fresh waters, as well as coastlines and the adjacent lands. It consists of rocky cliffs, sandy beaches or mudflats beside a river or estuary. The coastal domain occupies 18% of the surface of the globe and it supplies approximately 90% of world fish catch. We have variety of natural coastal ecosystems. The Western coastline has a wide continental shelf and is marked by backwaters and mud flats. The term “continental shelf” is part of the continental margin between the shoreline and the shelf break or, where there is no noticeable slope, between the shoreline and the point where the depth of the super accent water is approximately between 100 and 200 metres.

Oceans cover 70 percent of Earth’s surface, host a vast variety of geological processes responsible for the formation and concentration of mineral resources, and are the ultimate repository of many materials eroded or dissolved from the land surface. Ocean resources provide jobs, goods and services for billions of people around the world and have immense economic importance. The ocean is an important source for food, salt, fresh water, oil, tidal energy and minerals. Oil is the most valuable resource obtained from the ocean. The world’s oceans, with a total volume of more than 500 million cubic kilometers, hold more than 97 percent of all the water on Earth.



*Swadeshi movement has largely shaped our economy towards making it self-reliant i.e. Atmanirbhar Bharat. We genuinely need to know our oceans and coastal line for our economy growth.*

**Vinod Johri**



Bharat has 18<sup>th</sup> longest coastline. Therefore, we need to harness our oceans for minerals, energy, navigation, tourism and transportation for betterment of lives of 56 Crore people living in coastal regions.

We need to understand that a country can carry out commercial activities of extracting minerals, crude oil, fishing etc. within Exclusive economic zone (EEZ) which extends upto 200 Nautical miles (1 Nautical mile = 1.852 km). Bharat has the 18th-largest exclusive economic zone (EEZ) with a total size of 2,305,143 km<sup>2</sup>. It includes the Lakshadweep island group in the Laccadive Sea off the southwestern coast of India and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands at the Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea. India's EEZ is bordered to the west by Pakistan, to the south by the Maldives and Sri Lanka and to the east by Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia. Based on new scientific data, India has requested United Nations to extend its EEZ from 200 Nautical miles to 350 miles. Extension of EEZ from 200 to 350 nautical mile will almost double India's present EEZ.

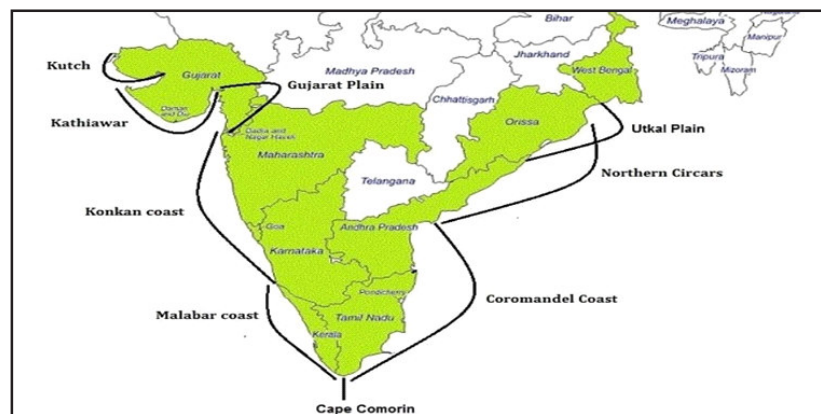
Nine states have coastal line and their economies are largely impacted by oceans along coastline.

### 1. Gujarat

Gujarat has the 1,600 km long longest coastline in India. This coastline is surrounded by the Arabian Sea and is dotted with 41 ports— 1 major, 11 intermediate and 29 minor. Some of the beaches of Gujarat are— Diu, Dwarka, Porbandar.

### 2. Andhra Pradesh

The state of Andhra Pradesh has the second-longest coastline in India and lies in the region of



Coastal Andhra. The coastline is 974 km long along with the Coromandel Coast between the Eastern Ghats and Bay of Bengal.

