

▶▶ VIEW POINT

▶▶ AGRICULTURE

▶▶ ANALYSIS

Rs 15/-, Page-40

Swadeshi

PATRIKA

MARCH 2023



Millets

A solution to Agrarian crisis
and global food security

Swadeshi Activities
Swadeshi Mela
Chaibasa, Jharkhand

Pictorial Glimpses

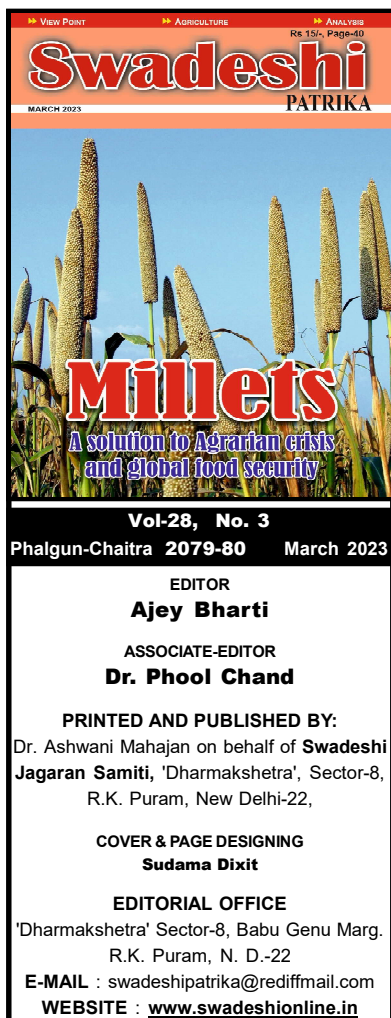


Swavlambi Bharat Abhiyan (SBA)
(State Meeting - Chhattisgarh)



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

Happy HOLI



LETTERS

3

NEWS

34-38



CONTENTS

COVER STORY

6

Millets: A solution to Agrarian crisis and global food security

Dr. Ashwani Mahajan



1 Cover Page

2. Cover Inside Page

08 DISCUSSION

Adani Saga: The Larger Picture

KK Srivastava

10 ECONOMY

Cause for worry

Biswajit Dhar

12 ISSUE

Global Institutions losing relevance

Swadeshi Samvad

14 FARMING

India should use G-20 Presidency to rebuild food security, agri narrative

Devinder Sharma

16 WATER

Water Conservation in Mission Mode

Vinod Johri

21 OPINION

Khalistan propaganda spreads in West

Sandhya Jain

23 ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT

Knowledge Management for Atmanirbhar Bharat

Alok Singh

25 AGRICULTURE

Who Does a Good Crop Benefit? Not Farmers

Indra Shekhar Singh

27 PERSPECTIVE

Swavlambi is an operative style of an Interdependence of the same coin

Mahadevayya Karadalli

30 EDUCATION

National Education Policy 2020: Revamping the Path to Atmanirbharta

Ramniwas Baira

33 HISTORY

Mewar as the Locus of the State (Part-IXI)

Prof. Nandini Kapur Sinha

39 Back Inside Cover

40 Back Cover



India's G20 Presidency

The Group of Twenty (G20) accounts for 85% of global GDP, 75% of international trade and two-thirds of the world population, making it a premier forum for international economic cooperation. It is a unique inter-governmental forum of major developed and developing economies. The Presidency of G20 is presently with India for the period of 1 December 2022 to 30 November 2023.

India's G20 Presidency can not be treated as a routine change of guard in an international body. Firstly, the timing of the presidency is extremely important. The world is passing through a phase of extreme geopolitical and geo-economic strain such as the Russia-Ukraine war and the post-pandemic transition. There are increasing threats to multilateralism. Because multilateral institutions like the UN have failed to do their duty and enforce peace, a security issue has become an economic challenge with soaring food and energy prices. Secondly, there is a growing perception of India's leadership qualities and its capacity to resist partisan pressures from either side.

There are many challenges also like the challenges to peace and stability, the increasing likelihood of the use of nuclear weapons, and ensuring that climate change doesn't reverse progress towards attaining Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). India can push the world to rethink the present economic system that only accentuates extreme poverty and can draw on our ancient tradition and Gandhian thinking to balance priorities and give greater weightage to humans rather than military security.

— Kumar Gaurav, Samastipur, Bihar

EDITORIAL OFFICE

SWADESHI PATRIKA

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

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

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

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

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

IFSC: BKID 0006025 (Ramakrishnapuram)

Annual Subscription : 150/-

Life Membership : 1500/-

Kindly write your full name and address in capital letters.

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

Disclaimer

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

Quote-Unquote



India, despite the many global challenges, is the fastest growing major economy today. This is the best advertisement for democracy in the world. This shows that democracy can deliver.

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister, Bharat



I am confident that India's highways will be on par with that of the US by 2024. Work in a time bound mission mode is on to build a robust infrastructure including a network of green expressways across the length and breadth of India.

Nitin Gadkari
Road transport & Highways Minister, Bharat



Pharma companies who are found involved in the manufacturing of spurious medicines will not be spared The issues of medicines are definitely linked with public health. Medicine is a public health issue.

Mansukh Mandaviya
Health Minister, Bharat

Lessons From Pakistan's Economic Crisis

Pakistan is facing its worst economic crisis ever. In the last 25 years, the debt on Pakistan has increased from Rs 3 lakh crore Pakistani rupees to Rs 62.5 lakh crore Pakistani rupee by 2022. In the last 25 years, whereas, the government's debt has increased by 14 percent annually, Pakistan's GDP increased at the rate of only 3 percent annually. Due to this, the government debt has become unsustainable. Its servicing is beyond Pakistan's capacity, because the debt service liability has reached 5.2 lakh crores, which is much more than the total revenue of the government. Although Imran Khan's government fell due to this crisis, but the current administration has also failed miserably to handle the situation. On 18 February 2023, Pakistan's Defense Minister Khwaja Mohammad Asif has given a statement that the government of Pakistan has already defaulted in servicing its debt. Economic experts are of unanimous opinion that none but the rulers of Pakistan are responsible for the economic crisis of Pakistan. Most of the big companies in Pakistan have announced their closure, including Pak Suzuki Motors, Millat Tractors, Indus Motor Company, Kandhara Tyre and Rubber Company, Nishat Chunian and Fauji Fertilizer Bin Qasim. 1600 textile mills had closed down by 2022, due to which 50 lakh people have lost their jobs. The remaining companies are also restrained to utilize only 50 percent of their capacity. IMF says that it can give help to Pakistan, if it accepts its conditions. IMF's condition is that Pakistan should make provision for additional taxation of Rs 17,000 crore, including additional levy on diesel. Experts believe that with the help of the IMF, Pakistan may be saved from defaulting in debt servicing for some time, but it will continue to be haunted by economic crisis in the long run. Economists have been critical about Pakistan's policies, both long-term and short-term, and hold them responsible for their current plight. From excessive expenditure on defence to giving 'freebies' and an unstable political environment, many issues have remained subjects of sharp criticism. Talking about the decisions of the rulers of Pakistan, it comes to mind that many policy decisions were taken by them which were in the political interest of Pak leaders, but not in the economic interest of Pakistan.

Governments took the path of freebies just to please the people. Populist measures were used to keep the prices of commodities low, which increased the burden on the exchequer. It is observed that despite the fall in international oil prices, the prices of petrol diesel were not much reduced in India but the Government of Pakistan tried to keep the price of petrol and diesel low. Although the Government of India was criticized for this act, but the Government of India and the State Governments took advantage of this in raising their revenues. Ultimately we see that India has emerged the fifth largest economy in the world and Pakistan has become a pauper. The Indian government used the revenue, it raised through petroleum products to build more infrastructure, while Pakistan borrowed heavily in the name of building infrastructure. Moreover due to paucity of funds, Pakistan's infrastructure building was not according to its needs but it was at the behest of some foreign power (China), due to which it is getting lesser benefit but the debt burden has increased much beyond the capacity of Pakistan to repay the same. The 'China-Pakistan Economic Corridor' (CPEC) is a living example of this. It is part of China's 'Belt and Road Initiative' (BRI). Some power plants are also part of this project. Pakistan's problem is that they took heavy loans to build such infrastructure, which was of no use to the Pakistani people. The reality is that Pakistan does not have adequate grid connectivity, so CPEC power projects are of no use to Pakistan per se. Similarly, other types of infrastructure are also unable to generate sufficient funds for Pakistan. This loan only created balance of payments problems for Pakistan and led to an unprecedented depreciation of the Pakistani currency. Today, exchange rate for Pakistan is 261.7 Pakistani rupees per US\$. Pakistan is so deeply indebted to China that out of the bilateral debt of US\$ 27 billion, about US\$ 23 billion is Chinese debt. Pakistan's total external debt is whopping \$126.3 billion. Total Public Debt and Liabilities of Pakistan is estimated to be about US\$222 billion which is 393.7 percent of GDP of Pakistan. Not only this, in competition with India, the Government of Pakistan is spending excessively on the defense sector. Instead of spending more on defence, that money could have been used for development and welfare purposes.

China, which is considered a friend of Pakistan, is also not coming forward to help Pakistan. On the other hand, other friendly countries of Pakistan are also not showing any enthusiasm to get Pakistan out of its crisis. It has to be understood that Pakistan will have to overcome its woes itself. For that it is necessary that Pakistan comes out of its malicious strategy of promoting terror and terrorists. Due to this misadventures of Pakistan in the past, the Finance Action Task Force (FATF) kept Pakistan in the grey list for a long time and due to its antics, different types of investors have also started distancing themselves from Pakistan. On one hand Pakistan is not getting any new investment, many foreign companies are also planning to leave Pakistan. Pakistan has also been getting huge amount of remittances from non-resident Pakistanis, but non-resident Pakistanis are also getting worried about the safety of their money due to Pakistan's collapsing economy. In such a situation, Pakistan may face more difficulty in getting new remittances. The people of Pakistan have to understand that nothing is going to be achieved by changing governments. The only way to save Pakistan is to fix its policies, maintain its financial discipline, avoid extravagance on defence, focus on saving its industries and come out of China's clutches as soon as possible and outrightly reject the remaining projects of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Millets: A solution to Agrarian crisis and global food security

Over the last five decades, the importance of coarse grains i.e. millets has been continuously decreasing, so much so that the new generation knows very little about ragi, jowar, bajra etc—grains which had been an important part of our diets for thousands of years. The decline in millets was mostly driven by the belief that millets were sub-standard and meant only for the poor. Due to that mentality, the consumption of millets decreased amongst the rich households. The low consumption of millets in the diet of western countries has also been a cause of its low consumption among Indian affluent families. Since wheat and rice require more irrigation and almost half of the arable land in India is rain fed, devoid of proper irrigation facilities, food crops have been grown on only one third of the land. Although, now the per hectare productivity in wheat and rice has increased significantly, and due to this the production of wheat and rice is now abundant in the country. Sadly, coarse grains lost their glory post green revolution, as they vanished from Indians' diet.

Although millets continued to be used in small quantities in rural areas, they had almost disappeared from the urban food basket. The urban people were also not much aware of the nutritional importance of coarse grains. Regular consumption of millets also helps prevent heart disease and diabetes. Coarse grains also prevent growth of cancer cells and are also beneficial for bones. Apart from this, there are numerous other virtues of millets.

Thanks to efforts made by India, the year 2023 is being celebrated as the International Year of Millets. Although millets or coarse grains have been used in India for a long time, but due to the encouragement given to wheat and rice in the Green Revolution under the new agricultural policy in 1964-65, coarse grains receded into the background and production of millets dropped drastically. In our country, mainly three types of coarse grains, namely, Jowar, Bajra and Ragi



Over the year, the space for millets shrunk both on our plates and in the farms. Promoting its production can save farmers from the onslaught of climate change and improve their income.

Dr. Ashwani Mahajan



are grown in large quantities, while other coarse grains like Sanva, Chena, Kakum, Kodon, Kutki etc. are also grown in India. Apart from this, two other types of pseudo coarse cereals Rajgira and Kuttu are also produced in India. Due to encouragement given to coarse grains by Narendra Modi government, there is some increase in the production of coarse grains. In the year 2015-16, whereas the production of coarse cereals was only 145.2 lakh tonnes, it increased to 179.6 lakh tonnes by 2020-21. Most of this increase is seen in millets, whose production increased from 80.7 lakh tonnes to 108.6 lakh tonnes during this period. Presently India is the 5th largest exporter of coarse cereals in the world and the export of coarse cereals has been growing at an average rate of 3 percent over the years.

The increase in the production of coarse cereals is due to several reasons. First, better public awareness of the nutritional value of millets has boosted the demand for millets. Second, researches in the field of medical sciences, highlighting the importance of millets based lifestyle has also encouraged consumption of millets. Third, demand for coarse cereals has also been increasing overseas. Fourth, inclusion of millets in the public distribution system by the government. Fifth, the inclusion of millets in the midday meal of school children, etc is also boosting demand for millets. Apart from this, millets have also been included in the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) as per the suggestion of NITI Aayog.