### 3. Tamil Nadu

The coastline in the state of Tamil Nadu is the third largest coastline in India and is known as coromandel coast. It is bounded by Utkal Plains in the north, Bay of Bengal in the east, Kaveri delta in the south and the Eastern Ghats in the West. It also has major seaports— Tuticorin and Chennai, fishing harbours, Marina Beach (largest natural urban beach in India) and Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park.

### 4. Maharashtra

The state of Maharashtra has a coastline of 720 km and is known as Konkan Coast. It is bounded by the mountain range of Western Ghats in the east, the Arabian Sea in the West, Daman Ganga River in the north and the Gangavalli River in the south. The Konkan coastline is dotted with many beaches and is an ideal getaway for the people of Pune and Mumbai.

### 5. Kerala

Kerala has the fifth largest coastline of 580 km in India and is called Malabar Coast. It starts from the south-western coast of

Maharashtra and along the coastal region of Goa, through the entire western coast of Karnataka and Kerala and reaches Kanyakumari. It has the Arabian Sea on the west and the Western Ghats on the east.

### 6. Odisha

The state of Odisha has a coastline of 485 km long called coastal Odisha or the Utkal Plains. The region is bounded by the Lower Ganges Plain in the north, the Bay of Bengal in the east, the Tamil Nadu Plains in the south, and the Eastern Ghats in the west. This region has Chilka lake (largest lake in the country), the ancient kingdom of Kalinga, beaches (Chandipur, Gopalpur, etc.) & Bhitarkanika (second largest mangrove ecosystem).

### 7. Karnataka

The coastal area of Karnataka is known as Kanara which is 320 km long. The region is bounded by Konkan in the north, the Western Ghats in the east, Kerala Plains in the South and the Arabian Sea in the west. It has several tourist destinations— Maravanthe, St. Mary's Island Beach, etc. It has three districts— Uttara Kannada, Udupi and Dakshina.

### 8. Goa

Goa is the smallest Indian state with a coastline of 160 km long. It

is home to many beautiful beaches in the world. It is surrounded by the Indian states of Maharashtra in the north and Karnataka in the east and south, with the Arabian Sea forming its western coast.

### 9. West Bengal

The coastal plain of West Bengal is located in Purba Medinipur and South 24 Parganas district and has a coastline of 157 km long. The Sundarbans delta of West Bengal is the largest mangrove forest in the world.

### Living on the coast

Living on the coast is highly attractive because of -

- scenic beauty
- moderate weather
- plentiful and cheap seafood
- innumerable opportunities for employment in the fishing, shipping and leisure activities
- entertainment by way of sea sports like swimming, surfing, boating, etc.
- The most fertile agricultural lands are found beside the coast.
- Industries prefer to be located close to the coast for easy discharge of their effluents.
- Thermal and nuclear power plants are also located on the coast for easy access to plentiful water for cooling.
- Ports and harbours on the coast are an important source of employment and overseas trade.
- Tourism flourishes on the coast owing to all the water related sports and activities.

### Water

The world's oceans, with a total volume of more than 500 million cubic kilometers, hold more than 97 percent of all the water on Earth. However, the 3.5-percent salt

content of this water makes it unusable for most human needs.

### Fishing industry

Fishing is an important livelihood of the people in India. Besides, seafood is a cheap and nutritional component of their diet. The total commercial marine catch for India has stabilized over the last ten years at between 1.4 and 1.6 million tonnes, with fish from the clupeoid group (e.g. sardines, Indian shad and whitebait) accounting for approximately 30% of all landings.

### Oil and gas industry

The natural gas industry in India began in the 1960s with the discovery of gas fields in Assam and Gujarat. As on 31 March 2018, India had estimated crude oil reserves of 594.49 million tonnes (MT) and natural gas reserves of 1339.57 billion cubic meters (BCM).

India imports 82% of its oil needs and aims to bring that down to 67% by 2022 by replacing it with local exploration, renewable energy and indigenous ethanol fuel. India was the second top net crude oil (including crude oil products) importer of 205.3 Mt in 2019.

As of 31 March 2019, India had estimated crude oil reserves of 618.95 million tonnes (MT), increasing by 4.1% from the previous year. The largest reserves are found in the Western Offshore (Mumbai High, Krishna-Godavari Basin) (40%), and Assam (27%). The estimated reserves of natural gas in India as of 31 March 2018 was 1,339.57 billion cubic meters (BCM), increasing by 3.87% from the previous year. The largest reserves of natural gas are located in the Eastern Offshore (38.13%) and the Western Offshore (23.33%).

### Mineral wealth

Small potato-like rounded accretions composed of minerals such as manganese, nickel, cobalt, copper and iron hydroxide are scattered on the our Ocean floor at depths of about 6,000 m. Mining of polymetallic nodules present in the seabed can help improve availability of nickel, copper, cobalt and manganese. Through an agreement with the International Seabed Authority, Bharat, being a member of ISA, has a right to explore and mine polymetallic nodules over 750,000 square km.

The estimated polymetallic nodule resource potential is 380 million tonnes, containing 4.7 million tonnes of nickel, 4.29 million tonnes of copper and 0.55 million tonnes of cobalt and 92.59 million tonnes of manganese. Bharat has large reserves of beach sand minerals, such as ilmenite, rutile, zircon, monazite, sillimanite and garnet. These deposits are mostly located in the coastal stretches of peninsular India. Ilmenite is the largest constituent of the Indian beach sand deposits, followed by sillimanite and garnet. India is one of the leading producers of garnet in the world.

### Conclusion

Our Government has been very sensitive in utilization of oceanic resources without intrusive technology for exploiting deep sea minerals risking oceanic ecosystems, environmental damage, fragile deep-sea habitats from harmful mining activities. We need to harness tidal energy, navigational opportunities, tourism, deep sea fishing, minerals, crude oil & natural gas for Atmanirbhar Bharat. □□

The author is retired as Additional Commissioner from Income Tax Department, Delhi.



## Situating Themselves in History and Reconstructing Identity

## A Preliminary Note on the Meenas of Jaipur-V



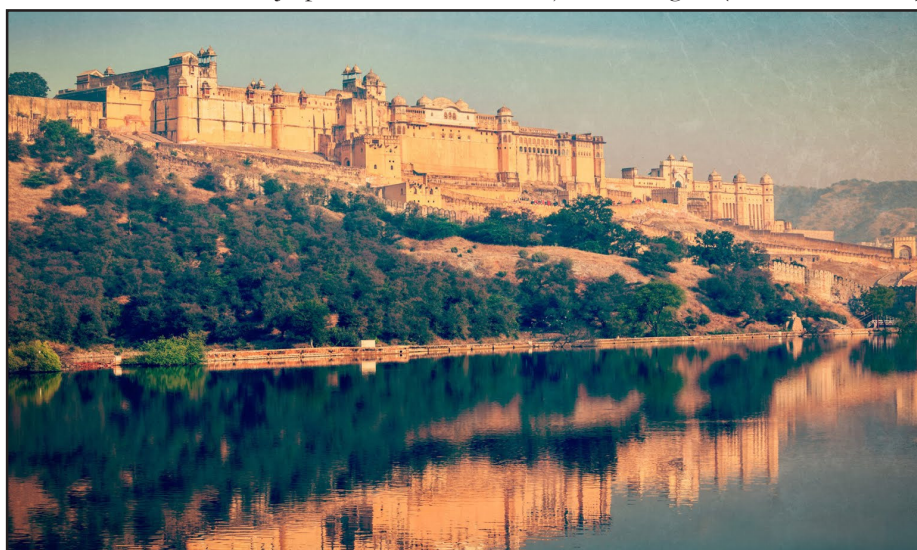
*Kachhwaha state took help of the Meenas in administrative and political functioning.*

*However, with the Rajput domination and subjugation, the Meenas did not get the social and political status in later period as the Kachhwaha state consolidated its power.*