Coarse grains are not only being encouraged by the government, but at the same time coarse

Various stakeholders including agricultural scientists, policy makers and others will have to make concerted efforts to encourage the production of millets. With this, we can increase the income of the farmers, improve nutrition and can also get rid of various types of diseases by removing the anomalies in the present-day diet.

grains are in fashion these days. Ragi dosa, ragi and bajra khichdi and other types of dishes are getting included in five star hotels' menu. Today, when the year 2023 is being celebrated as the International Year of Millets, the interest in millets is also increasing in the country and the world. Due to increase in demand, farmers have also started getting remunerative prices for millets. Today, coarse grains worth about \$300 million are also being exported from the country. Although the production and export of coarse cereals are increasing year by year, but there is a need to further encourage the production of coarse cereals in the country not only to improve nutrition and increase farmers' income, but also in the context of climate change.

Future of millets

Today, the popularity of coarse grains is increasing at the international level. Efforts are also being made by the government to develop high yielding varieties of seeds of millets. Naturally, the production of coarse grains in the country is likely to increase further. Significantly, in the past, coarse grains were produced in many states including Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Odisha, Bihar and Punjab. Especially, states with vast rain fed

agriculture land used to produce most of these millets and were meeting their nutritional requirements. But due to the diminishing interest of people in coarse grains, their production was affected and different types of commercial crops were produced in place of coarse grains. Millets were mostly replaced by cotton and sugarcane. Today, when the demand for coarse grains has started increasing again, in many places the interest of farmers towards coarse grains has also increased. In the past, coarse grains were produced not only in rain-fed agricultural land, but even in irrigated agricultural land like Punjab. At present, under the pressure of climate change, by promoting the production of coarse grains, we can save farmers from the onslaught of climate change and can help improve their income. Various stakeholders including agricultural scientists, policy makers and others will have to make concerted efforts to encourage the production of millets. With this, we can increase the income of the farmers, improve nutrition and can also get rid of various types of diseases by removing the anomalies in the present-day diet. Moreover, coarse grains can also become an important source of earning foreign exchange. □□

Adani Saga: The Larger Picture

The opposition, and its ilk, is wringing hands with glee; it is glancing at Modi government with the look of consternation. The former thinks that the Adani saga has caused the ruling dispensation much embarrassment. But no government of the day infact has been immune from the business-political nexus ever. Government has always shaped the economic events of the nations as it pleases, while the industry regulators have always been powerless to act notwithstanding all the righteousness that they exhibits.

The opposition, mainly Congress, can hardly claim that BJP is (uniquely) promoting cronyism. In fact since independence it has been a larger theme benefitting the top 4-5 corporates and not merely in India - the story has been witnessed in America, S. Korea, even China. While the players (of the club) keep changing from time to time, there are some constants and some replacements. These players run the empire called conglomerates. These empires are a direct offshoot of the neoliberal policy regime adopted by the capitalist countries.

Neoliberalism is the idea, in economic sphere, associated with free market capitalism advocating the policies of economic liberalisation, including privatisation, deregulation, globalisation, free trade, monetarism, and reductions in government spending in order to increase the role of the private sector in the economy (and society). It has a number of distinct usages in different domains. Thus, as a development model it favours the Washington consensus and discards the structuralist economics. As an ideology it equates freedom with reducing role of state to a bare minimum. And as a public policy it seeks to provide the private sector a prime role (by promoting liberalisation, privatization, deregulation, and globalisation), while seeking to reduce public spending.

It is complete myth that capitalism, as Adam Smith hypothesized, is driven by the invisible hand of the market. Business-government links abound. However-



Business - government is an essential trait of all neoliberal regimes, all across bevy of nations; it has a historical legacy in India, as elsewhere.

KK Srivastava



er, there is a difference between advanced capitalism and nascent capitalism. In the latter the favourable government policies tend to be industry specific, not firm - or family - specific. Besides, such nexus between government and business cannot go far; it is neither widespread nor as rampant since the regulations work firmly in advanced economies. In contrast initial capitalism is accompanied by corruption. Thus while there are forces of dynamism a rot of some kind also sets in. While the businesses pursue their own agenda, they do so comfortably because they line the pockets of ruling executives. This may be done in four ways. One, low level bureaucracy extracts rent on one hand and embezzles public fund on the other. Two, political elites indulge in grand theft. Three petty bribes are received by bureaucrats to waive the objections initially put by them. Finally, businessmen obtain big contracts by providing different benefits to the ruling elite (politicians and bureaucrats), but do raise over all investment rank and promote economic growth. The last type of irregularity may be seen through a benign eye. Particularly in India, Indian big business has flourished in areas where the rulers otherwise have a large interventionist role. The scandals in the telecom sector have not been erased from public memory that stigmatized the earlier Congress regime. While the CAG has raised questions in sundry cases in all regimes, these have not been addressed.

While much of the criticism that Adani faces originates from its (some would say, alleged) proximity to Modi government, the fact remains that running a business

empire is nearly impossible without a supportive government. But that is not the point; when it borders on cronyism, then the questions are raised. Let's face it, can even big Indian conglomerates (Adani, Ambani, Birla — only a select list) compete overseas without the Indian government working closely with them? What is after all the Belt and Road Initiative of China; along with cheap access of funds to Chinese businesses? Infrastructure projects need businesses with deep pockets, large balance sheets, and more importantly, friends in the government. Business conglomerates generally work under the government shadow since in India they mostly operate in domestic market. And they need government support. Let's face it, given the strict environment norms which company can overcome environmental hurdles without the government of the day turning a blind eye. Recall, the Tata's building of Dhamra Port in the earlier UPA regime.

So, while it may be difficult to consent with some supporter of BJP who suggest that 'Adani is India', it is equally silly to ignore the fact that in the present neoliberal regime all businesses need a government which extends a helping hand. All regime have had their favourites, Birlas, Tatas, Ambanis, and now Adanis; they have reached where they did, partly, because of political patronage. While the political parties need funds to fight elections, businesses need political patronage to carry on with their business. No doubt there are individual entrepreneurs who have grown due to their professionalism and business acumen, but beyond a point an

interface with all mighty government is inevitable. All businesses, especially in India, need a friendly government to advance. Like it or not capitalism has always been defined, at least in its early stages by cronyism, including in authoritarian regime like China. When India adopted the licence- permit-control Raj (which has not vanished in its entirety even today) which has now been replaced by regulation and investigation Raj, the seeds of crony capitalism were sown and the plant is flourishing.

Allegations abound that Adani was aided and abetted by a friendly ruling regime. But the counter question that needs to be asked is which business in India has survived and thrived without the necessary political patronage? Only the favourites might have changed with change of regimes Adani has benefited because financial capital, including the foreign one, was easily accessible in the bond and equity market (resulting in excess liquidity available with banks) and it was ready to finance even infrastructure projects — earlier considered risky — which Adani ventured into. On the other hand government too decided to incentivize private sector participation through favourable policy regime. Those empathetic to Adani would say he smelled the opportunity before others could. And it did not hurt that government helped. So while the charges of crony capitalism being practised may not be without substance, to attribute this allegation uniquely to the present regime or the most shining business group of the day would tantamount to hiding some facts and distorting others. □□

Cause for worry

The previous fiscal year offered plenty to cheer when it came to India's exports front as the \$400- billion level was breached for the first time. It was an occasion to cheer more enthusiastically because exports had virtually stagnated after crossing the \$300 billion threshold in FY12 and was able to go only up to \$330 billion in FY19. In the interregnum, all efforts to spur export growth had ended in abject failure. These included the three free trade agreements (FTAs) that India had concluded with its East Asian partners, namely, the ASEAN members, Republic of Korea, and Japan. Each of these FTAs failed to deliver as Indian businesses failed to leverage the market opening India had negotiated with its partner countries.

The record level of exports at \$422 billion in FY22 had two feel-good factors. First, foreign demand provided a cushion for the Indian economy when domestic demand was unable to overcome the adverse impact of the pandemic-induced downturn. Second, there were heightened expectations that this momentum in export growth would be maintained, and that the \$500 billion threshold would be breached in FY23. There was a strong basis for this optimism since export growth during the first quarter was almost 25% as compared to the corresponding period in the previous year.

However, from the second quarter of FY23, export growth showed a perceptible slowdown. Between July 2022 and January 2023, exports had increased by a mere 1.7%, and from the third quarter, export growth had turned negative. Thus, while exports have grown by 8.5% during the 11 months of the current fiscal year, the decline registered in recent months should ring alarm bells.

India's largest export destination, namely, the United States (US), which accounted for nearly 18% of the total exports in the first nine months of the current financial year, registered a fall in exports by over 3% from the second quarter. In



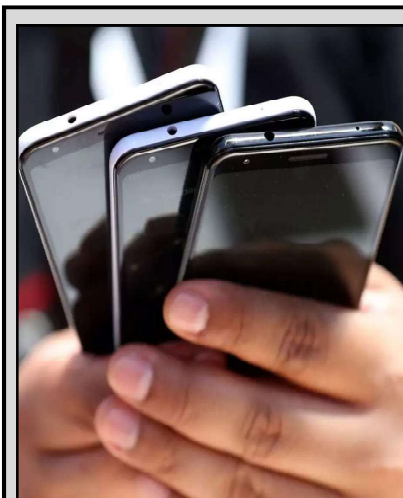
India's Exports to China declined in FY23. While some attribute this to China's Covid Crisis, the country's imports in 2022 broke the record set the year before.

Biswajit Dhar



the third quarter, the decline was steeper, at nearly 8%. There is a need to consider these numbers carefully since they do not bode well for India's export prospects in 2023, if the growth projections for the US economy are to be believed.

In the two quarters in which exports to the United States had declined, the world's largest economy was growing at an average of 3%, well above its average growth rate for the previous decade. However, according to recent forecasts, the US economy is expected to register perceptible slowdown as the impact of the Federal Reserve's rate hikes to counter inflation is felt. In 2023, the US economy is expected to remain flat and should grow at a mere 1.6% in 2024. This implies that India's exports, which had hugely benefited from an expanding US economy post-Covid, are expected to face serious headwinds during the next financial year. Exports to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the Netherlands, the two major destinations after the US, show contrasting trends. While exports to the UAE, India's new FTA partner, mirrored the overall trend of progressive slowdown in growth over the three quarters, the Netherlands consolidated its position as India's third-largest market, backed by steep increase in imports of petroleum products following the imposition of Russian sanctions. In fact, several members of (EU), most significantly, France, have the recent past. This should be viewed as an encouraging sign as India is cur- an FTA with the EU, and the two governments are eyeing to close the deal by the end of the year.



In the current fiscal, India had exported smartphones valued at over \$7 billion, or 2% of total exports. This is the only silverlining in what has otherwise been a dismal situation.

FY22 had seen India's exports to China reach a record level, \$21.3 billion, thus carrying the growth momentum from the immediately preceding year. It had appeared then that India's exports to China, which had stagnated since FY 14, would continue to expand. Contrary to these expectations, India's exports to China declined by a staggering 36% during the first three quarters of this fiscal year. The Covid-induced disruption that the Chinese economy had seen during most of 2022 would be the obvious explanation for this decline. However, data from China Customs (GACC) shows that despite the economic disruption, China's imports in 2022 were 1% higher than the record level of \$2.7 trillion achieved a year earlier. It may be pointed out that during April-December 2021, India's exports reached \$17.1 billion, but a year later, they have collapsed, even when China's imports increased, albeit marginally. The factors responsible for this squeeze in India's exports to China need to be identified, and remedial steps need to be taken, especially because an expanding Chinese economy in 2023 should provide plenty of oppor-

tunities to Indian businesses.

Petroleum products have been the mainstay of India's exports, having expanded by 55% during April-January 2022-23, taking their share in the total to nearly 22%.

Electronic goods have been the other fast-growing sector, with smart- phones providing the growth momentum. In the current fiscal, India had exported smartphones valued at over \$7 billion, or 2% of total exports. This is the only silverlining in what has otherwise been a dismal situation.

One feature of India's exports during 2022-23 has been that commodity-dependent sectors, especially petroleum, have benefited from the hardening of prices in the global markets. These sectors will be particularly vulnerable when the anticipated downturn in the global economy sets in.

The government would have to give careful consideration to the export sector, including in the forthcoming Foreign Trade Policy, to ensure that export slowdown does not have serious implications for the current account deficit. □□

Viswajit Dhar: Former professor, Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, School of Social Sciences, JNU.
<https://paper.financialexpress.com/c/71755482>

Global Institutions losing relevance



Recently Prime Minister Narendra Modi while addressing the conference of Foreign Ministers of G-20 countries has given a significant statement that multilateralism is in crisis today. Foreign Minister Jaishankar has also echoed the similar sentiments. Significantly, ever since India took over the presidency of G-20 countries, discussions on many issues including global institutions is gaining momentum in the world.

Global institutions, mostly from UN system, have been recognized to have a formidable role, earlier in the

first bi-polar world after World War II and even later in the uni-polar world led by the United States. In the time of conflicts, natural or man-made disasters or even in normal times on issues faced by humanity; the countries of the world have been looking towards the United Nations and its several other bodies. Not only International Labor Organization, World Health Organization, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, UNESCO, United Nations Development Program (UNDP) etc. have had a special role in the world. GATT before 1995 and later WTO have been known as the rule makers for governing the world trade.