**Prof. Nandini Sinha Kapur**

Kachwahas might have faced an initial difficulty in controlling the Jamua Ramgarh locality is apparent from the royal appropriation of the local cult of Jamua Mata as the presiding deity of the Kachwaha dynasty. It is significant to note from the royal records that the cult of Budwai Mata, which was linked to Meena rulers at Maunch was renamed Jamua Mata after the fall of the Meenas. An inscription, located at Jamua Ramgarh, dated to reign of Mughal Emperor Jahangir (AD 1634), records Kachwaha ruler, Raja Man Singh. The construction of a fort local importance—the Meena chief of Kalikoh had the right to put the tikapl sovereignty on Kachwaha rulers by drawing blood from his to similar rituals are known to have been performed by the Bhil chiefs at the coronation of the Guhila kings of the construction of a fort, well and garden at Ramgarh by, la early indicates royal attempts to control the Meenas at Jamua Ramgarh. The predominance of Meenas in the core area of Jaipur beyond state is also evident from the early acknowledgement of their local importance—the meena chief of kalikoh had the right to put the tika of sovereignty on kachwaha rulers by drawing blood from his toe. Similar rituals are known to have been performed by the Bhil chief at the coronation of the Guhila kings of mewar.

A long gap in the genealogical traditions of the Kachwaha dynasty between the early eleventh and the late fifteenth centuries and the fact that the early Kachwaha inscriptions (dated to the sixteenth century) begin the royal genealogy only with Raja Prithviraj, who succeeded to the throne of Amber in AD 1502,<sup>7</sup> attest to the initial difficulties posed by local Rajput chiefs, such as the Bargujars of Dausa (about 48 km east of Jaipur). The Kachwahas do not figure in the history of Dhundhar region before Mughal Emperor Akbar's reign. It is only the later traditions from the court of Jaipur, which refer to Raja Isha Singh's (ruler of Gwalior)



son Raja Durlabhraja, who conquered Dhundhar from the Meenas and established his kingdom there. Such later royal claims are not surprising in view of the long drawn negotiations and military engagements with the local Meenas. Besides the core area the Kachwaha state found it impossible to administer routes of communication and trade through the forests without cooperation from the Meenas.

Dynastic traditions record that Raja Dhola Rae (AD 1006-36) routed the Meenas completely and restored order and security as they were obstructing trade and disturbing peace in the region. It is claimed that the Jaipur state settled 12 Meena chiefs as zamindars by granting them plots of land and they in turn performed some duties for the Kachwaha state. The lawless elements from among Meenas were settled as chaukidars or watchmen in the villages. However, all the evidences discussed above do not necessarily suggest a peaceful settlement. On the contrary, it is the close kinsmen of the Kachwaha royal family who obtained bhom/bhum rights (allodial proprietorship) called watan-zamindari in the country of the Meenas for having subjugated the latter. Thus, the Kachwaha chiefs were settled in the villages of Meenas for the latter had to be controlled. The Rajput chiefs also found good cultivators in the Meenas and hence began the process of mobilization of resources from Meena settlements. This process culminated in actual incorporation of some of the Meena chiefs and headmen into state administration. From chaukidari of villages to guarding of the royal jewellery and the royal palace are known to have been performed

***Although casual reference to Meenas in the royal records would seem to give the impression that they were being ignored as they were socially despised, a comparison of the evidences of sixteenth century with that of the eighteenth century is likely to point out the actual historicity of the process Eighteenth-century Kachwaha records refer to Meena households very casually.***

by the local Meenas.”

However, what was not granted to the Meenas of Jaipur region was social status equivalent to their initial importance to the Kachwaha state in the medieval period. Nor inscriptional record of the Kachwaha dynasty refers to the Meena chiefs. A similar situation for the Bhils can be seen in medieval Mewar and Vagad where Bhil villages were merely termed as an ethnic entity and Bhil women derogatorily mentioned.

Secondly, the problem should also be viewed in the historical context of the Kachwaha state. The nature of evidence on the Meenas from the mid-sixteenth century onwards offers clue to the changing situation in the Meena-Kachwaha relationship. Hence, it becomes imperative to examine evidences from the eighteenth century, the period prior to claims by the Meenas of Jaipur to a ‘history’ of their own. Evidences, undoubtedly point towards a decline in the importance of the Meenas for the Kachwaha state. Although casual reference to Meenas in the royal records would seem to give the impression that they were being ignored as they were socially despised, a comparison of the evidences of sixteenth century with that of the eighteenth century is

likely to point out the actual historicity of the process. Eighteenth-century Kachwaha records refer to Meena households very casually. In a partly coloured paper drawing of the town of Baswa dated eighteenth century, unlike the step wells and gardens of the Rajputs, the location of Meena habitat finds only passing mention.” In the plan of the route of a canal from river Sarbhavati, the habitat of the Meenas is similarly mentioned.” In another plan of the route of this canal, Tadau Meenanka (Habitat of Meenas) is mentioned.” In coloured sketch of the area between Bhao Sagar and Jhotwara, the habitat of the Meenas is again casually mentioned. In the map of Nahari-ka-Naka the Meenas are referred to as an entirely separate social group, for the inscription mentions that the white rocks at this locality figure in the traditions of the Meenas, who claim that tigers came here to pay respect. Hence, what is clearly evident is that by the eighteenth century, the Meena localities in the core area of the state got incorporated into the growing towns and villages. Second, the right to anoint the Kachwaha princes at the coronation ceremony had already fallen into abeyance after the Mughals started anointing them with sandal wood paste. □□

## SJM's Swadeshi Mela in All Districts

As part of an effort to propagate Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ambitious 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative, the Swadeshi Jagaran Manch will organise Swadeshi Melas in all districts of the State.

Announcing this at a press meet, Manch's Zonal Convenor N.R. Manjunath said that the Manch will soon launch a drive to distribute pamphlets containing the list of articles of daily use having swadeshi brands to every household. Also, the general public will be sensitised on developing a mindset for purchase of only swadeshi articles and goods. Besides, the manufacturers of swadeshi goods in the district will be appealed to provide information about their products, he said and added that the Manch will take the responsibility of canvassing the products for a wider reach, he said.

The Manch is planning to organise Swadeshi Melas in every district, in which the products of that particular district will be publicised and propagated.

<https://starmysore.com/swadeshi-jagaran-manch-swadeshi-mela-in-all-districts/>

## SC panel on agriculture laws may support 'legal guarantee for MSP' demand

The SC (Supreme Court) appointed committee on farm laws may consider backing protection for MSP in its report with several unions, including those not agitating against the farm laws, pitching for stronger protection of a floor price. There are indications that the three-member SC-appointed panel may in its report speak favourably on the demand on MSP as most unions who appeared before it or submitted their views called for a legal guarantee to MSP



to procure all crops. Though these unions had not objected to central farm laws, in their representations they are learnt to have told the panel that any decision pertaining to giving legal guarantee to MSP may end the agitation as the protestors would not like to return to their villages empty handed.

Even RSS-linked organisations such as Bhartiya Kisan Sangh (BKS) and Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM) too have publicly spoken in favour of legal guarantee to MSP, besides submitting their other suggestions to the government. The SC-appointed panel, which held its multiple internal meetings this week for finalising the recommendations, is expected to submit its report by March 20.

Sensing all-round support on MSP, which is the only demand that can bind the farmers together for continuing agitation, one of the key farm organisation in the protest against farm laws, Jai Kisan Andolan (JKA), on Thursday launched 'MSP loot' calculator to show losses incurred by farmers.

Though the government's figures show increase in procurement footprints this year during the ongoing 'Kharif Marketing Season' (KMS), the organisation led by Yogendra Yadav used the official data to clarify how the farmers actually incurred loss as they were forced to sell their crops much below MSP in different states including Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Karnataka.

"The Prime Minister Narendra Modi has repeatedly said 'MSP was there, is there and will be there', but in the first 15 days of March as Rabi crops arrived at 'mandis', his (PM) claim has been busted," said Yadav while releasing findings of the 'MSP loot' calculator which showed how farmers in many states lost Rs 140 crore in just one crop, Bengal Gram (chana), which arrived at markets during March 1-15 period.