But today, questions are being raised on not only the functioning of these organizations and institutions, their capacity for global leadership, but also on their intentions. Capacity of global governance of these institutions have come under scrutiny amidst pandemics, conflicts, climate change and global warming, increasing food insecurity in the world and increasing and unsustainable debt on many countries. At the same time, sovereignty crisis, regional imbalances, conflicts and wars in the world are becoming a serious threat to the existence of independent nations, and global governance has failed miserably to deal with the emerging situation.

From the beginning of the pandemic to its management, the World Health Organization has not only proved to be a failure, but has also been seen to be blatantly biased in favour of China. From ILO to UNDP, all the other organizations of the United Nations, rather than being institutions of global governance, are turning out to be no more than talking shops. Today, member nations also have no high expectations from these institutions.

For example, the World Health Organization, which was expected to fulfill its responsibility of protecting people's health in the world at the time of the pandemic, could not even give an unbiased opinion about the origin of the Cov-

G20 nations are expected to make meaningful efforts, to restore peace, deal with the impending crises on humanity and bring prosperity in the world.

Swadeshi Samvad

id19 pandemic. Regarding vaccination, let alone ensuring the universal vaccination, it was not even able to curb the greed of big multinational companies.

When there was a natural expectation in the world that patents on medicines, vaccines and medical equipment needed for the treatment of people during the Corona pandemic, should be suspended and all types of treatment and vaccines should be available free of royalty, to the people, then the WTO's Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Council, first failed to take decision on the matter; and later also when decision of relief was made, it was too late and too little, limited only for vaccines, and that too with conditions attached, that it didn't serve any purpose. This has exposed the gross insensitive functioning of the World Trade Organization towards humanity, amidst dominance of MNCs and developed countries.

Every year 'United Nations Climate Change Convention' (COP) is organized by the United Nations, which discusses the issue related to climate change its solutions thereof. Significantly, in the context of global warming in the world, a target has been set that by the year 2050, the average temperature of the world should not allowed to increase by more than 2 degree Celsius from the average temperature in the beginning of the century. For this, in climate change conference held in Kyoto, Japan, it was agreed that by the year 2012, countries with high emissions of greenhouse gases will have to reduce their emissions, some others were expected to keep their emissions at the same level and some

others were also allowed to increase emissions keeping in view their growth needs. This agreement is also known as 'Kyoto Protocol'.

Though this treaty was honoured by member countries, but many conferences held after Kyoto, could not make any headway including the latest United Nations Climate Change Conference, that is, COP27, which has concluded only in November 2022. A few years ago, an agreement was reached in this conference that the world's rich countries would provide US\$ 100 billion every year to the developing countries so that they could build capacity in their respective countries to manage issues related to climate change. Reality is that while there is need for huge investment and usage of modern technology to overcome global warming, the developed countries have so far failed to discharge their responsibility and the United Nations and its conventions and Institutions are proving to be no more than talking shops in this regard, organising conferences and discussions. Leave aside financial support, developed countries are not even willing to provide their technology to meet this challenge. The United Nations, which is supposed to be the pivot of global governance, is proving to be ineffective in persuading the rich nations to rise to the occasion.

Most of these global institutions are more than 75 years old, which were once considered part of global governance, are fast losing relevance in terms of their influence in the changed global scenario. Concerned leaders internationally are discussing about the new global governance system. Today, when India has assumed the

presidency of G-20 countries, it is the need of the hour to underline the need for new thinking and new global governance system to find solutions of the challenges before the world. In the constitutions of the present global institutions, ideals like international brotherhood, peace, development, mutual cooperation are much highlighted, but they are only in papers, the reality is that the big countries of the world themselves are not following these principles.

Significantly, the G-20 group, which is the most powerful group of the world's big nations today, from where 85 percent of the world's GDP comes, where two-thirds of the world's population lives in these countries and from where 75 percent of the world's total trade comes. India has chosen the theme of 'One Earth, One Family, One Future' in the year of presidency of G-20 countries. To realise this theme, we will have to motivate the world towards a new global order, with an objective of global consensus to solve problems like financial instability, terrorism, conflicts and food and energy insecurity in the world. It remains to be seen how far we move in this direction in the coming months at various level meetings and conferences of the G-20 group of countries. We have to decipher, what Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that the current global governance and institutions have failed to deal with the global financial crisis, climate change, pandemic, terrorism and war. G20 nations are expected to make meaningful efforts, to restore peace, deal with the impending crises on humanity and bring prosperity in the world. □□

India should use G-20 Presidency to rebuild food security, agri narrative

The day the agriculture deputies assembled in Indore for the first Agriculture Working Group (AWG) meeting as part of India's G-20 Presidency, I was asked by a prominent TV Channel as to what I expected from the four rounds of deliberations expected on agriculture and food security during the year, before the baton is passed on to Brazil.

I made it abundantly clear that the G-20 Presidency provides India a unique opportunity to showcase its immense strength in agro-ecological farming systems and thereby help forge cooperation among G-20 nations to move towards climate resilient agriculture.

Considering that 2023 is the international year of millets, an exposure to millet magic will encourage G-20 countries to shift the focus from wheat, maize and paddy monocultures to the wonder crop of the future. At the same time, the tremendous tenacity demonstrated by rural communities to protect, preserve and conserve traditional seeds lays the foundation for a food secure planet.

Instead of focusing on corporate control over food, being aggressively pushed in the name of digitalisation, artificial intelligence, transgenic crops, gene-edited crops, robotics, and data algorithms, the G-20 countries can provide the world with saner solutions to combat climate emergency, as well as to limit the massive destruction of natural resources that intensive agriculture has already pushed the world into. With agriculture being held responsible for a third of the global Green House Gas (GHG) emissions, the challenge is to move away from food systems transformation that the transnational corporations are coming up with (one that UN Food Systems Summit recently endorsed), and instead transient towards time-tested and ecologically sustainable regenerative farming systems.

The Agriculture Revolution 4.0 that the world is looking forward to, and which the G-20 agriculture leadership also appears geared up for, is short of any



AP has set the tone with Community Managed Natural Farming to adopt non-chemical farming practices.
Devinder Sharma



Water Conservation in Mission Mode



Saving water is equal to saving money, saving energy and saving nature. It is time to get into mission mode to preserve and conserve water; of which India has only four per cent of the global resources, notwithstanding the bountiful rainfall.

Vinod Johri

Humanity on the Mother Earth is dependent on water for their survival and sustenance. Even if the planet's 70% surface is covered with water, there is only 0.3% is fresh water. Clean and safe water is the most essential for all living organisms to be able to live healthy and long lives, and with the increasing rate of water pollution, the conservation of water for basic needs is the most important.

Being one of the most fundamental natural resources that all living things need, water is a top priority. The Earth and the human body are similar because most

of it is covered by water, without which they will not survive.

All living beings may be deprived of food, shelter or comfort, but they will not sustain without water. Water is required to maintain personal and domestic hygiene that would be enough to promote good health. With the increase in population, industrialisation and high living standards, the demand for water is on the increase. Therefore, gaining access to clean drinking water and sanitation would turn out to be highly challenging and extremely difficult.

Groundwater has emerged as the mainstay of India's agriculture as well as drinking water security. A sharp decline in water levels due to withdrawal exceeding the annual replenishment is a matter of huge concern in many parts of the country over the last few decades. Effective management of the limited groundwater is crucial for ensuring its long-term sustainability. It is extremely important that the decisions taken are pragmatic and based on realistic ongoing assessment of availability. State governments and the Centre have to work in cohesion on both the dynamic assessment of resources as well as course correction of usage.

Through the years, we have seen the phenomenal rise in water contamination due to the disposal of toxic chemicals and industrial waste into the water bodies, untreated sewage, fertilisers, pesticides, animal wastes, etc. The problems will amplify because of shortages in water supply and availability of clean drinking water if this continues.

We are one of the largest water users per unit of GDP, which is an unfortunate due to our inefficient use of this life sustaining resource. The problem is further exacerbated by the well-known fact that a lot of our water – both in the rivers and underground – is immensely contaminated with chemical effluents from the industries, faecal matter, garbage dumps, fluorides and arsenic.

The total annual rainfall in India – estimated at 4,000 billion cubic metres (bcm) – is nearly four times our current requirement and three times the projected

requirement in 2050. So, the big management challenge is to capture enough of this bounty. Unfortunately, our present estimated capture is only around 8% and the rest just runs off into the sea. The issue is complicated as the rainfall is neither uniform throughout the year nor is it distributed uniformly across the country. Just to explain the acute diversity, 75% of all rains happen in May to September. Only three states, J&K, Himachal and Uttarakhand, experience significant rains almost all year round.

Geographically, against the 119 cm annual average rainfall for the whole country, the North East, the Meghalaya Hills and the Western Ghats get about 250 cm and that figure for Northern Kashmir and Western Rajasthan is a mere 40 cm! The same story is repeated in the case of groundwater; whereas many parts of the country draw much more than the replenishment, there is underutilisation of the same in the eastern and north eastern states. On an overall basis, water, the fundamental to livelihoods, food security and sustainable development – is in dire need of better and more scientific management.

There is too much wastage of freshwater and careless use of water in a day to day life. The contamination from industries that throw untreated water into the rivers and lakes is alarming. The use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers pollutes freshwater. The sewage water is also drained into rivers that pollute water. With the increasing temperature of the planet, the groundwater level is depleting. Moreover, clouds are moving away toward the poles from the equator, due to climate change.

Water conservation is a series

of methods aimed at reducing our use of freshwater resources. Water conservation methods range from conservation methods like water monitoring and conservation-friendly building codes instituted by the government, to strategies for everyday people to reduce home water use.

Proper water management is important for a number of reasons -

1. Water is a resource. The current water supply on Earth comes from surface water runoff, groundwater, and snow. This supply comes from the same sources that have been used for thousands of years, which is threatened by overdevelopment, pollution, and global warming. Only three percent of the Earth's water supply is made up of freshwater, with only half a percent of that available for human consumption.

2. Conservation deadens droughts. Dry areas like deserts experience regular drought, in which the rainfall and snowfall aren't sufficient and result in water shortage. Conserving water can help alleviate the effects of water shortages in any given community.

Large-scale water conservation can be implemented on the institutional and societal level, in order to make a significant difference in the amount of clean water we have. Below are some methods that government, businesses, and agriculture can do to conserve this natural resource :-

1. Updating to modern irrigation methods - Updating agricultural methods to adhere to water-efficient systems like drip irrigation—which distributes small amounts of water across large areas, which drips down to roots of

plants—can help save thousands of gallons of water per year wasted by traditional irrigation methods.

2. Increasing forest cover – Increasing Forest cover by planting trees and fighting deforestation can reduce the amount of rainfall lost to evaporation and help conserve groundwater. Trees are more drought-tolerant than most crops, and planting more trees along river beds and reservoirs can further protect our water resources from disappearing or contamination.

3. Water conservation legislation – Governmental can institute legislation to stop businesses from dumping waste in precious water resources, which can contaminate groundwater and reduce the amount available for use. They can also institute water conservation programs requiring businesses to be more transparent about their water footprint.

4. Water redistribution - Canals, pipes, and other irrigation systems can help make use of excess water storage by collecting and redistributing that water to areas affected by drought or lack of rainfall. Redistributing water cuts down on waste, while also delivering much-needed water to the places that need it most.

5. Better incentives - Adopting water conservation policies that offer more incentives for agricultural businesses that produce food can give farmers the tools they need to both afford and implement the right strategies in conserving water.

Various organisations and governments have been trying their best to create awareness among common people about the growing need to conserve and preserve water by taking new initiatives ev-

ery now and then. The following are a few examples of the different initiatives taken so far:-

- (a) Rain water harvesting from all conceivable surfaces.
- (b) Avoiding privatisation of lakes and other small water bodies
- (c) Maintaining daily, weekly, monthly and yearly reports of water usage and analysing them to control the usage of water
- (d) Recycling wastewater
- (e) Switching to advanced crop patterns and more efficient irrigation methods like drip and pulse technology.
- (f) Surface water harvesting through farm ponds, check dams, rejuvenation of water bodies lost due to the avarice of builders and their unholy nexus with civic bodies. Most natural water bodies and natural drainage channels in all major metros and even tier-2

towns have disappeared over the years.

- (g) Using leak detection piping, replacing faulty water metres, adjusting water pressure
- (h) Financing various water conservation projects
- (i) Using online databases to monitor water usage
- (j) Installing rainwater collection systems
- (k) Industries to recycle waste water and treat all sewage and effluents before discharging the same
- (l) Desalination of water

However, desalination of water still can have major environmental impacts. Fish can be killed when they are trapped against screens that protect desalination plants' intake valves, and small organisms such as bacteria and plankton can be sucked into the plants and killed when they pass through

the treatment system. Desalination plants discharge brine and wastewater, which can also kill nearby aquatic life if the process is not done properly. Generating the large quantity of energy that the plants consume has its own environmental impacts until it can be done carbon-free, which is still years off in most cases. Scalable technologies for removing salt from water have improved steadily over the past few decades. This is especially true for treating brackish groundwater, which is less salty than seawater.

Saving water is equal to saving money, saving energy and saving nature. It is time to get into mission mode to preserve and conserve water, of which India has only four per cent of the global resources, notwithstanding the bountiful rainfall. □□

Vinod Johri: Additional Commissioner of Income Tax (Retd)

SWADESHI PATRIKA

Voice of Real Economy

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

SUBSCRIBE AND/OR RENEW YOUR SUBSCRIPTION

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

Name

Address.....

.....Contact No.....

City Pin

YEARLY Rs. 150/-

LIFE Rs. 1500/-

Website: www.swadeshionline.in Email: swadeshipatrika@rediffmail.com

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

The List of Swadeshi-Videshi Commodities

Product Name	Swadeshi Product - Use
Bath Soaps	Santoor, Nirma, Swastik, Mysoor Sandal, Wipro-Sikakai, Medimix, Ganga, Cinthol, Godrej No.1, Margo, Neem, Patanjalee & Home Products etc.
Detergent Soaps	Nirma, Acto, Vimal, Hepolin, Dait, Fena, Ujala, Shudh, EG, Ghadi, Gentle, Manjula, Patanjali, Pitambari, Maxo, Vimal, SASA and Home Products etc.
Beauty Products	Tips & Toes, Shringar, Cinthol, Santoor, Emami, Boroplus, Tulsi, Vicco, Termaric, Arnika, Hair and Caire, Hemani, Parashoot, Faim, Cadila, Cipla, Dabar, Franki, Khandelwal, Torant Pharma, Zandu Pharma, Himalya, Maharishi Ayurved, Balsara, J.K. Sandoo, Vaidhnath, Bhaskar, Borolin, Bajaj Sevashram, Kokoraj, Move, Creck Cream, Park Avenue, Unichem, IPCA, Patanjali and Home Products etc.
Toothpaste	Babool, Promise, Dabar, Meswak, Ajay, Harbodont, Ajenta, Garware, Brush, Clasical, Egle, Bandarchhap, Vaidhnath, Emami, Vicco, Anchor, Amar, IPCA, Dentobec, Patanjali and Home Products etc.
Shaving Cream/Razer Blade	Godrej, Emami, Super, Super-Maix, Ashok, Vi-John, Topaz, Premium, Park Avenue, Lazer, Vidyut, J.K., Cosmoplus and other Home Products etc.
Biscuit, Chocolate Milk's Products	Nutrin, Shangrila, Champion, Ampro, Parle, Sathe, Bekman, Priya-Gold, Monaco, Krackjack, Gits, Shalimar, Parry, Rawalgaon, Clasic, Amul, Nutramul, Vijaya, Indana, Safal, Asian, Verka, Madhu, Mahan, Gopi, Himghi, Vita, Patanjali & other Home Products etc.
Tea, Coffee	Girnar, Tata-Tea, Asam-Tea, Society, Duncan, Brahmputra, Tej, Tata Cafey, Tata-Tetli, Amar, GS, Parivar, Sapat and other Home Products etc.
Cold Drink	Guruji, Oanjus, Jumpin, Nero, Pingo, Fruity, Sosyo, Aswad, Dabur, Mala, Besleri, Rasna, Humdard, Mapro, Rainbo, Calvart, Ruhafja, Jai Gajanan, Haldiram, Gokul, Bikaner, Wekfield, Noga, Priya, Ashok, Uma, H.P.M.C Product, Him, Switemblica & other Home Products etc.
Ice-Cream	Amul, Himalaya, Nirula, Vadilal, Mother Dairy, Vindi, Verka, Havemore, Gocool, Natural and other Home Products etc.
Food Oil, Food Products	Maruti, Postmen, Dhara, Raket, Ginni, Swikar, Cornela, Rath, Mohan, Umang, Vijaya, Span, Parashut, Ashok, Saphola, Kohinoor, Madhur, Engine, Gagan, Amrit, Vanaspati, Ramdev, MDH, Everest, Bedakar, Sahkar, Lijat, Ganesh, Shaktibhog Aata, Tata Salt, Gemini, Society Masale, Tata Masale, Ashirwad Atta, Patanjali Atta & Oil and other Home Products etc.
Electrical Product, Home Use Product/ Watch	Videocon, BPL, Onida, Slora, ET&T, T-Series, Nelco, Westen, Uptron, Keltron, Cosmic, TVS, IFB, Godrej, Crown, Bajaj, Usha, Polar, Surya, Orient, Cinny, Tullu, Crompton, Loyde, Blue Star, Voltas, Cool Home, Khaitan, RR, Eveready, Geep, Novino, Nirlep, Elight, Jaico, Titan, Ajanta, HMT, Maxima, Alwin Ghadi, Bengal, Mysore, Hawkins, Prestige, Pressure Cooker, Wipro, Trupti and other Home Products etc.
Writing Product	Geeflow, Wilson, Camlin, Revlon, Rotomac, Cello, Stic, Chandra, Montex, Camel, Bittu, Plato, Triveni, Flora, Apsra, Natraj, Hindustan, Lotus, and other Home Products etc.
Shoes, Chappal, Bootpolice	Lakhani, Liberty Standard, Action, Paragon, Flash, Carona, Welcome, Rexona, Lotus, Red-Tep, Phonix, Whyking, Billi, Carnoba, Kiwi Shoe Polish, Woodlands, Mochi, JJ Flex and other Home Products etc.
Readyment Cloths	Peter England, Van Husain, Lous Philip, Colourplus, Alen Soli, Mafatlal, Trends, Cambrige, Duble bull, Zodiac, Arvind Denim, Don, Prolin, TT, Lux, Amul, VIP, , Rupa, Raymond, Park, Avenue, Altimio, Newport, Killer, Flying Machine, Monte Carlo, Duke; Tiger, Kolkatta, Pantaloon, Patanjali products, Ludhiana and Tirupur Products.
Mobile Phone	Macromax, Karbon, Di and Locally assembled

The List of Swadeshi-Videshi Commodities

Product Name	Videshi Product - Not to be Used
Bath Soaps	Lux, Liril, Lifebuoy, Piers, Rexona, Humam, Jai, Moti, Cammy, Dove, Ponds, Pamolive, Johnson, Clearcil, Detol, Lesansi, Lakme, Amway, Savlon, Amazon, Wallmart
Detergent Soaps	Sunlight, Wheel, Ariel, Trilo, 501, OK, Key, Revail, Amway, Surf, Excel, Rin, Vimbar, Robin Blue and other products of Hindustan Liver Ltd.
Beauty Products	Johnson, Ponds, Clearcel, Brilcream, Fair & Lovely, Velvet, Medicare, Lavender, Nycil, Showar to Showar, Liril, Dainim, Organix, Painteen, Roots, Head & Sholder, Amway, Clinic, Nihar, Glaxo, Treseme, Lorial, Cuticura, Lakme, Nivia.
Toothpaste	Colgate, Cibaca, Closeup, Pepsodent, Signal, Maclins, Amway, Auqa Fresh, Oral-B, Forhuns. Sensodyne.
Shaving Cream/Razor Blade	Palmolive, Nivia, Ponds, Platinum, Gillate, Seven-O-Clock, Vilmen, Viltage, Erasmic, Lakme, Danim.
Biscuit, Chocolete Milk's Products	Nesle, Cadbury, Bornvita, Horlies, Boost, Milkmade, Kissan, Maggi, Farex, Anikspray, Complian, Kitkat, Charge, Eclair, Modern Bred, Maltova, Mylo.
Tea, Coffee	Brook Bond, Tajmahal, Red-Lable, Dymond, Lipton, Green Lable, Nescafe, Neslay, Delka, bru, Sunrise, three flowers, Tazza.
Cold Drink	Leher, Pepsi, 7-up, Mirinda, Team, Coca-Cola, McDonald, Magola, Goldspott, Limca, Citra, Thums-up, Sprite, Fanta, Crush, Appy, Cadbury.
Ice-Cream	Cadbury, Dolop, Nice, Product's Brook Brond, Kwaliti Wals, Baskin-Robins, Yanki-dudals, Carnetto.
Food Oil, Food Products	Dalda, Crystal, Lipton, Annapurna Salt, Aata and Chapati, Maggi, Kisan, Tarla, Knorr, Dalal, Brook-Brond, Pilsbari Aata, Capton Cook Salt and Aata, Modern Chapati, Kargil Aata.
Electrical Product, Home Use Product/ Watch	GEC, Philips, Sony, TDK, Nippo, National-Panosonic, Sharp, GE, Whirlpool, Samsung, Toshiba, LG, Hitachi, Thomson, Electrolux, Akai, Sansui, Kenwood, Aiwa, Carrier, Konica, tupperware, Japan Life, Omega, Timex, Rado.
Writting Product	Parker, Pilot, windser-nutton, faber-castle, Big, Mont blank, Koras, As, Rotring.
Shoes, Chappal, Bootpolish	Bata, Puma, Power, Cherry-blossom, Addidas, Rebok, Nike, Lee-cooper.
Readyment Cloths	All product of Lee, Berlington, Arrow, Lacoste, Levis, Paibe Jins, Wrangler, Benaton, Reed & Tayler, Byford, Crocodile.
Mobile Phone	All Chinese Products Like Mi, Appo, Vivo, LG, Samsung, Xiomi, I-phone, Apple

This List is published on demand from the Readers.

Khalistan propaganda spreads in West

The so-called referendum for an independent Khalistan spread to a third Western nation after Canada and the United Kingdom, and led to clashes with nationalist Indians waving the Tricolour at Federation Square in Melbourne, venue of the event, on Sunday, January 29, 2023. While the “referendum” has no legal or official status in any country, it is perturbing that friendly Western nations have permitted the US-based secessionist group Sikhs For Justice (SFJ) to conduct referendums that aim to create a separate nation for Sikhs in the Indian state of Punjab.

It is telling that none of the plans for Khalistan include the undivided state of Punjab in 1947. Indeed, from the time that Pakistan’s Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) began promoting Khalistan in reaction to the 1971 war for the liberation of East Pakistan (Bangladesh), its protagonists have never dared to include Pakistani Punjab in their goal of an independent Khalistan.

Canada, the United Kingdom and Australia are members of the G20 group being chaired by India in 2023. Australia is also a member of the Indo-Pacific Quadrilateral Dialogue (Quad) with India, Japan and the United States, that hopes to balance the rising assertion of China in the Indo-Pacific. While Khalistan has no deep resonance in India, there are ongoing attempts to revive the dead movement in Punjab; hence, the permission by friendly nations to SFJ to needle India is unpleasant.

Videos posted by Australian Hindu Media on Twitter showed a group carrying rods and trying to hit those carrying the Indian flag, before police intervened and brought the situation under control. However, five persons were injured in the confrontation and admitted to hospitals; two persons were arrested by Victoria Police. What is disturbing is that pro-Khalistan slogans recently appeared in graffiti on the walls of certain areas in Delhi, and posters of Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale have become fairly common on cars in Punjab.



In Canada, tensions between a pro-Khalistani group and India supporters burst into the open during Diwali celebrations at the Westwood Mall, in Brampton last year. Around 500 persons gathered in the parking lot of the mall, where one group raised slogans of “Khalistan zindabad”
Sandhya Jain



Pro-Khalistan elements first showed their presence in Australia in February 2022, when a Hindu-Sikh couple from Adelaide was threatened by Khalsa Aid's South Australia coordinator Gurinder Jit Singh Jassar, for organising an open-to-all Vaisakhi Mela (The Australia Today, 31 March 2022).

Harmeet Kaur and Rajesh Thakur, organisers of the Punjabi Aussie Association of South Australia, were threatened with physical harm, destruction of their business and community boycott. Thakur told the media that Jassar telephoned him and demanded that he change the name of his function because "Vaisakhi belongs to us (Sikhs)" and became aggressive after he (Thakur) refused. Jassar then took the fight to social media (<https://www.facebook.com/749313763/videos/514885516654287/>).

Thereafter, journalist Robbie Benipal, Editor of Raabta Radio, was targetted for allowing Harmeet Kaur to present their side of the story on his platform. This was followed by threats of violence to the couple's friends, if they dared to attend the mela.

It is well-known that Vaisakhi is an ancient harvest festival in North India, and was chosen by Guru Gobind Singh to establish the Khalsa in 1699. It is not exclusive to the Sikh community, and Sikhs like Amrik Singh Thandi of the Sikh Society of South Australia and Mahanvir Singh Grewal, president of Allenby Garden Gurudwara, have come forward to support Kaur-Thakur, pointing out that the festival precedes the birth of Guru Nanak ji.

Sikh separatism, however, has continued to grow and in December 2022, senior officials from the

Pro-Khalistan elements first showed their presence in Australia in February 2022, when a Hindu-Sikh couple from Adelaide was threatened by Khalsa Aid's South Australia coordinator Gurinder Jit Singh Jassar, for organising an open-to-all Vaisakhi Mela (The Australia Today, 31 March 2022).

Government of India alerted the Australian government about its links to terrorist groups with a propensity for violence.

On January 12, 2023, the Swaminarayan Mandir in Mill Park, Melbourne, was attacked and vandalised by Khalistan supporters. On January 16, the Shri Shiva Vishnu Temple in Carrum Downs, Victoria, was smeared with anti-Hindu graffiti, and on January 23, the ISKCON Temple in Albert Park, Melbourne was defaced with slogans of 'Khalistan Zindabad' and 'Hindustan Murdabad', and Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale was lauded as a martyr.