Terming it as the "loot of farmers", Yadav said, "If the same trend of sale below MSP price continues and the government does not interfere, then in this year itself the farmers will be looted Rs 870 crores." The details put out by JKA also show a significant dip in arrivals of Bengal Gram in Gujarat, Maharashtra and Karnataka compared to the average of last three years.

The JKA will release daily data from every state, every market and every crop, showing how the farmers are forced to sell their crops at price below MSP. "Its purpose is to expose the false propaganda of the Modi government that farmers are getting the MSP announced by the Centre," said Avik Saha, national convenor of the JKA.



Meanwhile, the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) – farmer unions’ platform spearheading the protest against farm laws – decided to oppose the Food Corporation of India’s (FCI) tighter procurement specifications for foodgrains. Besides setting higher quality standards for procurement of foodgrains, the FCI has also sought land records details to set up DBT of the price for procured grains.

Thirty-two farm unions of Punjab on Thursday unanimously decided that the farmers in the state will not submit the land record related papers.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/sc-panel-on-agriculture-laws-may-support-legal-guarantee-for-msp-demand/articleshow/81579194.cms>

### After Quad, India, US could resume trade talks in post pandemic era

Proposed talks on free trade agreement (FTA) between New Delhi and Washington is set to gather steam in the coming months as the Quad or the Quad-rilateral group, which held its much awaited meeting on Friday, indicated that the focus of the member countries, India, the US, Japan and Australia, will encompass economic co-operation besides strengthening security ties. Sources said that US, which is keen to reduce its dependence on China in the post Covid-19 pandemic era, will also be looking at the trade agreement.

While New Delhi and Washington had already initiated discussions on such an agreement under former US President Donald Trump, there was apprehension among policymakers that the momentum would be lost under President Joe Biden. However, sources said that the Biden administration has not deviated much on US’ China policy and now with the strengthening of the QUAD, talks on the proposed trade agreement is likely to resume soon.

“We are set to resume talks (on the FTA) soon, there is no reason to believe that the proposal has been put in cold storage,” a senior government official said, on condition of anonymity.

At present, China is US’ largest trading partner.

“China is the US’ largest supplier of goods and amid the Covid-19 pandemic, it may not be possible for Washington to alter trade dynamics significantly but surely it will look at diversifying and reduce its dependence on China. The gap will have to be filled up by India and for this a trade agreement will be the way forward,” Ajay Sahai, director general, Federation of Indian Export Organisation told India Narrative.

According to the Office of the US Trade Representative (USTR), US is the largest goods importer in the world. The US’ total import stood at \$2.5 trillion in 2019. China is US’ top supplier of goods. It accounts for 18 per cent of total goods imports, the USTR noted.

Sources said as the world gears up for a post Covid-19 era, India’s role in the new supply chain network will increase as many countries and companies seek to diversify their risks.

“Co-operation of the QUAD will be based on this basic framework,” one of the sources said. Swadeshi Jagran Manch’s (SJM) national co-convenor Dr. Ashwani Mahajan, however, said India must not rush into trade deals.

“There have been thorny trade related issues with the US and we must not undermine those. We welcome the Quad co-operation but we need to wait and watch before we get into the economic and trade co-operation at this juncture,” Mahajan said. Meanwhile the strengthening of the QUAD has made China worried.

“India, a leading un-aligned nation neighbouring China, has seen increasing attention from the US-led anti-China clan. Under the framework of the so-called Indo-Pacific strategy, the countries have been playing up various topics with an aim widely interpreted as containing the development of China, from economic, technology to defense ability growth,” the Chinese state backed Global Times wrote.

It also noted that the US and India have seen more frequent exchanges lately, especially when it comes to the stunt of “countering China’s rise”.

“As the world is shifting into post-pandemic era, with global industrial chains seeing adjustment, timely finding a beneficial position for India while avoid taking sides between China and the US, will be a test for the wisdom of the Modi administration,” it said.

<https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=812312>

### PPF, NSC, small savings schemes interest rate cut withdrawn

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the government has withdrawn Wednesday’s order which announced steep interest rate cut on small saving schemes such as PPF and NSC - saying it was an oversight.