In Canada, tensions between a pro-Khalistani group and India supporters burst into the open during Diwali celebrations at the Westwood Mall, in Brampton last year. Around 500 persons gathered in the parking lot of the mall, where one group raised slogans of "Khalistan zindabad" and waved the yellow flag of the organisation, while the second group carried the

Indian tricolour and shouted back, "Jai Shree Ram". One man was injured in the fracas, but police swiftly restored order.

In a more serious development in India, pro-Khalistan posters appeared in Delhi's Paschim Vihar on January 19, as a prelude to the Republic Day celebrations. By January 20, pro-Khalistan posters and graffiti were spotted on walls in Vikaspuri, Janakpuri, Peeragarhi, Meera Bagh and other West Delhi localities.

The Delhi Police Special Cell arrested Vikram Singh (29) and Balram Singh (34) who were allegedly captured painting the graffiti on CCTV. The duo was reportedly promised Rs 2 lakh for the job, which they recorded and sent to members of the banned organisation Sikhs For Justice (SFJ), abroad. They claimed that they were paid only Rs 2,000/- and promised more assignments. Sikhs For Justice released the video with the graffiti and threatened incidents on Republic Day, which, however, passed off peacefully.

It may be recalled that on January 26, 2021, miscreants participating in the farmers' protest at the Delhi border, broke through the police cordon in tractors and entered the Red Fort, where they raised a yellow flag, which authorities claimed was not the flag of Khalistan. The incident, however, was a major breach of security and insult to the honour of the nation.

More incidents are expected during the year, especially in the run up to the general elections of 2024. It remains to be seen if the "referendums" spread to other Western nations during the year.□□

<https://chintan.indiafoundation.in/articles/khalistan-propaganda-spreads-in-the-west/>

Knowledge Management for Atmanirbhar Bharat

Knowledge is the foundation of progress. There is difference between owning the knowledge and applying the knowledge. Knowledge documentation on many occasions is missing and this is unaffordable in today's market driven system. Even raw data is an asset today. So, knowledge getting killed is costly to the organization, to the society and to the country.

The standard procedure to accept any research as knowledge demands that it passes through the process of publication steps in blind peer reviewed world ranking journals. The publication of knowledge in each journals needs satisfaction of certain templates, themes and or parameters.

The Covid 19 vaccine development and its emergency use approval processes is reflection of how the market driven knowledge actors behaved. We could progress our own Covid 19 Vaccine 'Covaxin' developed by Bharat Bio-tech and save it from market-based knowledge politics. We survived the pandemic on our own resources as we could develop, preserve and satisfy the contemporary acceptance procedure of knowledge. We saw the worldwide knowledge-politics or politics on the shoulders of knowledge, demeaning one country's science over the other, it was also labelled as vaccine nationalism. The recent illustration of manipulated success in knowledge management is the acceptance and further sales of Covid-19 vaccine manufactured by Pfizer. It was successful as it got all the approvals for vaccination use and after two years at the World Economic Forum 2023 held in Davos the CEO of the company evaded questions related to the efficacy of the vaccine and could not clear the doubts about its well documented and well researched scientific outcome. Such experiences raise doubts about the documentation, statistical tests and approval process itself.

We are today seeing many technology companies which are driven by ideas- for example 'Twitter' is an idea, and so is 'Facebook'- resulting in huge valuation of such technology companies in a shorter and shorter period of time. Their knowledge is documented, patented, copyrighted. The market accepts such com-



The focus of self-reliance through knowledge management is needed in the small scale and the micro industries where people lack the skills to document their innovation.

Alok Singh



panies, so such companies are successful as per the market driven measuring scale of success. But there is difference between success and sustainability. The shelf life of such success is itself decelerating.

Big corporations and big organizations and big manufacturing units have a dedicated team to perform the task of knowledge management. Knowledge management is a part of the job profile of information system management. Within information system management knowledge management is a tough job. Within the organization itself there is huge data and the job is to document and preserve data so that the knowledge can be verified whenever need arises. Preserving all the data at all times is expensive, but the knowledge should not get killed, is more important than the cost of preserving data. The task of figuring out special data and the junk data from the whole data is a challenge. The data which are the foundation of knowledge are the special data and without such data the data driven research is not possible. This process is expensive and organized companies with sufficient research and development budgets perform well. The customer feedback system is also data. The way the indigenous companies collect the customer feedback whether it be home appliance, automobile or banking services, all these reflects the commitment of our indigenous companies to march ahead on a global platform.

The concern is of those knowledge which are getting killed every day on construction sites, on the floors of micro and small factory floors, on the streets of cities by the rickshaw puller, by the street ven-

dors, by the carpenter, and so on.

For illustration, if we look at construction sites then we can see that many personnel who are not researchers or PhD's but diploma holders complete the tough task with on spot ideas and the work is accomplished without recognition of the innovation, i.e. lack of documentation of such activities is like killing knowledge. If next time such troubles happen on another construction site or when another human personnel are there then the lack of such knowledge in documented form is like rework, reduction in productivity, wasting time for again figuring out ways. The patents and publications from China are much higher from Polytechnic institutes than from universities. But in our country, we lack the documentation of knowledge which is created at, in or by polytechnic institutes, whether it is on a work site or on the manufacturing floor.

The focus of self-reliance through knowledge management is needed in the small scale and the micro industries where people lack the skills to document their innovation.

But we need to document it and not necessarily for profit making. We have documented the methodology of preparing fool proof, duplication proof digital infrastructure like Aadhaar, UPI, and Arogya Setu. We have not earned any money by selling or patenting, or asking for royalty to any country which comes to us to help them create such digital infrastructure. We label our digital infrastructure such as UPI, Arogya Setu, and Aadhar as digital public infrastructure. The owner of this infrastructure is not an individual and this system is not for profi-

teering. UPI is successful because of many reasons, it is quality, acceptance and the zero-merchant discount rate (MDR). It is easy to target MDR as the success of UPI and failure of other digital payment systems. The design, the architecture and the algorithm of the UPI makes it special and the world desires to have it. It is the design, architecture, and the algorithm of the Arogya Setu that makes it special and the world desires to have it. The world has many such patented and copyrighted knowledge which feeds the companies, for example the Coca-Cola has a unique patented recipe and just because of that recipe and its marketing budget it has a huge market share in the soft drink business.

We need to create a digital infrastructure for knowledge management of those that are getting killed. Yes, knowledge gets killed if knowledge is not documented or not passed from one person to the other or not passed from one organization to the other. We have to compete globally and our micro and small-scale manufacturers are source of huge knowledge which is not recognized. Knowledge which is unique to an individual or to a small factory owner, unfortunately don't get the reward for their ideas, for their efforts, for their experience, for their innovation, for their 'Jugaad' which is frugal innovation, (there is no exact word for Jugaad in English, so frugal innovation is nearest in meaning and is used by many authors of management science).

Policymakers should promote and support Knowledge Management at all levels. □□

(Alok Singh is a Fellow of the Indian Institute of Management Indore, a freelancer academician, and associated with AGET Business School, Jhajar.)

Who Does a Good Crop Benefit? Not Farmers

As the Rabi harvests start, Abhay Singh's heart begins to sink. He has four acres of rocky land in Baasghat village in the trans-Yamuna area of Allahabad. He toiled all season to grow mustard, wheat and chickpea, hoping that both wheat and mustard harvests would fetch him good prices. But the markets had other plans for Abhay, and the millions of mustard farmers in India. An above average mustard crop has led to prices crashing in most places.

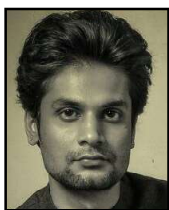
"After seeing a rise in the need for mustard oil, especially after [Prime Minister Narendra] Modi's call to farmers to grow mustard, I planted mustard too. But now when it's harvest season, I can't even get Rs 4,200 for all my mustard crop. Where do we go now? There is no government procurement," Abhay says.

While the MSP or minimum support price for mustard is around Rs 5,450 yet Abhay says that farmers are getting at least Rs 1,000 less in local mandis. Mandis are state-set up agricultural markets.

Affairs are noisier on the western front – in Rajasthan – too, as mustard crops in many regions there are under the weather.

Farmers in Dholpur, Ajmer, Jaipur, Nagaur, Pali, and other areas came under the spell of untimely rain and hail storms last week, resulting in major damage to the crop. Making matters worse, the hail and rain struck freshly harvested mustard, and in some places the standing crops. Some areas in Pali reported 30% losses in mustard earlier this February. And yet, major market yards (mandis) in Rajasthan, as per the E-Nam website, reported sales below MSP prices, with the lowest prices reaching Rs 3,225 per quintal in Srikaranpur mandi in Rajasthan.

Fateh Singh, a three-acre mustard farmer near Jaipur did not report significant gains this season. "First, the weather affected the mustard crop not only in our area, but various parts of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. And now we are



Here's why bumper harvests lead to crashing prices.

Indra Shekhar Singh



getting, on an average, between Rs 4,100 and Rs 4,400 per quintal. There is no government procurement, so where should we go?”, he asks.

Fateh says he is slightly better off considering that in “Madhya Pradesh, fearing bumper production, the government has not opened procurement and given the middlemen and market a free hand.”

He adds that coriander, which used to sell for Rs 30,000 a quintal, cannot even fetch Rs 5,000 a quintal this season. “Garlic has already been sold for Rs 3-5 a kg. I feel that because farmers didn’t allow for the farm laws to go through, the government is using these ways to push farmers to be looted by predatory market forces,” Fateh says.

His comment came as two of India’s largest edible oil conglomerates – Adani-Wilmar Fortune and Cargill’s Rath brand – along with a network of millers and warehousing middlemen, potentially stand to gain the maximum profits from this mustard price fall. Hoarders and middlemen are quick to fill their godowns with mustard when the prices are low, like they do every year, and farmers and consumers may be systematically squeezed for corporate profits.

If this sounds fantastical, consider how else can one explain the fact that Adani-Wilmar reported 15% profit in December 2022. Not by charity, certainly.

If we look towards India’s favourite staple, potatoes, the scene is no better. To understand the aloo-nomics, I went to the nearest potato belt in Bulandshahr (of Uttar Pradesh) and met up with



Bhatti has been growing potatoes for decades, but has never experienced such hardships. And it’s not the crop yield that’s troubling him, but the prices.

Guddu Bhatti in Kavara village. Bhatti has been growing potatoes for decades, but has never experienced such hardships. And it’s not the crop yield that’s troubling him, but the prices.

“On an average, farmers in the area spend Rs. 30,000 on aloo seed, Rs 10,000 on soil preparation, Rs 2,000 on water, Rs 5,000-6,000 on fertilisers and pesticides, and another Rs 19,000 on labour (weeding and harvesting) per acre. Even if you take a conservative figure, we are spending Rs 60,000-65,000 per acre on potato cultivation. We get 300 katta (50-52 kg gunny bags) per acre,” the 42-year old explains.

“The selling rate is Rs 200-250 per katta. This leaves nothing for us. Because many of us have taken agri-input loans and have to pay interest. In the end, we can’t even save Rs 2,000 per acre, despite getting a bumper crop,” he adds.

That whole day, I met with other farmers in the area, all of whom complained of similar problems of bumper harvests leading to lower incomes.

“It is not just aloo, for tori [ridge gourd] we are getting Rs 2 a kg. For cauliflower, farmers have refused to sell to the

market because the price is Rs 90 - 100 per katta, while the harvesting itself costs between Rs 80 and Rs 85. Tomatoes are going for Rs. 50 per 25-kg crate, and carrots for Rs 10 a kg,” Bhatti narrates.

Unfortunately, Bhatti echoes the sentiments of many farmers who are caught in this cycle.

For a picture of how onion farmers have fared, I moved southward towards Nashik in Maharashtra, where I caught up with the APMC (Agricultural Produce and Livestock Market Committee) veteran, 66-year-old Khemraj Kor. In his long career as a farmer, he served for two years as the chairman of Satana APMC mandi and eight years as its director. Satana, near Nashik, is one of the biggest mandis for onions and is comparable to the Lasalgaon mandi. He assured me that onion production was above average, and yet the prices were dismal.

“Growing onions is an elaborate process. From nursery to weeding, to digging, and harvesting – it takes a lot of effort. It is a four-month crop and costs us between Rs 1,350-1,500 per quintal, so about Rs 15,000 per acre.

[Continued on page no. 29]

Self reliance (Swalambi) has its roots in interdependence or Swavlambi is an operative style of an Interdependence of the same coin

Self-reliance is the ability to do things and make decisions by (y)ourself, without needing other people help. Self-sufficiency is the competence and capacity to do the thing to achieve a set goal. Self Reliance also means, whether it may be within family or in a chosen kinship, helping others to become independent. Further it means having resources for a whole spectrum of care—from crisis intervention to job retention. i.e. It means creating a pathway from surviving to thriving. Self-reliance is nothing but an employment stability, Fixed annual income, safety, Health with affordable housing, educational attainment, literacy, and connection within a close community.

Within Bharatiya society, in all forms of human relationship which includes family, neighbourhood, society, village, taluka, district, state, nation and whole world. We have to remember at this point that to progress and achieve self reliance we have to adopt interdependent style of life according to our natural circumstances and necessities. We have to draw a policy of our own need based/ on our necessities with respect to food, housing, cloths, education, health, drinking water, energy etc., We can also recollect that Progress without culture is Ravana's Lanka and Culture without progress is of Sudhama house. Hence, a balance has to be maintained between culture and progress and also between self-reliance /independent and interdependence. Whereas water outside the boat is good sign & Water within the boat is a bad sign for boat and as well as for passengers. So, in our society both type of people Independent (who have forgotten the timely help/ support/assistance received) and Interdependent (who have remembered the timely help/support/assistance received).



*So, we may
conclude that
swavlambi activity
is the form of
interdependence in a
operative style.*

*And is to be
promoted among
Youths of Bharat
to make Bharat a
Swavalambi and
Sovereign Bharat.*

**Mahadevayya
Karadalli**



When we talk about Swalamban i.e. Self reliance or Independent life style it automatically leads to Economic Independence of the people, society, state and nation. No one can be independent without the help of others. Rather independence is really about interdependence. Self-reliance is the one's own powers and resources rather than those of others. Interdependence is the mutual reliance between two or more people or things. Nothing can be fully self-dependent unless it is interdependent on correlated issues.

Many factors lead to the creation of economic interdependence such as industrialization, economic advancement, labour specialization, regional production, etc. "Economic interdependence refers to the relationship between 2 individuals, groups, sects, businesses, regions, or countries where each of them is dependent over the other for the supply of necessary goods and services

There are many advantages to economic interdependence, including the growth and earning opportunities, efficiency in production due to outsourced supplies, lesser risk due to diversification, etc. For example, the Jawar vendor is dependent upon such food manufacturers for the sale of his jawar crop. In this way, every vendor, supplier, manufacturer, and business are dependent on other businesses for the continuity of their operations.

Balancing Self-reliance and Interdependence

Virtue of nature itself is interdependency. One depends on another. Life goes on along with the same natural principles. Human being is no exception. Plants and animals life sustain only on interdependency. For example. Carbon dioxide is necessary for plants to

As word Agriculture has culture in itself. That is culture of entrepreneurship and providing employment opportunities. Bharat's Farmer's life itself is employment centric life. He has adopted the path of cooperation and mutual understanding life style.

survive whereas, Oxygen is necessary for human beings/animals to survive. Swalamban, therefore is the form of an inclusiveness, self-responsibility, self-awareness, self-discipline, self-trust, autonomy, self-confidence, and invariably encompass interdependence.

After the advent of British in Bharat two sects took birth and are active. One is of Rahu (he has only head – Intellectual & No body) and another is of Ketu (he has torso but no head – only work) Culture started. Means Rulers and being ruled. Earlier, learning from each other culture that sparks deep thinking, Freedom from constant comparison and competition, create environment of learning to learn and enabling to think was existed. This environment can create life long learners and make quality education a reality for all.

As word Agriculture has culture in itself. That is culture of entrepreneurship and providing employment opportunities. Bharat's Farmer's life itself is employment centric life. He has adopted the path of cooperation and mutual under-

standing life style. He has good communication skills, practices and belief among their own men. He has his team of Agri labourers, barbar, washerman, carpenter, cobbler, etc.

Again, on observing the Merchant's life style we find entrepreneurship in his routine activities. He always purchases commodities and sells to the consumers. In this process he unknowingly or knowingly creates number of employment opportunities. So, both Farmer and Merchant accepted the style of interdependent life style to become swalambi.

Further, the life style of skilled persons is to promote plenty of employment opportunities for the interested. The employ people for multiple jobs and train them. For example, carpenter, mechanic, blacksmith, masonry, Goldsmith, etc.

Life develops, sustain, and grow only in a favourable situation i.e. called interdependent style. People are dependent on nature, natural environments favourable for sustenance, growth, protection from adverse conditions, assistance from supporters. Each and every day, we come across such cases of individuals whose lives have been changed as a result of the support they received from someone who believed in them and helped them believe in themselves and made him Swalambi.

Since centuries Bharat, has a harmonious interdependent, Integrated and lifestyle. Due to which Zameen (land), Zal (Water), Jungle (Forest), Janthu (Insects), Janwar (cattle), and other living things have spouted in their own way. We, the people of Bharat also believe that there is lively relationship among all living beings i.e. say 84 lakhs jeeva rashi. So, when we talk about Inde-

penedent, Slef reliance, or Swavalambi life style it is also presumed that it includes Integrated interdependent, and harmonious life style.

Swavalamban is a Operative style of an interdependence of the same coin: Culture of Mela, Sangam, Jatra, etc., are the live example of interdependence in operative style which expresses Swavalamban in a better way. Where, People take holy bath, Where, food will be prepared and served, but there were no formal committees to look after the total arrangements. No chartered programs, no distribution of pamphlets containing code of conduct. Still, it is being conducted in a good manner and with a dedication. Au-

tomatically a tough task made easy. No devotee will complain about inadequate arrangements. They came, take dip, attend satsanga, had darshana, accept prasadam and leave with a sense of satisfaction. This tends to realize the importance of interdependence, integrated, harmonious cooperation, friendly mutual communication, adventure, & specially consensus among the Bhaktas. Since all the good forces like righteousness, intellectual, service oriented young energetic minds come together in the form of mother force to help for the success of the event on their own. Here there is no role either for political or police forces since here

exists divine force in the form of Paropakara Bhava. This can only be possible with locals participation having global idea. I.e. Think Globally act Locally. Thus, Swavalambi is a team spirit, an interdependent activity. A morally binding bond and an activity to achieve desired results to lead a Happpy and Prosperous Life.

So, we may conclude that swavalambi activity is the form of interdependence in a operative style. And is to be promoted among Youths of Bharat to make Bharat a Swavalambi and Sovereign Bharat. □□

Mahadevayya Karadalli: Giridham, Rastrakuta Road, Om Nagar University Road, Kalaburagi 585105

Ref. 1. Speech by Sh. KN Govindacharya - "Towards Nature Centric Development". 2. Economic Interdependence Carbon Collective March 24, 2021. 3. Balancing Self-Reliance and Interdependence Tom Hardison

[Conitnued from page no. 25]

Who Does a Good Crop Benefit? Not Farmers

Currently, we are not even getting Rs 300-500 per quintal for our onions. So, what should the farmers do?" Khemraj asks.

He also highlighted that untimely rain and heat waves in the region had affected production, and yet the prices were very low. "Eight to 10 years ago, the price was Rs 700 per quintal, and even today we are not getting that price. The input costs have increased drastically, from diesel to seeds to fertilisers, yet farmers get nothing, and that's why they are dying by suicide. This season too, three farmers, two from a Scheduled Tribe community, have died by suicide. Prices have crashed in our area," he adds.

But what is the way out? "Like I have said many times before, there should be MSP for onions and potatoes too. This is the need of the hour. Currently, onions in Varanasi are selling for Rs 25/kg, but farmers in our areas are not even getting Rs 3-4. Even if you add the transportation and storage costs, there is a big margin which is taken by middlemen. If MSP is there, farmers will get a fair deal, otherwise farmers and farming both will be finished," he says.

As the devil's advocate, I ask him if all purchases happen at MSP, what will happen to the demand? He looks at me for a second and replies, "Whether you live in a palace or a ghetto, you will eat on-

ions. There is demand for onions everywhere, from Pakistan to Turkey to Russia. If the government gives export subsidies and helps farmers export, we can improve our incomes and also bring good foreign exchange for the country."

As I finish speaking with Khemraj, it dawns on me that no matter which crop I look at, the pattern repeats itself. A good harvest is no longer good for farmers. It benefits traders, hoarders, middlemen, and corporations more. Without government safeguards through MSP and public procurement, the "free-market" system is rigged against farmers. Each bountiful harvest only heralds doom for them and at once, astronomical profits for a selected few. And in the end, the market always wins in the agri commodity roulette, leaving the farmers sweating, and milking the consumers dry. □□

Indra Shekhar Singh is an independent agri-policy analyst and writer, and hosts The Wire's 'Krishi ki Baat/Farm Talks'. He was also the former director, Policy and Outreach, NSAI. He tweets at @indrasingh. Views expressed are personal. <https://thewire.in/agriculture/rabi-harvest-mustard-onion-potato-farmers>

National Education Policy 2020: Revamping the Path to Atmanirbharta

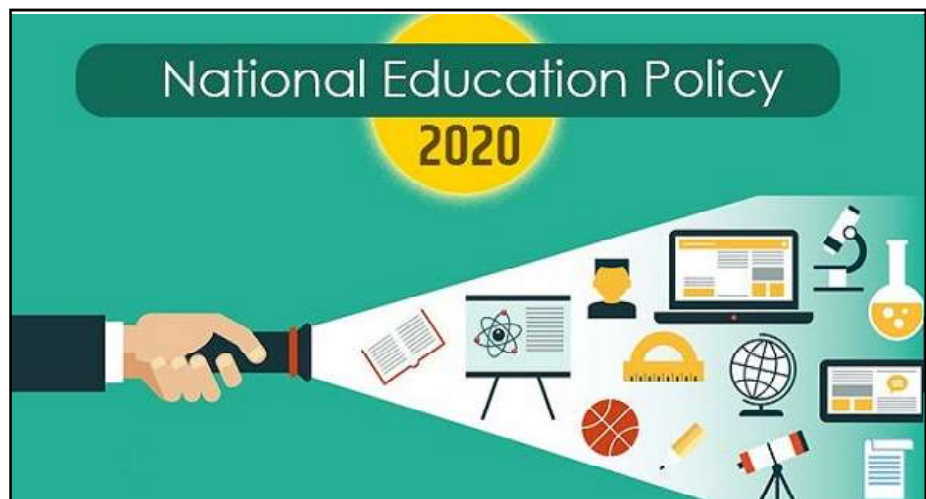
The Government of India announced “National Education Policy 2020” – a new policy document wherein existing education system stand radically transformed. It is a long-awaited reaction to the existing education system in India which needs to be changed for the benefit of the students, teachers, academicians, writers, professionals and to the nation. It proposes to create a new system that is aligned with the aspirational goals of 21st century education including SDG4 while building upon India’s traditions and value systems. It envisages to re-establish the World-class institutions of ancient India. This policy emphasises on local languages as the medium of instruction in primary level education, and foreign languages at the secondary level to enrich students with cultures and knowledge of various countries across the globe according to their interests and aspirations. The policy intends to overcome the social status hierarchy associated with vocational education. This would help to preserve, promote and popularise treasure trove of Indian culture which has been developed over thousands of years, which is very important for the nation’s identity as it would help to restore its role as a Vishwa Guru.



New Education Policy is very significant for arts, crafts, cultures, languages, and literatures not just to lend originality and authenticity to artistic expression but also to uplift the nation and the society to stand on its own solidly and confidently.

Ramniwas Baira

Unfortunately, Indian languages, literatures, cultures, arts and crafts have not received their due attention and care as no concerted actions or measures were taken to preserve or record these rich languages/expressions of culture. For instance, our country has lost over 220 languages in the last 50 years alone and many languages are facing serious difficulties at various fronts. Moreover, UNESCO has declared 197 Indian languages as ‘endangered.’ That is why such policy is needed for rejuvenation of Indian languages, literatures, cultures and arts without neglecting the importance of foreign traditions and knowledge for sustainable and fast progress of the nation in long run. The policy recognises the internal multilingual and multicultural diversity as a microcosm of the global diversity. In other words, it seems that it tries to uphold the idea of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*



(“The World is One Family”) as expressed in *Maha Upanishad* (VI, 71-73) and considered as one of the most important values in the Indian society.

In the era of Globalisation, when India has assumed the role of leading G-20. It is often argued that no cultural or literary elements are nativist rather they are global. Neo-liberal economy has dramatically commercialised cultural products of different regions of the globe. It has also helped in circulation of these cultural commodities across the world but this is a partial or limited observation as all the parts of the globe are not equally represented in this era of globalisation. Generally, people, cultures, languages and the communities survive with their past indigenous and traditional cultural systems in various forms. Presently, even if such practices do not exist materially, they exist in collective memory of the community.

It should be kept in mind here that the concept of globalisation and the concept of nativism (the *desivad*) are not exactly opposite to each other. One of these ideas does not make sure the absence of the other. Therefore, it is very important here to understand the core notion of the *desivad* in culture, language or literature and arts. One need to pay attention to the historical and contemporary development of culture, languages, literature and arts. There are various forces which makes people sceptical about locating the nativity in a certain cultural system. These forces include globalisation along with Colonialism, Imperialism, modernism etc. which have already changed course of lives, thoughts and practices of various

communities across the globe. These forces have challenged the nativist practices of the communities in different forms in different historical periods.

Imperialism in its neo-colonial form is trying to put blinkers on Indian eyes to view the path ahead only as determined by the master where seems to control the economy, politics and culture of India whereas the ceaseless struggle of the Indian people to liberate their economy, politics, and cultures from that “Euro-American-based” stronghold to usher a new era of true Indian self-regulation and self-determination. It is an ever-continuing struggle to seize back our creative, innovative and imaginative cultural heritage.