“Interest rates of small savings schemes of GoI shall continue to be at the rates which existed in the last quarter of 2020-2021, ie, rates that prevailed as of March 2021. Orders issued by oversight shall be withdrawn,” read a tweet from FM Nirmala Sitharaman.

Once restored, PPF and NSC will carry an annual interest rate of 7.1 per cent and 6.8 per cent, respectively. One-year term deposit scheme to earn a higher interest rate of 5.5 per cent during the first quarter of the current fiscal while the girl child savings scheme SukanyaSamriddhi Yojana account will earn 7.6 per cent as against reduced rate of 6.9 per cent.

Govt notifies interest rates for small savings schemes on a quarterly basis. The rates of interest on various small savings schemes for the first quarter of the financial year 2021-22 starting from April 1 and ending on June 30, 2021, was revised on Wednesday.

While announcing the quarterly setting of interest rates in 2016, the finance ministry had said that rates of small savings schemes would be linked to government bond yields.

<https://www.livemint.com/news/india/finance-ministry-withdraws-order-on-small-savings-schemes-11617244253955.html>

## Govt freezes bank accounts of China's ByteDance in tax case, company mounts challenge

The government has blocked at least two of ByteDance's bank accounts for alleged tax evasion, prompting it to ask a court to quash the directive that it fears will hit its operations, two sources with direct knowledge told Reuters.

ByteDance in January cut its Indian workforce after New Delhi decided to retain a ban on its popular video app TikTok, first prohibited last year following a border clash between India and China.

China has repeatedly criticised India's move and said it suspected it was against WTO rules.

ByteDance, which issued a statement contesting the decision, has around 1,300 employees in India, most of whom service its overseas operations, including work on activities, such as content moderation.

In mid-March, authorities ordered two of ByteDance India's bank accounts in Citibank and HSBC to be blocked because of alleged evasion of certain taxes in online advertising dealings between the ByteDance unit in India and its parent entity in Singapore, TikTokPte Ltd, the two sources said.

The authorities also directed Citibank and HSBC to prevent ByteDance India from withdrawing funds from any other bank accounts linked to its tax identification number, the first source said.

In a court filing, which is likely to be heard this week at a high court in the financial capital Mumbai,

ByteDance India has said that although it had only about \$10 million in its accounts, the blocking decision was an abuse of the legal process and would make it hard for it to pay salaries and taxes, the source added.

Both the sources declined to be identified as the details of the bank freeze and company's court challenge were not public.

ByteDance said "we disagree with the decision of the tax authority" in this matter, adding that it was committed to legal compliance and will cooperate with the government. Citibank and HSBC declined to comment, while the finance ministry, did not respond to a request for comment.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/govt-freezes-bank-accounts-of-chinas-bytedance-in-tax-case-company-mounts-challenge-report/articleshow/81763397.cms>

## Soon, India may become world's manufacturing hub, partly replacing China



Several global auto companies started considering shifting their part of their manufacturing base and component supply from China when the United States and other countries accused China of manipulating its currency so that companies will have cost advantage in outsourcing manufacturing activity to China.

The US also imposed tariffs and trade barriers on goods imported from China to discourage companies from sourcing equipment from China. When the Covid pandemic broke out the anti-China sentiment reached its peak.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government at the Centre launched the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan' (Self-reliant India Mission) to encourage domestic companies cut raw material sourcing from China and increasing domestic production so that India can emerge as a manufacturing hub. The government also announced various incentive like the

PLI scheme to boost domestic manufacturing and cut imports. Many global handset manufacturers participated in the scheme, boosting domestic production of handsets including the premium one and helped the country save its forex reserve.

Later the Centre extended the PLI scheme to 10 other key sectors like the automotive industry. Experts say these schemes will help attract global auto manufacturers, who have been complaining about rising costs in China. Also, India has an established auto sector and a big consumer base, which further incentivises these auto giants to shift part of their manufacturing base to India, say, experts.

<https://www.timesnownews.com/business-economy/economy/article/icc-2021-soon-india-may-become-worlds-manufacturing-hub-partly-replacing-china/736132>

## **Narendra Modi needs to look at rupee trade as economic ties grow with neighbouring nations**

As the Narendra Modi government looks to deepen connectivity and economic co-operation with Bangladesh and other South Asian countries, it could look at a mechanism to push acceptance of the rupee as the trading currency in the region. Reportedly, initial talks on this issue have been held in the official circles. However, such a mechanism will take time to concretise as it concerns negotiations with other countries.

“While there is no definitive official position by India on the issues of reviving rupee trade yet, there is enough indication of considering the merit of this scheme at this juncture,” a report by the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) said, adding that New Delhi in the past had experimented with a similar arrangement with countries such as Russia, Nepal, Bangladesh, Iran and a few East European nations including Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria, Poland and Czechoslovakia among others.

Expanded trading in rupee will help India by reducing the outflow of foreign exchange and even help in boosting the country's balance of payments position – an indicator measuring international monetary transactions.

Besides, this would also strengthen the rupee and internationalise the currency while reducing the impact of exchange rate fluctuations on the economy, especially in relation to exports and imports.

According to the RIS report, rupee trade in its limited way also serves as an instrument of cordial trade relations between India and the partner countries.

“It is absolutely critical to push rupee as an acceptable trading currency. As talks of strengthening trade ties with neighbouring countries are gaining momentum, a mechanism too needs to be chalked out to push trade in rupee,” Ashwani Mahajan, national co-convenor, Swadeshi Jagran Manch said.

Though several experts have opined that a weak rupee is beneficial for the country's exports, Mahajan added that there was no empirical data to prove that weak currency helps in balance of payment. “The aim should be to make the rupee fundamentally strong and this should not be done artificially through market interventions,” Mahajan said, adding that the support for depreciation of the rupee to boost exports is a lopsided view.

Last year, the eight members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization which include India, China, Russia and Pakistan among others also underlined the need to chalk out a roadmap to boost trade in local currencies. The member countries, at the meeting, decided to adopt a system of mutual settlement of national currencies among themselves.

While the US dollar and Euro continue to be the most preferred currencies for global trade, in the last few years emerging markets currencies such as the Chinese renminbi (RMB) and Yen have emerged as strong alternatives.

RIS in its report noted that India has some lessons to learn from the ways in which China has pushed for internationalization of renminbi.

“It is a good idea to start the exercise and it can begin with expansion of trade in rupee with several smaller Asian countries like Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Vietnam and a host of others. We also need to have a more significant role in the geopolitical frame. Besides, India can identify a few products and start rupee trade in those. We had done a similar thing with Iran in relation to oil,” Pahl India Foundation's (PIF) senior fellow and head of research Nirupama Soundararajan said.

She added that India must promote rupee trade while negotiating future bilateral deals.

Interestingly, late Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee had proposed opening up of borders within South Asia. He had also pushed for a common currency in the region much on the lines of the Euro – the single official currency for all countries in the European Union.

□□

<https://www.indianarrative.com/economy-news/pm-narendra-modi-needs-to-look-at-rupee-trade-as-economic-ties-grow-with-neighbouring-nations-74838.html>



## Swadeshi Activities **Swadeshi Mela**

### Pictorial Glimpses



**Raipur (Chhattisgarh)**



**Jodhpur (Rajasthan)**

## **Swadeshi Vichar Goshthi**



**Bhadoi (U.P.)**



**Agra (U.P.)**

## **Kisan Sammelan**



**Hardoi (U.P.)**



**Maharajganj (U.P.)**

## **Swadeshi Baithak**



**Deoria (Uttar Pradesh)**



**Shahjahanpur (Uttar Pradesh)**



### Swadeshi Activities

## Prant Sammelan (Gujarat)

#### Pictorial Glimpses



## Prant Sammelan (Haryana)



## Chintan Baithak, Swadeshi Shodh Sansthan



## Swadeshi Baithak (Lucknow, U.P.)