In India, the contention started approximately two hundred years ago when in 1835, British historian and politician Thomas Babington Macaulay presented his “Minute on Indian Education” that sought to establish the need to impart English education to Indian ‘natives’. It was a scathing remark on the inferiority (as he saw it) of native culture and learning. He argued that Western learning was superior and currently could only be taught through the medium of English. The main aim of the minute was to produce – by English-language higher education – “a class of persons, Indian in blood and colour, but English in taste, in opinions, in morals and in intellect” who could in their turn develop tools to transit Western learning in vernacular languages of India. It clearly suggests that Colonialism and colonial culture used to portray Indian culture as a “Low Value-Culture.”

However, pioneer theorist of

the *Desivad* or Nativism, Balchandra Nemade rejects this kind of perception towards our indigenous culture. He introduced the theory *Desivad* in India during 1980s which was derived from the idea of Americanism. According to him, our native culture “had been certainly a high-value culture till the seventeenth century which created Dara Shikoh, the Tej and Tukaram, to mention only a few” (9). He further argues that “the task of preparing again a viable Indian Critical Tradition may not be possible unless all the systems of literature- productive, distributive and consumptive – are originally desi or nativistic” (Preface/Nativism). So, nativism is an idea or practice/policy to re-conceptualise, revisit and re-discover one’s native identity, culture etc. It is a practice to resist against the colonial and imperial forces and the cultural hegemony of globalization.

In Indian context, the major requirement of nativism is to serve its languages and cultures. It also offers an alternate way of reading India’s past, culture, literature and languages. Language plays a vital role in the way one perceives or reads one’s indigenous culture and heritage. As Ngugi wa Thiong’o argues that “the choice of language and to use to which language is put is central to people’s definition of themselves in relation to their natural and social environment, indeed in relation to the entire universe” (4 Ngugi). This may be the reason that language has always been at the heart of the two contending social forces (self and other/local and global/indigenous and foreign) in our nation.

One needs to understand here that too much of nativism may also

be detrimental for the progress of a society in the long run. As, Indranath Choudhury cautions that “it should be remembered that Nativism is not an obsession with roots. Instead, it is a concept which has come to challenge the very idea of Eurocentric modernism and internationalism – the tendency to compare every literary text / trend with some Euro-American product” (as said by Indra Nath Choudhuri in his welcome speech at a seminar on *Desivad* in Indian Literature organized by Sahitya Academy in collaboration with the Centre for Creative Writing and Publication, IIT, Kanpur in 1995.). (*Nativism: Essays in Criticism*, 2). He suggests that nativism is a dialectic relationship between self and other where self is reclaiming one’s desi identity and other is different from one’s desi identity.

Therefore, *desivad* is a peaceful coexistence between desi and other. There is a power relation in the context of *desivad* also. This power relation in the context of *desivad* is not of the opposites but of the different. The tussle between the cultural opposites needs to be done away with in order to celebrate the beauty of differences. Nemade expresses that “Kalidasa is the Shakespeare of India, Valmiki is the Homer of the East, and ‘foreign signifiers became a primary base of our linguistic signs in literary criticism’. But who was the Tukaram of West, or what was the Ajanta or the Mahabharata of the West?” (Nemade).

It brings us back to the point that it is very important for a society to be aware of its own tradition, culture, literature and languages to make sustainable progress. An author must have a sound un-

derstanding of his/her own tradition in order to produce good literature. Unfortunately, in India, there are very few writers who have produced significant indigenous literature in the recent past because most of the writers have been happily imitating Western ideas and norms of expression which shows their lack of understanding of their own tradition.

The writers and intellectuals of our country who should have been mapping paths out of that linguistic encirclement of their sub-continent also came to be defined and to define themselves in terms of the language of the imperialist imposition. Even at their most radical and pro-Indian positions in their sentiments and articulation of problems, they are of the opinion that the renaissance of Indian cultures lay in the languages of Europe. In 2020, the Government of India, has attempted to revamp the path to revive and to rejuvenate the multilingual and multicultural Indian spirit through this policy which aims to do so without any grudges towards global languages.

Nemade accepts that nativism sometimes tends to join hands with traditionalist regressive forces but it is equally true that nativism is the only potent weapon of the suppressed to challenge the foreign forces that aim to undermine the able native systems. In Indian context, Gandhi’s spiritualism or Ambedkar’s revival of Buddhism could be cited as brilliant nativistic examples which served the cause of broad Indian civilization and which are no less important than the so-called progressive internationalism.

Finally, Nemade asserts that nativism aims to continue the eter-

nal struggle between tradition and modernity which is the sign of liveliness of any society. Modern Indian society is yet to find the balance between tradition and modernity, religion and science, worldly and temporal, nationalism and internationalism which is must for its own health and wellbeing. He concludes his arguments on an optimistic and confident note “I think we Indians, being the members of the oldest living civilization of the world, are the most eligible to establish the native principle as an essential and fundamental requisite of human existence.” (Nemade, 2009: 37). NEP 2020 is a big step to materialise our potential to establish “the native principle.”

NEP is very significant for arts, crafts, cultures, languages, and literatures not just to lend originality and authenticity to artistic expression but also to uplift the nation and the society to stand on its own solidly and confidently. It is very difficult for an individual to express his/her thoughts, creativity, talent, feelings, and emotions in a language that is not one’s own. Language, of course, is inextricably linked to art and culture. In order to preserve the art and culture, one must preserve and promote a culture’s languages to overcome the inferiority complex associated with the indigenous culture and languages. Through NEP, we have got a chance for the revival of rich Indian languages and cultures in order to create a holistic development and to infuse a positive cultural identity, self-esteem, belongingness to one’s own culture and an appreciation for other cultures. □□

Ramniwas Baira: Asst. Professor, Department of English, Shyama Prasad Mukherjee College for Women, University of Delhi.

Mewar as the Focus of the State (Part-IX)



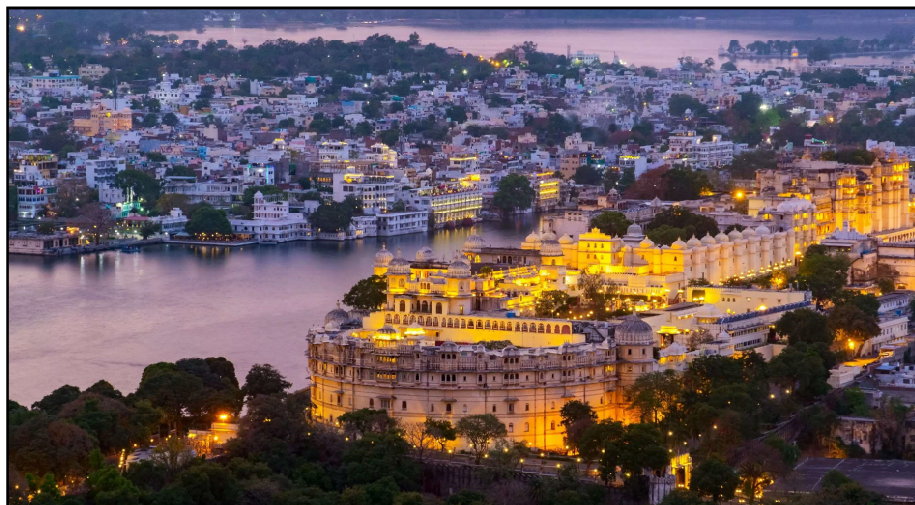
Proliferation of smaller Guhila states at the periphery of Mewar due to branching off and kinship rights provided immediate political and military allies to Mewar. Contrary to the Marxist view, this process of proliferation did not lead to fragmentation of the Guhila state of Mewar.

Prof. Nandini Kapur Sinha

As the very system of ranking was open-ended, political mobility was implicit. 'Since the basis of territorial and political hold was not static, rank was not static either. In fact, even inadequate studies available so far would suggest that ranks held by individual families underwent changes that ranks varied from one generation to the next and that aspirations for higher ranks were operative within the individual political structures.' The formation of Mahipala house is a good instance of competition for higher ranks by junior members of the Nagda-Ahada Guhila royal family resulting in formation of junior branches. However, it is very important to note that Mahipala's house did not remain a separate branch after with Vairata's accession to the throne in early eleventh century.

A new junior line branched out from Yogaraja's successor in early eleventh century. In both the cases, the records are silent about the actual geographical location of their domain. Therefore, it is difficult to locate their areas of control. Nor can it be expected to be mentioned by the official records of the Guhila state. However, formation of new branches would inevitably locate new areas of control. Only one expression refers to the new locality of control by Yogaraja's successor: anyatra labdha rajyasya (Yogaraja's successor obtained rulership elsewhere outside his paternal kingdom). This expression may help us tentatively locate these new areas of control. The expression explicitly points towards a locality outside the tenth-century Guhila state. If ranking was the basis for political mobility, aspirations for higher ranks could not possibly operate within the given Guhila domain. It was not possible to assign a higher rank to Mahipala in preference to his elder brother Naravahana: the only option was to form a new domain elsewhere in the mid-tenth century.

Is concept of political fragmentation at all relevant for the Guhila state, in view of evidences cited above for the tenth-eleventh centuries? Could newly



founded small principalities at the periphery of the state contribute to fragmentation? The new centres of power at peripheries were in fact likely to have contributed towards formation of a chain of immediate allies. Secondly, in the tenth-eleventh centuries there still must have been ample space available in the periphery to settle, and initiate a new dynastic order. Finally, if the junior branches had equal political rights vis-à-vis the Guhila king then would not Vijayasimha have mentioned his immediate predecessors between Mahipala (the founder of the junior house) and himself in his official record, Kadmal plates.

The very fact that Vijayasimha, a member of the junior branch, remained silent about his immediate predecessors in a royal charter even after becoming king (and presented a single genealogical list of the Guhila dynasty) is indicative of the actual power and status of the junior branches. This is further corroborated by Paldi Inscription of Arisimha (Vijayasimha's son and successor) which mentioned Vairisimha, Vijayasimha and Arisimha in succession along with a prasasti of the Guhila Arisimha did not even mention Mahipala, founder of the house, in his official record. He named his grandfather Vairisimha instead. Even Vairāta, an actual ruler of the Guhila throne who probably happened to be Arisimha's greater grandfather, did not find a place in the Paldi inscription.

The fact that expansion of kinship networks, leading to formation of junior branches became phenomenal in this period is evident from the following expression in Paldi Inscription: hariv-

istārisākhah prajyaih patrai guhilaṇ [patera (æri) tottapahari (the expanding branches of the Guhila kings), Thus, new centres of power did not disrupt the process of state formation initiated by the main line; instead expansion of the kinship network caused rivalries, rather than diffusing them.

Expansion of kinship network in the period witnessed emergence of Guhila centres of power in south-eastern part of upper Banas plain. Localities in Pratapgarh region of Chittaurgarh district (south-eastern part of upper Banas plain) were held by members of Nagdā-Ahada Guhila royal lineage (see Map 6). It is evident from the three inscriptions of Guhila Vighapala of vs 1053, 1065 and 1066 inscribed on the chhatra-pillar of Mahārāvat Bhanasimha (Bhana), a ruler of Deolia-Pratapgarh. The find-spot of these inscriptions is Jiran in the Neemach tahsil of district Gwalior. Guhila Vighapala proclaimed himself mahāsāmanta-dhipati of Nagahrda.

The claim to both 'Guhila' and 'Nagahrda' along with the rank of mahasamantadhipati suggests that the settlements of Guhila kinsmen were proliferating. These Guhila chiefs might have been incorporated into the Guhila state in the mid-tenth century as is evident from their rank of mahasamantadhipati. Guhila King Bhartrpatta's territorial rights in Pratapgarh and his title of mahārājādhiraja before mid-tenth century seem to support our suggestion. However, G.H. Ojha opines that Pratapgarh Guhilas of early eleventh century were probably the subordinate allies of the Paramaras of Malwa 20% This suggestion is plausible in view of Para-

mara incursions into southern Rajasthan in the late tenth century and their occupation of Chittaurgarh.

The emergence of a kingdom claiming Guhila lineage in the Vagod region by the late twelfth century is evident from the discovery of three inscriptions. A chronological study of these three inscriptions clearly reveals a significant process in which a local ruling family in Vagod from an obscure background claimed lineage with the Guhilas. King Vijayapala in his Ingnoda (western Malwa) Inscription of AD 1133 declared himself to be a grandson of King Prthvipāla who bore the title of Bhartrpatta ūriprthvipālapādānudhyāta paramabhattacharaka maharajadhirajadhirājāparametvara fri thunapaladevapādānudkydta mahārājādhirajaparamesvara ūri vijayapaladeva). Vijayapala donated 309 the village of Agāsiyaka to the god Gohadevvara situated within the division to the south of Inganapata 20 Interestingly, there is no mention of the Guhila lineage in this record. But the reference to the title of Bhartrpatta points towards beginnings of claims of kinship connections with the Nagda-Ahada Guhilas. We have already noted that Bhartrpatta II had consolidated and extended the Guhila power in the tenth century. Claiming kinship lineages to a famous Guhila king of the tenth century would have legitimized their power in the domain of the Guhila lineage. They possibly claimed the kinship linkage for the first time in Ingnoda record and hence refrained from claiming Guhila lineage outrightly at the point.

(continued....)

These articles are taken from Nandini Sinha Kapur 'State Formation in Rajasthan: Mewar 7th—15th Centuries', New Delhi, 2002.

India imposes anti-money laundering provisions on cryptocurrencies



The government has imposed anti-money laundering provisions on cryptocurrencies or virtual assets as it looks to tighten oversight of digital assets.

In a gazette notification, the Finance Ministry said the anti-money laundering legislation has been applied to crypto trading, safekeeping and related financial services. After this, Indian crypto exchanges will have to report suspicious activity to the Financial Intelligence Unit India (FIU-IND).

The move is in line with the global trend of requiring digital-asset platforms to follow anti-money laundering standards similar to those followed by other regulated entities like banks or stock brokers.

Digital currency and assets like NFTs (non-fungible tokens) have gained traction globally over the last couple of years. Trading in these assets has increased manifold with cryptocurrency exchanges being launched. However, India till last year, did not have a clear policy on either regulating or taxing such asset classes.

The notification said, "Exchange between virtual digital assets and fiat currencies, exchange between one or more forms of virtual digital assets, transfer of virtual digital assets, safekeeping or administration of virtual digital assets or instruments enabling control over virtual digital assets, and participation in and provision of financial services related to an issuer's offer and sale of a virtual digital asset" will be now be covered by Prevention of Money-laundering Act, 2002.

Virtual digital assets were defined as any code or number or token generated through cryptographic means with the promise or representation of having inherent value.

Last month, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman told Parliament that India was discussing with the G-20 member countries the need to develop a standard

operating protocol for regulating crypto assets.

She had said crypto assets and Web3 are relatively new and evolving sectors and require significant international collaboration for any specific legislation on these sectors to be fully effective.

Crypto assets are by definition borderless and require international collaboration to prevent regulatory arbitrage. Therefore, any legislation for regulation or for banning can be effective only with significant international collaboration on the evaluation of the risks and benefits and evolution of common taxonomy and standards.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/business/market/money-laundering-rules-cryptocurrency-trade-india-8485671/>

Chinese embassy in Pakistan temporarily shuts down consular section

China has announced that it will be temporarily closing down the consular section of its embassy in Pakistan due to "technical issues".

The Chinese embassy shared no specific information about the nature of the issues nor was a timeline provided for the reopening of the consular section. In a notice issued on its official website, China's embassy announced the temporary closure of the consular section for the information of the general public. The closure would remain in place until further orders, according to the announcement.

"Consular Section of the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad will be temporarily closed from February 13, 2023 until further notice, due to technical issues," reads the notice.

Meanwhile, the Chinese government has also advised its citizens to be extremely cautious while in Pakistan due to the security situation. In a Saturday notice, the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs' consular department warned their citizens that they may be at risk of high levels of security in the country.



People have been advised to call 051-8496167 if they need assistance in connection with urgent passport and travel document matters. Applicants with other inquiries can email islamabad@csm.mfa.gov.cn.

The Chinese government's announcement comes a day after the government reiterated its resolve to protect all Pakistani citizens and foreign nationals.

Chairing a meeting in Gwadar on February 12 regarding counter-terrorism and security of foreign nationals in the country, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah directed authorities to take all possible measures to ensure the safety of Pakistani and foreign nationals. He said that foolproof security will be provided to Chinese nationals working on various projects in Pakistan and any negligence in this regard will not be tolerated.

<https://www.geo.tv/latest/470951-chinas-embassy-in-islamabad-closes-consular-section-temporarily>

Lessons from Pakistan's economic crisis for the world

Pakistan is facing one of its worst economic crises. Economists have been critical of many policies, both long-term and short-term, and blame them for the current predicament India's neighbour is facing. From investing more than necessary in the military to giving "freebies" and having an unstable political environment — a host of issues have been pointed out. Watchers further say that Pakistan took several initiatives and policy decisions which were in its "political interest and not in economic interest".

Swadeshi Jagaran Manch (SJM) and Amir Jahangir, Founder and CEO of Mishal Pakistan, weighed in on Pakistan's situation in an interview with Money Control. Here are some factors other countries should keep in mind to avoid swooping into the Pakistan-like situation:

1. SJM said fiscal mismanagement is Pakistan's major problem. SJM said the country followed "publicist measures leading towards more of subsidies and

keeping prices of commodities lower just to please the people (or what is called freebies)".

2. Pakistan kept prices of petrol and diesel lower. They chose to give subsidies to people that increased pressure on the budget and finances. Giving the example of India, SJM said the Indian government raised a lot of revenue through petroleum products, which was then used to build more infrastructure "with their own money".

3. Pakistan has been building infrastructure "not as per their needs but as per the dictates of some foreign power", SJM said while giving the example of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. Some of the power plants are parts of this project. "When Pakistan didn't have sufficient grid connectivity, this actually would not work," he said.

4. The government has been spending more than required on the defence sector. "The level of expenditure on defence has been high. That money could have been used for better purposes," SJM said.

5. Moreover, Pakistan built infrastructure riding on foreign loans. An example is China's Belt and Road Initiative. "The trigger for Pakistan's problem is not coming from domestic policies, but because of the loans which they have taken for building infrastructure which was of no use to the Pakistanis," SJM said.

Eventually, this has led to payment problems and the depreciation of the Pakistani currencies. "A lot of capacity has been wasted and Pakistan is now under debt from China," the expert said. Of \$27 billion in bilateral debt, around \$23 billion is made of Chinese loans, Money Control reports.

6. Pakistan moves from manufacturing to services very quickly without actually building the manufacturing sector, said Amir Jahangir. "That is not helping the services sector because it was not ready to provide services to relevant economic factors which can help the economy," he added.

7. Pakistan has leadership issues. There's no Opposition in the Pakistan assembly and therefore, there's no accountability of the current government, notes Jahangir.

8. "Not containing terrorism is also impacting Pakistan," SJM said while emphasising that organisation looking at terror funding is also looking at Pakistan with suspicion. SJM said Pakistan's major source of "remittance is non-resident Pakistani". But, they will also stop sending money if they feel Pakistan is not safe to park their money, SJM said.



Experts said it is Pakistani themselves and not the International Monetary Fund (IMF) which can help the country come out of the crisis. They need to come up with innovative measures and follow a collective approach that is “not anti-India but pro-Pakistani”, said SJM. Pakistan also needs to reduce its dependence on China and focus on manufacturing goods in the country itself.

“Pakistan had been good at manufacturing in the past. But those industries were either closed or affected by Chinese competition,” SJM notes.

Next, “Pakistan needs to showcase that it has intellectual and professional capacity to manage the IMF funds,” Jahangir said in his three-point measure that Pakistan must follow to gain a sustainable economy.

His second measure was about Pakistan’s need to showcase that the system is transparent - that the money is spent on the issues and challenges that Pakistan is facing right now. Third is that there should be accountability in the system - meaning that people handling this should be accountable if something goes wrong.

Besides, different political parties must solve the problem together rather than changing the government altogether, experts said. They added that the country must also use its population as a “global workforce”.

<https://www.cnbc18.com/world/pakistan-economic-crisis-lessons-for-the-world-15967711.htm>

Australia to remove Chinese surveillance cameras amid security fears

Australia will remove Chinese-made surveillance cameras from defence sites over national security fears.

It comes after an audit found 900 pieces of surveillance equipment built by companies Hikvision and Dahua on government estates. The UK and US made similar moves last year, citing fears the device data may be accessed by the Chinese government.

Hikvision says those fears are unfounded. Dahua has not responded to a request for comment.

The audit of Australian government sites found the cameras and security gear were located on more than 200 buildings, in almost every department - including the foreign affairs and attorney general’s departments. At least one unit was also found in the defence department, but the total number at defence sites is unknown.

Defence Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Richard Marles on Thursday said the government



would find and remove the cameras from any defence locations to make them “completely secure”.

“I don’t think we should overstate [the seriousness]... but it’s a significant thing that’s been brought to our attention and we’re going to fix it,” he said, adding the devices pre-dated his time in office.

Attorney General Mark Dreyfus said the government will review whether the cameras on other government buildings need to be removed as well.

Shadow Minister for Cyber Security James Paterson, who requested the audit, says they do.

Australia has “no way” of knowing whether data collected by the devices is being handed over to Chinese intelligence agencies, he said.

China’s national security law can be used to compel any organisation or citizen to “support, assist and co-operate with the state intelligence work”.

Senator Paterson also argued Australia should not be supporting Hikvision and Dahua for “moral” reasons. He said both companies have been directly implicated in the alleged human rights abuses and mass surveillance of Uyghurs in Xinjiang.

Hikvision says it is “categorically false” to represent them as a threat to national security.

“No respected technical institution or assessment has come to this conclusion,” a spokeswoman said.

The company says it cannot access end users’ video data and therefore cannot transmit it to third parties, she said.

But in November the UK also blocked the installation of any new surveillance cameras made by Dahua and Hikvision on “sensitive sites” due to security concerns. It also said it would review whether devices already in place should be removed.

Days later the US banned the sale and import of new communications equipment from five China-based companies including Dahua and Hikvision.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said he was unconcerned about how the Chinese government

might react to the move. “We act in accordance with Australia’s national interest. We do so transparently and that’s what we will continue to do,” he told reporters.

Ties between China and Australia had soured after Canberra banned Huawei from its 5G network in 2018, and China responded with trade restrictions and tariffs on Australian exports such as coal, lobsters and wine. But relations have been improving under the centre-left government, which came to power in May 2022.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-australia-64577641>

India’s focus should be on reducing dependence on China: Suman Bery



NITI Aayog vice chairman Suman Bery on Sunday said that India’s focus should not be on overall trade deficit with China, instead it should be on reducing New Delhi’s dependence on Beijing for certain critical inputs.

According to Bery, the right response is to diversify to other sources of supply for critical inputs including active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) and supply chain for renewables.

China is the world’s largest producer and exporter of APIs and many of the Indian companies depend on imports of the ingredients to produce various formulations.

“India’s focus should not be on the trade deficit with China. It should be on our dependence on China for certain critical inputs,” he told PTI.

He was asked what measures India should take to reduce its rising trade deficit with China. He said it is unfortunate that in the last seven years, the larger powers, both the US and China have chosen to weaponise trade interdependence. “It is unfortunate that China, which is a very competitive source of intermediate goods, is also a power with which we have some military difficulty that puts a different kind of complexion,” he said.

Indian and Chinese troops clashed along the Line

of Actual Control (LAC) in the Tawang sector of Arunachal Pradesh on December 9 and the face-off resulted in “minor injuries to a few personnel from both sides. According to recent data released by the Chinese customs, the trade between India and China touched an all-time high of USD 135.98 billion in 2022, while New Delhi’s trade deficit with Beijing crossed the USD 100 billion mark for the first time despite frosty bilateral relations. To reduce the trade deficit with China, Bery suggested that India should formulate a sector-by-sector strategy.

Bery said Chinese enterprises are looking for markets and they want to hold on to the Indian market. “And to do that, they should be prevented from being monopolists, by the way,” Bery emphasised. China’s exports to India climbed to USD 118.5 billion, a year-on-year increase of 21.7 per cent. During 2022, China’s imports from India dwindled to USD 17.48 billion, a year-on-year decline of 37.9 per cent.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/india-s-focus-should-be-on-reducing-dependence-on-china-suman-ber-123020500423_1.html

Railways Close to Setting Up Wheels Factory

Taking a step towards the Centre’s Make in India initiative and becoming self-reliant, the railway ministry has opened a price bid for a tender to set up a forged wheel factory, which would manufacture at least 80,000 wheels every year for the next two decades.

“Tender was opened on January 24. Three bids have been received from M/s Steel Authority of India Ltd, M/s Bharat Forge, Pune and M/s Ramakrishna Forgings, Kolkata. Price Bid opened on March 14. L1 is from M/s Ramakrishna Forgings Ltd, Kolkata. L2 is from M/s Bharat Forge, Pune, L3 is from SAIL,” an official statement said.

Ramakrishna Forgings has quoted per tonne cost at Rs 1,88,100 while Bharat Forge at Rs 2,75,000 and SAIL at Rs 2,89,500.

It was in September 2022, that the ministry prepared a blueprint to become an exporter of wheels. To meet the requirement of forged wheels for the rolling stock, the Indian Railways had floated the tender for setting up a manufacturing plant in the country with assured offtake of 80,000 wheels per annum for the next 20 years so that the requirement is met from domestic sources. It will be an important initiative towards the Make in India plan for import substitution, the ministry said.

□□

<https://www.news18.com/india/atmanirbhar-bharat-with-80000-wheels-a-year-railways-close-to-setting-up-factory-7299325.html>

Swadeshi Activities

Swavlambi Bharat Abhiyan (SBA)

Zila Rojgar Srajan Kendra

Pictorial Glimpses



Swadeshi Activities

Swavlambi Bharat Abhiyan (SBA)

Rashtriya Karyashala - Rojgar Srajan Kendra

17-19 February 2023, Pusa Institute, New Delhi

Pictorial Glimpses

